



First Lady of laughter

Carol Burnett on why she owes her career in comedy to a gift from a supportive stranger | D15

Plus: Arj Barker, and a guide to Global ComedyFest | D16-D17

WESTCOAST

THU 17
WED 23

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MOM KNOWS BEST

Back by popular demand, Mom's the Word explores the lighter side of life with tots and teens.

STAGE » D6



MADE IN B.C.

Discussing Mr. Darcy plays on the unique sense of humour of first nations people.

HOLLYWOOD NORTH » D11



LOST SYMBOL FOUND

Dan Brown's hotly anticipated sequel to The Da Vinci Code is out – read the review.

BOOKS » D13



SPANISH LESSONS

Davie Street comes of age with the opening of Mis Trucos, an elegant take on tapas dining.

RESTAURANTS » D18



STAGE

PREVIEW



The cast of *Mom's the Word: Remixed* take their show back to where it all started: the Arts Club Granville Island, from Sept. 24 to Nov. 7.

From babies to teens, the Moms mix it up

Recipe for new production combines best bits of first and second shows

BY PETER BIRNIE
VANCOUVER SUN

Here's how the superwomen of *Mom's the Word* describe the origins of their popular play in the spring of 1993:

"Six women who had once been exciting, glamorous, professional actors were now exhausted, pathetic, amateur mothers with 12 children under six between them."

Out of the complaining and kvetching in Saturday morning coffee klatches by a clutch of Vancouver mothers came the idea to turn the perils of motherhood (favourite age of your children?

Pre-natal!) into *Mom's the Word*. After 12 years, five translations and 14 productions in 10 countries (including a seven-year run in Australia), the Moms returned in 2005 with *Mom's the Word 2: Unhinged*.

The sequel also circled the globe, spreading out from B.C. across Canada and overseas to Scotland, Germany and Australia. By the summer of 2006, it opened in Melbourne to unprecedented advanced sales for a non-musical stage production. *Mom's the Word Teenagers* (as it's titled in Australia and the U.K.) ran for three months and played to more than 55,000 people. At the same time, Glasgow

and Dundee were embracing their own set of Mums with equal enthusiasm.

Fast forward to 2009 and it's once more unto the breach, dear Moms/Mums. The latest chapter in this saga is about to open where it all started, at the Arts Club Granville Island.

This time they've taken the best bits of the first show (about raising babies and toddlers) and the second (about surviving the teenage years) and stirred things into what's been dubbed *Mom's the Word: Remixed*.

The world premiere is directed by Australia's Wayne Harrison, former artistic director of Sydney Theatre

Company and the big cheese behind the Closing Ceremony for the 2006 Commonwealth Games in Melbourne (yes, the very Games where Sharon from cult comedy hit *Kath & Kim* hoped to be a volunteer). Harrison has plenty of experience dealing with *Mom's*, having directed the original in Montreal, London, Glasgow, Dublin and in a trio of touring productions across the U.K.

The script is by the original *Mom's the Word* collective: Linda Carson, Jill Daum, Alison Kelly, Robin Nichol, Barbara Pollard and Deborah Williams. Joining Williams, Pollard, Kelly and Daum on stage is Susan Bertoia.

Since it took its first baby steps at

the 1993 Women in View Festival, *Mom's the Word* and its sequel have been seen in more than 2,500 performances by more than a million people. As Oprah would say on Twitter: On to the next million!

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At a glance: MOM'S THE WORD

On the Arts Club Theatre's Granville Island Stage, Sept. 24 to Nov. 7

Tickets \$25 to \$45, go to artsclub.com or call 604-687-1644