



FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE  
APRIL 14, 2009

**RIVER ROCK CASINO RESORT  
PRESENTS  
IRWIN BARKER & FRIENDS:  
FIGHTING CANCER WITH COMEDY  
SATURDAY, JUNE 13**

**Richmond, BC** – For the second year, River Rock Casino Resort will be presenting “Irwin Barker & Friends: Fighting Cancer With Comedy” ... a hilarious evening of stand-up with all proceeds going to the Richmond Hospital Foundation. Irwin Barker is a Gemini nominated comedy writer and performer who is well known in the Vancouver comedy scene. He is currently a staff writer on CBC’s award-winning *Rick Mercer Report*. Prior to that, he spent several years as a writer for CBC’s *This Hour Has 22 Minutes*.

In June 2007, Irwin was diagnosed with leiomyosarcoma, a rare type of terminal cancer. Since then, he has been actively involved as an inspirational speaker on how he has used humour as a vital coping mechanism in his personal fight against cancer. He has been a headline performer at numerous cancer fundraisers as well as a keynote speaker for conferences dealing with cancer and palliative care. His first year of cancer treatment was the subject of a nationally televised CTV documentary, *That’s My Time*. The documentary debuted at the Halifax Film Festival in September 2008 where it was selected as Best Canadian Film. The reaction to Irwin’s presentations on comedy and cancer has been overwhelmingly positive seeing it as a “perfect combination of humour and reflection.” In Irwin’s own words, “Cancer has my body but not my spirit and I’ll continue to make jokes ... not so much about cancer but in spite of it.”

Proceeds from the event will go towards the Richmond Hospital Foundation’s \$4 million MRI Campaign. “We are so close, over 90% raised,” says Lisa Westermarck, Executive Director. “We just need a little more to reach our goal and provide MRI service in Richmond Hospital. Together we can reduce wait times, improve access and allow for consultation between radiologists and specialists. In short, we can transform care for our community.” The show will also feature comedians from across Canada including local comic Graham Clark who can currently be seen on Citytv’s *The CityNews List*, triple Gemini winner Tim Steeves and Toronto’s own Tim Rykert who recently toured throughout North America as the opening act for Michael Bubl  along with a few surprise guests.

**TICKETS ON SALE THURSDAY, APRIL 16 @ 10:00 AM**

**DOORS: 7:00 PM      SHOW: 8:00 PM**

**Tickets: \$24.50 (+ Service Charge & Facility Fee) – Cabaret Seating**

Tickets available at all Ticketmaster Outlets or charge-by-phone (604) 280-4444 or order on-line at [www.ticketmaster.ca](http://www.ticketmaster.ca)

Ages 19 years and over

**Additional Information Contact:**  
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