

Debaters, Priestley among comedy prize winners

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Steve Patterson, host of CBC Radio One's *The Debaters* won best standup.

Photograph by: Handout, Files

TORONTO — Steve Patterson, host of CBC Radio One's *The Debaters*, and comedian Debra DiGiovanni took home the top honours at Monday night's 2011 Canadian Comedy Awards.

Patterson and DiGiovanni were named best male and female standup at a Toronto ceremony, which Patterson also hosted. Eric Andrews won best standup newcomer, while Picnicface won best sketch troupe, and The National Theatre of the World's *Impromptu Splendor* took home the award for, naturally, the best improv troupe.

Turning from the stage to the small screen, Brooke Palsson's work on *Less Than Kind* won her an award for best television performance (female), while Jason Priestley snagged the award's male equivalent for his role as a less-than-kind car salesman on *Call Me Fitz*.

Behind the scenes, *Less Than Kind* also scored for best direction, and Ken Finkleman's *Good Dog* took home an award for best writing.

In terms of Canadian film, the Montreal-set *Good Neighbours* took home two honours, with awards for Jay Baruchel's performance and Jacob Tierney's script, although best direction went to Jacob Medjuck for his coming-of-age picture, *Summerhood*.

Meanwhile, *The Daily Show*'s Samantha Bee took home the award for Canadian Comedy Person of the Year. Bee, a Toronto native, who has been with the Comedy Central program since 2006, has also starred in such films as *Coopers' Camera*, *Motherhood* and the upcoming *Friends with Kids*.

The awards, now in their 12th year, were founded by the Canadian Comedy Foundation for Excellence, a non-profit organization that awards "the Beavers" at a gala each year. The CCAs have grown to incorporate a multi-day festival.

For more information and a complete list of nominees, visit canadiancomedy.ca.

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