

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE  
MEDIA CONTACT SHEILA SKY  
[sheila.sky@gmail.com](mailto:sheila.sky@gmail.com) or 647.402.6582

**DUTCHGIRL PRODUCTIONS**  
presents



***Conceived, co-written and performed by the Toronto based dynamo Christel Bartelse, ONEymoon tells the story of a woman who decides to marry herself.***

With ambiguous feelings about the institution of marriage and unwilling to commit to anything less than perfection, Caroline opts to re-invent a long standing social convention. The audience joins Caroline as her family and friends on her unusual wedding day and follow along on her beach vacation -- her honeymoon for one. Filled with zany wit, improv, dance and song, Caroline pokes holes in our notions of "wedded bliss" – but ultimately finds that even a long-term relationship with herself has its pitfalls.



A theatrical Jackie-of-all-trades, actor, singer, dancer, producer, writer, clown, teacher and comedienne Christel is best known for her work in the physical comedy duo *The Burnt Marshmallows* alongside Christina Sicoli. Together they performed, created and produced the Canadian Comedy Award Nominated *U-HAULYWOOD*, and *STUCK* which had successful runs at both the Toronto & Vancouver Fringe Festivals. She can be seen performing comedy all over Toronto and is a regular feature at the Lunacy Cabaret (Zero Gravity Circus), the Toronto Festival of Clowns and Clown Chowder and she has also participated in the March of Dames, Cheap

Queers, Buskerfest, the Hysteria Festival, Full Bawdy Comedy, and the Chicago Improv Festival. Favorite theatre credits include Pugg in *Mump & Smoot in Something* for the Westbury Theatre in Edmonton and Tifulbeau in *The Hollow* for CanStage. She recently wrote and performed in the highly acclaimed new sketch show *The Orphan Family Players*

-- more --

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As a solo performer and writer, Christel garnered critical attention and audience affection for her recent single-hander **CHAOTICA**, which told the story of 30-something Alice, trapped in a board game. **CHAOTICA** premiered at the 2008 London Fringe, **winning the Best-in-Venue Impresario Award and a nomination for the Brickenden Award for Outstanding Touring Production**. It played Toronto twice, self-produced at The Theatre Centre and again by invitation at the Toronto Festival of Clowns

**"Very funny show!" – Paula Citron, Globe & Mail**

**"True show business pizzazz" – Jon Kaplan, NOW Magazine**

**"Pull(s) a story from deep within the heart and accessorize(s) it with resplendent layers of madcap" – Steve Berketo, torontostage.com**

In Saskatoon, there were more positive reviews:

**Bartelse puts to good use her extensive physical theatre training ...and showed a quick wit and an ease with improvisation Cam Fuller – Star Pheonix**

and as a newcomer in Edmonton, Canada's largest and most competitive Fringe Festival, **Christel sold out 4 out of 6 performances** and received stellar reviews:

**"Chaos has never been so enjoyable. – Colin MacLean, Edmonton Sun**

**"Human fireball Christel Bartelse brings high energy to this one-woman show"**

**– Jessica Earle, See Magazine**

A graduate of the Randolph Academy for the Performing Arts and The Second City Conservatory Program, Christel has also studied clown extensively with Michael Kennard, John Turner, Sue Morrison, Francine Cote and Philippe Gaulier. Christel was a faculty member at the Toronto Film School for five years, has taught intensively for the Second City Education Program and currently teaches physical comedy at Humber College.

Upcoming: A dance collaboration with Circus Orange.

**ONEymoon plays at the Toronto Fringe Festival at 918 Bathurst, a new BYOV Fringe venue just north of Bloor. Tickets are \$10 and available through the Toronto Fringe Hotline at 416-966-1062 or on-line at [www.fringetoronto.com](http://www.fringetoronto.com)**

Showtimes are:

<i>Thursday</i>	<i>July 1</i>	<i>8:30 PM</i>	<i>Wednesday</i>	<i>July 7</i>	<i>8:30 PM</i>
<i>Friday</i>	<i>July 2</i>	<i>7:00 PM</i>	<i>Thursday</i>	<i>July 8</i>	<i>7:00 PM</i>
<i>Saturday</i>	<i>July 3</i>	<i>9:30 PM</i>	<i>Friday</i>	<i>July 9</i>	<i>9:30 PM</i>
<i>Sunday</i>	<i>July 4</i>	<i>2:30 PM</i>	<i>Saturday</i>	<i>July 10</i>	<i>8:00 PM</i>
<i>Tuesday</i>	<i>July 6</i>	<i>7:00 PM</i>	<i>Sunday</i>	<i>July 11</i>	<i>4:00 PM</i>

