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He Is Human, Hear Him Roar

Sean Cullen explains why he tours where he tours

Sean Cullen, National Post

As I, Sean Cullen, Human Man, set out on my epic I Am A Human Man Tour, I take time to reflect upon the four cities I am about to utterly destroy. Four very different towns with different goals and dreams, they all have their unique charms. Each of the cities was chosen by my specially designed Supercomputer as being the optimum location for a Sean Cullen I Am A Human Man show.

Sudbury: shining beacon of the Northlands! The hardy folk eke out a fierce existence by gnawing the granite bones of the Canadian Shield. Deep in the bowels of the Earth, they tear the nickel ore from the stony grip of the planet and fashion it into fabulous artifacts like a giant glimmering five cent coin that looms like a colossus above the town, striking fear into the hearts of visitors who can't help but wonder, "I hope I don't run into the terrifying gigantic bastard whose pocket can encompass that fearful nickel! Run! Hide the children!" The Sudburians proudly labour on, laughing at their soft southern cousins, laughing and playing in the slag heaps. To these noble miners I bring the Human Man Extravaganza because only they who defy the extravagant demands of the pits may truly understand how to laugh.

But wait. There must be some other town that deserves my attention or else the tour will be a short and violent one. Toronto, her mighty spires scrape the sky as she awaits my visit. The mighty CN Tower, tallest in the world. No wait. Second tallest. Sorry. Third? It doesn't matter. Never has an elevator ride been more thrilling. Except for that one time in Bolivia where I battled a rabid ocelot, but that is another story and another elevator. Toronto is a place where you can walk down the street surrounded by people and never have to worry about annoying human contact! Toronto, engine of the country, beating heart of commerce, I come to you to show you how to laugh! You people of Toronto are so busy and so in need of laughter. I bring it to you like an owl mommy bringing a chipmunk carcass to the nest to drop into the eager mouths of her starving owlets!

Onward to Hamilton, the bright nail in the Golden Horseshoe. While you wait to hear if your rink will be filled with the howl of scavenging Coyotes, I offer you diversion. Ties have been hard in Hamilton lately. The steelmakers have gone but look on the bright side: That weird guy Frank D'Angelo is gone, too. Never again will you have to listen to his awful soul band at the Ti-Cats halftime show! That's something! Hamiltonians, as you weep into your ubiquitous coffee and doughnuts, mourning the loss of Stelco, I will come to you and explode into your town like a giant pinata of laughter and watch you scrambling for morsels of joy. I will pour down from your Mountain Brow like a molten wave of laughter and flood your hearts with mirth.

Finally, to Ottawa, I will ride. You bureaucrats shuffling your papers by the river, get some paperweights! I will blast through like a hurricane on gales of laughter. Perhaps after seeing my show you will remember your proud logging past. You might don red flannel shirts and dance from log to log

down the Ottawa Valley swinging mighty axes and starting big muddy fistfights. Why not strip to the waist and dance around the eternal flame singing wood-chopping songs until Mounties come to chase you away? Then, grab their weird hats and play keep away? Why not? Why not go absolutely crazy? Or maybe just leave work early and go over to Hull to get a bit drunk then go home and sleep soundly. It's all up to you!

Four mighty cities! Four nights of revelry. I am a human man. We are all human people. To four lucky cities I will come and share my weird things with you like a bard in ancient times singing songs about heroic deeds. The only difference is I can read. Pretty well, in fact. And I probably smell better. And I won't fight you naked. Unless you want me to.

I Am A Human Man was in Sudbury last night, and will be in Toronto on May 31, Hamilton on June 4 and Ottawa on June 5. The rest of the world must wait in silent desperation, praying that I will bring them the release they so desperately need. I am only one human man and there are so many towns that need me. I'm starting small, but the time will come when all the people in this great country may see and touch and know what it is to be a Human Man. - For more information, visit seancullen.com. For tickets, visit ticket-king.com for the Toronto show and ticketmaster.ca for all other shows.

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