

# Press Kit: Suddenly Mommy! Perfectly Norma Productions



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Toronto Fringe and Perfectly Norma Productions Proudly Present

# SUDDENLY MOMMY!

*A funny one-mommy comedy about being an old, new mom!*

Written & Performed by Anne Marie Scheffler, creative consultant Melody Johnson

**Canadian Comedy Award** nominee, **Second City Alumna**, and star of her own comedy special on **CTV/ The Comedy Network**, Anne Marie Scheffler is back! With her 7<sup>th</sup> solo show!

Having her babies later in life, Scheffler demands answers from a world where she is no longer first! Like can I have the same goals I had before I had kids? How do the Hollywood moms do it? And when will I ever sleep again? Spoofing **Celine Dion** and **Supernanny**, Scheffler speaks the truth of the "Sex and The City turned Yummy Mommy" crowd: there's not much time to put make-up on anymore! Recognizing that she is at bad at parenting as she was at dating, Scheffler refuses to repeat her relationship mistakes, so she finds a backbone. Not an easy thing to do when you are told to put everyone first, now that you're a mom!

"Anne Marie Scheffler didn't think motherhood would be this hard. She thought she could be the sexy showbiz mom, with a baby in one arm, a movie script in the other. Her jarring realization otherwise makes for a humorous and entertaining show. Scheffler is a charismatic, sparkling performer."- CBC Review

**St. Alban's Boys' and Girls' Club, Dance Studio**  
**843 Palmerston Ave, Toronto**

**Friday, July 2<sup>nd</sup>, 2pm**

**Saturday, July 3<sup>rd</sup>, 2pm & 4pm**

**Monday, July 5<sup>th</sup>, 8pm**

**Wednesday, July 7<sup>th</sup>, 8pm**

**Friday, July 9<sup>th</sup>, 2pm**

**Saturday, July 10<sup>th</sup>, 2pm & 4pm**



**\$10/ ticket. 416 966-1062. [www.suddenlymommy.com](http://www.suddenlymommy.com) [www.annemariescheffler.com](http://www.annemariescheffler.com)**

## Synopsis of The Play: Suddenly Mommy!

Anne Marie Scheffler, the unprepared, new mom, former party-girl and serial monogamist, relives the moment when everything went from “me” to “everyone but me.” Sure, this is what she said she always wanted, but it isn’t all fun and games. Well, actually it is. And the rules are even familiar- she’s making the same mistakes she made with her sons that she made with the men she was dating. If she wants to raise decent boyfriends, she’s going to have to have a plan!

So, Anne Marie comes to terms with the fact that her life is different- with more people in it- and embraces the role of motherhood- with a twist. Anne Marie, a pioneer in this generation of old, new moms, will be the best parent she can be by putting herself first.

Well, she’ll try... if that’s okay with everyone...



Photo credit: Justin Landry, pictured: Anne Marie Scheffler

## **About the Performer: Suddenly Mommy: Anne Marie Scheffler**

**Anne Marie Scheffler** likes to write about what she knows. "I really did find myself married with children in a blink of an eye. I didn't find my husband until I was in my mid-thirties, so, there was a bit of a time crunch, procreationally speaking."

"And becoming a mother? Wow! Who knew it was this overwhelming! I'm still getting used to how demanding these little people can be! And I thought I needed attention! Sheesh!"

Scheffler struggles to be a good mother and still remain herself, on and off stage. "I was a middle child. I had no opinion of my own! I just wanted to make everybody happy!" Although in Scheffler's opinion, she always knew she'd be an actress and a mother. "Ever since I was 4 years old, I wanted to be a movie star. I still plan on winning an **Oscar**. When I am completely exhausted and frazzled, usually begging the boys to go to sleep already, rubbing Jake's back in the dark, I close my eyes and rehearse the acceptance speech. And it always helps."

"I also want a **Golden Globe** award. For my TV series which I write and star in. Just like **Tina Fey**." Not that far-fetched a vision, as Scheffler is a known-quantity in the world of Canadian Television. She began her acting career with a recurring role on **Street Legal**, and has been a professional actor ever since. She has a long list of TV credits including **Due South**, **Queer as Folk** and **Doc**. She has done over 30 commercials for TV and radio, Canadian and US, and is the voice of **Milestone's** restaurant. She writes for television, is an alumna of the **National Screen Institute's Totally Television Program**, and was honoured with a **CTV Fellowship** which took her to the **Banff World Television Festival** in 2009. And she has a one hour **Comedy Now!** special on **The Comedy Network**. She's hoping to get another one with **Suddenly Mommy**. "The producer of my last comedy special came to an earlier performance of **Suddenly Mommy**, and he's given me some notes."

Plus she has a TV series in development with **Buffalo Gals**, and is working on various other TV projects.

And she's a mom, step-mom, and wife. "I'm no Suzie Homemaker. My husband is a chef, so I don't have to cook. I think it's a case of he's so good that everyone prefers daddy's food. Plus, my husband complains about my cleaning skills- or lack thereof." She recalls a time when she asked her husband if they owned a mop. "Dave just dropped his head in despair. So I never mop! But I have other skills! Mostly on stage type skills, but that's something!"

