

# 5 questions with Steve patterson

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Hopefully, Calgary has some red carpet left for a second British Invasion this year. They may not have the same import as the Royal Couple (or as many friends with funny hats), but the comedians of the first ever British edition of the Just for Laughs comedy tour still need an escort. Enter Canadian host Steve Patterson, whose regular gig is hosting CBC's comedy show The Debaters. Jon Roe chatted with Patterson about the tour and his recent success.

What kind of skill set makes a good host? For this one it will be kicking things off, getting it off to a good start. Not a lot of standups like to go right out of the gate because the audience is cold. It's a different gig than when you're going on at the end. It's my job to literally introduce and translate some things, probably clarify some things after they're done.

What do you enjoy about British comedy? Smart humour is where I like to go. If you can do something funny about something that is factual-you can't deny the facts of the joke-I'm a big fan of that. British comedy comes from along tradition of making things ridiculous but also talking about things that you're not only laughing at but also agreeing with.

You recently won best male standup at the Canadian Comedy Awards-while hosting the event, was it nervewracking? It was nice to win it; my category was about three-quarters of the way through the night, I would've been depressed for the rest of the show otherwise. It is tough to do standup for standups. These people in the room, not only are they really funny, they've been to more comedy shows than anyone else.

What is the hardest show you've done? I did a show for a group a couple years ago and they had thought it was going to be an '80s theme, so I wrote this whole '80s set. No one was ready for it, no one was paying attention to it, so it was completely out of context. I changed gears. One guy didn't have any sense of humour about anything-turned out he was high up in the organization-he made some derogatory comment, so I spent the whole night putting someone in their place. He didn't want to come up to present the award he was supposed to present.

Your Twitter handle is @patterballs. Have any of your higher ups at the CBC commented on that? Not particularly. Everyone else has a unique enough name that they just use that. I've chosen to do it a bit different. There seems to be that reaction of, "Oh, you're a grown man with that Twitter name. Yes. Okay." Such is life as a standup comic; you can do what you want.

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