**– more –**

## Christel's key collaborators:

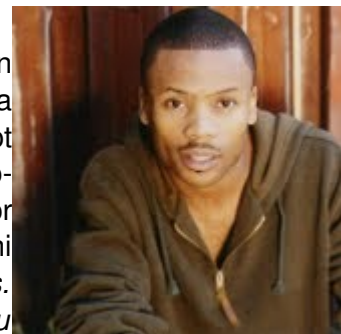


### Jimmy Hogg – Director and co-writer

Jimmy Hogg is an actor, writer, director and comedian from the UK, now residing in Toronto. He studied Drama and Theatre Arts at Goldsmiths College, (University of London), Lecoq and Clown in Barcelona and Commedia dell'arte in France. He has worked on over fifty theatre productions in varying capacities, more recently having focused on developing stand-up routines and his multiple award winning solo shows *Curriculum Vitae* (**Best of Fringe Toronto, Minnesota, San Francisco**), *A Brief History of Petty Crime* (**Best of Fringe Winnipeg, Minnesota**) and *Like A Virgin* (**Outstanding Comedy Award, Ottawa Fringe**). His latest show *Wisdom: Part I* can be seen in Toronto Fringe this year. He is a columnist for [toromagazine.com](http://toromagazine.com)

### Shawn Byfield – Tap Choreography

Shawn received a Dora Mavor Moore Award for his dance choreography in the Toronto hit musical “*i think I can*” A veteran of TV and film as a performer and choreographer he is currently CEO of Sugarfoot Entertainment, Director of the national tap ensemble Funk Factory and Co-Director of Thrive Entertainment. A leader in creating choreography for stage, television, film and corporate events, Shawn received a Gemini nomination for his work as the host of the variety show *Toronto Dances*. Shawn is a respected teacher, his students appearing in *So You Think You*



*Can Dance: Next Generation*, and performing with top music artists such as Brittany Spears, Robbie Williams, Aaron Carter, and Janet Jackson. Visit [www.ShawnByfield.com](http://www.ShawnByfield.com)



### Sarah Doucett – Choreography

Sarah Doucett began her dance training with the Royal Winnipeg Ballet. At 19 she moved to Montréal, training with L'ADMMNI and Concordia University. She started her professional career in the mid 90's with Tammy Forsythe/Tusket and in 1999 joined Lynda Gaudreau/Companie De Brune for 4 years of creation and international touring. Since then, Sarah has had the privilege of working with many noted choreographers, Jenn Goodwin, Karen KG Gutman, Ame Henderson, Thomas Hauert, Vera Mantero, Noam Gagnon and Noemie Lafrance, Isabelle Van Grimde (Corps Secrets), and Corpus, among others. In 2003, she joined The Holy Body Tattoo for the creation and touring of monumental work and continues to work with Dana Gingras (Holy Body Tattoo) and Animals Of Distinction. Sarah also works as an independent choreographer, rehearsal director and costume designer and has been presented in Belgium, New York, Vancouver, Montréal and Toronto. Sarah studies gyrokinesis and gyrotonic and recently completed her level 1 certification in New York City.

– more –

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## AVAILABLE PHOTOGRAPHS

*Christel Bartelse in ONEymoon – A Honeymoon for One*  
*Photos by: Shawn McPherson*



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A HONEYMOON FOR ONE



# Comedy prof stars in second solo show

## *ONEy-moon kicks off in June*

CRYSTAL BURNEY  
ASE REPORTER

On a solo vacation to the Bahamas, Humber comedy teacher Christel Bartelse came up with the premise for her second one-women show, *ONEymoon*.

"I just needed to get away and my boyfriend made a joke about me going on a 'oneymoon,'" she said.

The idea stuck and she's taking it on the road starting this June in London, before heading to the Toronto Fringe Festival in July.

Bartelse said the show focuses around the main character getting married to herself and going on a honeymoon.

"The show flips between flashbacks of the wedding and me being on my honeymoon sharing stories."

Her first solo show, *Chaotica*, had a successful festival tour, including a sold-out run at the Edmonton Fringe Festival in 2008.

Diana Kolpak of Whetstone productions met Bartelse during a clown course.

"Christel is a complete professional," Kolpak said. "She works hard and throws herself into everything she does, facing her fears head on."

Bartelse began dancing at a young age and

moved into theatre in high school.

"Performing's just always been in me, I love being onstage," Bartelse said.

Bartelse studied acting at George Brown College and the American Academy of Dramatic Arts in New York and is a graduate of The Second City Conservatory Program and the Randolph Academy in Toronto — where she met her comedy partner, Christina Sicoli, in improv class.

After leaving Randolph, the two formed the Burnt Marshmallows and created and performed in five shows together.

"That's how I fell into comedy," she said. "I always wanted to do dramatic theatre and love Shakespeare, but I've fallen into comedy and I can't get out of it."

Last year, she began teaching physical comedy at Humber after being a substitute for several years.

"I love teaching. I try to give them stuff that I know about the business. I want to see them progress," said Bartelse.

Comedy program director Andrew Clark said each new teacher brings something different and Bartelse is no exception.

"As a working performer, she's giving the students a terrific foundation in clown and physical comedy."



Crystal Burney

Humber comedy teacher Christel Bartelse will star in her second solo show.