And **Scheffler** loves being on stage. She has 7 critically acclaimed one woman shows under her belt, including **Situation: NORMA**, **Watch Norma's Back**, **Leaving Norma**, **Dating Myself**, **Not Getting it**, **Got it Good** and now **Suddenly Mommy**. She is a **Second City** alumna and performs regularly at **Mysteriously Yours**. She was nominated for a **Canadian Comedy Award**, and scouted by **HBO** twice.

"I'm a better performer now that I've had my kids! Maybe my boys, with their short attention spans, force me to be incredibly entertaining on a day to day basis, so I'm a comic genius on stage. And I thought my life was over." It seems to be just beginning. With her 3yr old and 5 yr old sons and 11 yr old step daughter, she has about 20 years of material to look forward to.

## Bios of writer/ performer Anne Marie Scheffler and creative consultant Melody Johnson

**Anne Marie Scheffler**, best known for her one hour comedy special on **CTV** and **The Comedy Network**, is an accomplished solo performer and fringe veteran. **Anne Marie** has 7 one person shows, including “**The Norma Trilogy**” (**Situation: NORMA, Watch Norma’s Back, Leaving Norma**) and **Not Getting it**, which was turned into the aforementioned one hour television special. **Anne Marie** was nominated for a **Canadian Comedy Award** for **Not Getting It**.

**Anne Marie** works as a professional actress on television, film and radio. She has over 30 commercials to her credit and is the voice of **Milestone’s Restaurant**. **Anne Marie** performs regularly for **Mysteriously Yours** dinner theatre and is a **Second City** alumna (**Generation X-Files: Tour Co., What Fresh Mel is This: Mainstage Understudy**).

Also an award winning screenwriter, **Anne Marie** is a **CTV Fellow**, an **NSI Totally Television Alum**, and has a number of television projects in development.

**Anne Marie** and **Melody** became friends through **Second City** and also because they were pregnant around the same time. “When I began working on **Suddenly Mommy**, I knew Melody would understand the show,” says **Scheffler**.

**Melody Johnson** is the director of the current mainstage **Second City** show, **Second City for Mayor**, which has been selling out and receiving rave reviews. **Melody** also directed **0% Down, 100% Screwed** for **Second City**, and is only the 4<sup>th</sup> female director in **Second City Toronto** history.

For over a decade **Melody** has acted in numerous theatres across Canada and has received a total of five **Dora Mavor Moore Award** nominations for her work, winning the award in 2003. She was a member of the **1998 Stratford Festival Company**, and the **Toronto Second City Mainstage** cast where her last show, **Nude Beachwear, 100% Off**, earned her a **Canadian Comedy Award Nomination**. **Melody** was also a member of the last cast to perform at **The Second City Firehall (Last Tango on Lombard)** and performed in the improvised weekly soap opera **Sin City**. She is an active volunteer with **Gilda’s Club Greater Toronto**, and a teacher of improvisation at **Toronto Second City**.

**Melody** will be debuting her own one woman show at **Summerworks**: a play called **Miss Caledonia**, about her mother’s pageant career.

## The History of Perfectly Norma Productions

In 1994, **Anne Marie Scheffler** debuted **Situation: NORMA** to rave reviews, at **The Summerworks Festival**, and **Perfectly Norma Productions** was born.

Since **Situation: NORMA**, **Perfectly Norma Productions** has produced 6 more shows, written and performed by **Anne Marie Scheffler**. The shows- **Situation: Norma**, **Watch Norma's Back**, **Leaving Norma**, **Dating Myself**, **Not Getting It**, **Got it Good**, and **Suddenly Mommy**- have played in cities all over North America, including **Toronto**, **London**, **Hamilton**, **Owen Sound**, **Sudbury**, **Winnipeg**, **Edmonton**, **Victoria**, **Kelowna**, **San Francisco** and **Los Angeles**.

**Situation: NORMA** has been performed by other actresses in **Orlando, Florida** and **Woodstock, Ontario**.

Working with directors such as **Sarah Sked**, **Debbie Tidy**, **Michael McGinn** and **Melody Johnson**, **Scheffler** draws on her **Pochinko Clown** training and **Second City** background to create shows that are "funny with heart."

**Anne Marie's** 5<sup>th</sup> show, **Not Getting It**, was nominated for a **Canadian Comedy Award** and is now a one hour comedy special on **CTV** and **The Comedy Network**.

**Situation: NORMA** and **Watch Norma's Back** were scouted by **HBO** for **The US Comedy Arts Festival**. **Situation: NORMA** won **The SOLD OUT Award** in **The 1995 San Francisco Fringe**.

Last summer, **Anne Marie** debuted **Suddenly Mommy** at **The Winnipeg Fringe Festival**. She returned to Toronto and performed the show on **The Second City mainstage** as a fundraiser for **The Children's Storefront**. **Anne Marie** also performed the show for **The East End Children's Centre** at **The SPACE**.

This year, **Anne Marie** performed **Suddenly Mommy** at **The John Candy Box Theatre** in February. The show was picked up by **The Wild Women Weekends** and **Anne Marie** will do 8 performances of **Suddenly Mommy** north of Owen Sound for an all-female audience.

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[www.notgettingit.com](http://www.notgettingit.com)

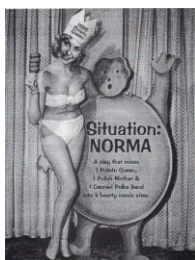




Photo credits: Justin Landry, pictured: Anne Marie Scheffler