

Jay Martin is a multi-faceted talent in the city of Toronto. Compared to Steve Harvey, Martin has built a reputation in the city for bringing audiences together to laugh. Martin soared to the top of his game in a very short period of time. Russell Peters saw this upcoming talent and shortly after suggested he join him on his comedic journey. Martin credits Russell Peters for the start of his blooming career.

It was not only Peters that recognized his potential and talent. Quoted by the Toronto Star "Martin is one of Canada's rising comics". In his first year of comedy Jay Martin burst out of the Toronto scene when he was invited to perform at the Halifax Comedy festival. His comedy show was a hit with our friends on the west coast as well.

Word soon spread and acts such as Jamie Foxx and Brian McKnight welcomed him to be the opening acts for their concerts. It is clear that Martin is a true entertainer who has limitless possibilities and wide audience appeal.

Growing up in Malton, Martin started his career from an early age entertaining neighbourhood friends. It continued into high school where his infectious ability to make friends laugh was a day to day event. This just came naturally to Martin, it was what he was blessed to do. Martin began performing regularly at the ever popular Nubian Nights at Yuk Yuks where he was awarded "Comic of the Year", an award that is backed by one of the longest standing comedy clubs in the country. Martin performed to packed houses and standing ovations. It is said that Toronto is one of the most difficult audiences to gain approval from but Martin surpassed and delighted with mass appeal. The audiences that watched him effortlessly stir up a roaring crowd are now dedicated followers to Jay Martin and his authentic and original shows that no other comedian has produced.

Martin's appeal has spread across the Caribbean and the U.S, another challenging market to appeal to. Still, Martin has succeeded. His goal is to be a household name, and it is inevitably written in the stars.

Martin felt the need to bring comedy and countries together. Producing shows that exposed some of comedy's greatest to the Toronto scene. Jay Martin's Uptown Comedy series was yet another project that kept up with his ever popular reputation. Martin has produced shows with headliners such as Eddie Griffin, Tommy Davidson and Cedric the Entertainer.

Jay Martin also excels with his brilliant choices as a producer. Seeing the need to reach a target audience and the belief that everyone should enjoy the power of laughter, he created "Giving Thanks" a comedy show focused on the Christian Community. Again, he took it a step further and had the Grammy Award winning Kirk Franklin grace the Jay Martin Stage.

Has he stopped there? No way. Martin has been awarded The United Way of Peel Region's award for the Arts and Entertainment. Community is big for Martin. "Without

my fans, there would be no Jay Martin, I am forever grateful to my fans for their love and support, and now it's time to give back”.

Currently Martin hosts a weekly open mic called “Can you make em laugh”. Just like his early days in comedy, he recognizes how wonderful it was to have a mentor like Peters. Martin is doing the same. “Opening doors for our comedians of tomorrow can only make this city a happier place to be, there is room for all of us.”

Martin offers his time up to host galas that are close to his heart. Whether its women and violence, youth or cultural recognition, Martin feels that contributing to these worthy causes is a priceless contribution to bettering his community. Some of these galas are Diamond Butterfly, Acorns to Oaks, Victory Over Violence Gala and The Aroni Awards.

In 2012, on top of touring Nationally and Internationally, Martin will be launching his give back to Toronto. The Gift of Laughter Gala, where youth from all genres of art will be encouraged to believe, that “yes, they can”.

Jay Martin is talented, ambitious, driven to make a difference, a role model for youth, a voice for the voiceless and a proud representation of Toronto. All of this, and funny too. Jay Martin is here, and his name will resonate for years to come. Watch out world, here he comes!