

# Artscene



## That's So Weird! to be in Gemini contention

By Dominik Kurek  
OAKVILLE BEAVER STAFF

Oakville residents Gary Pearson and Duncan McKenzie are excited for the start of season two of YTV's *That's So Weird!*, which premieres on Oct. 6.

The show been a ratings success and netted them several Gemini Award nominations.

Pearson is one of five producers of the show. As such, he's in the running for best children's or youth fiction program or series award. Furthermore, he and McKenzie (consulting producer), and two other show writers, were nominated for best writing in a children's or young program or series.

Like Pearson, McKenzie has also received a second Gemini Award nod, the second, for his work on best writing in a comedy or variety program or series for *History Bites - The Filthy Stinking Rich*.

*That's So Weird!* also received a



SUBMITTED PHOTO

**A HIT:** In a continuing sketch called *Space Thunder*, a take off of *Star Trek* and *Star Wars*, from left, James Hartnett, Gary Pearson (seated), Alex Spencer, and Gemini nominee Kayla Lorette.

nomination for cast member, actress Kayla Lorette, for best performance in a children's or youth program or series for the episode *Leaky Roof*.

"I was thrilled we got nominations," Pearson said. "I was thrilled for Kayla because she was really good and also I was very happy all of the rest of the cast — I would have liked for all of them to be nominated, of course — but they were very supportive."

Like the first season, the new one offers 13 episodes, to air Wednesdays at 6:30 p.m. with reruns interspersed at other times and days on YTV.

The show is a sketch comedy, similar to *SNL* or *MAD TV*, but geared for an audience aged 10 to 16. It's about a group of TV network people who produce shows and commercials — which offer the sketch portion of the show.

"Season two is kind of interesting because it becomes more of a hybrid between a sitcom and a sketch show," Pearson said.

He said this time around, the people running the network get more

play and character development.

Pearson said the seven original cast members have returned. Some fan favourite sketch characters are back, too.

Pearson said the show is aimed for youths, but parents will be entertained too — even if the show does poke fun at authority as it's written from a youth perspective.

Pearson said the show creators have children — he has three children aged nine to 14 and McKenzie has four children, aged eight to 17. Other writers are parents, too, so they are aware of youth culture and can write parodies of things such as *High School Musical*, *Twilight* or *Justin Bieber* because they are exposed to it.

"That stuff is playing in my house. I have a sample audience in my house. I have my own focus group right there," Pearson said.

Pearson's co-worker, McKenzie said he was not surprised *That's So Weird!* received a nomination

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## From metrosexual to mainstream

(NC)— More men are taking an active role in choosing their wardrobes, toiletries and personal care products. The trend is quickly moving from metrosexual to mainstream.

If you're not sure you, or the guy you love, can reap the rewards of this revolution, the following habits might shed some light:

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