

Deborah Jarvis  
1954 to 2019  
Actor, Comedienne, Writer



Deborah was always the funniest one in the room, everyone agreed. Writers' rooms, green rooms, comedy clubs across Canada. It was always the same, Deb had the funniest lines, the sharpest takes and the best timing, always moving the show along. Deborah Jarvis didn't suffer fools gladly, and if you couldn't keep up, she'd leave you behind.

This is not to say Deb was not a firm and loyal friend, true to her values, and always willing to pitch in to help. In Crete, she led an exhausted platoon of Belgian soldiers up out of the Samaritan Gorge by sheer force of will. They were going to give up and wait for a helicopter.

Deb was so Toronto it was comical. Educated at the consummate Toronto pedagogical triumvirate of Allenby School, North Toronto Collegiate and University of Toronto, Deb took her BA in English Literature, because that's what she was, a bluestocking from a Fine Old Ontario Family. Yes, Deborah was a FOOF.

Deb took to the stage almost immediately after university, commencing a long run in that perennial Toronto hit, *The Mousetrap*. A season at Stratford followed, and then she discovered comedy. Stand-up, open mic, sketch, improv, all culminating in a long running gig with the Second City National Touring Company, followed by the Second City Main Stage Company in Toronto, where she worked with a young Mike Myers.

Having worn out the old soft shoe, Deb turned to writing the jokes instead of performing them. She attended the Canadian Film Centre TV/Film Workshop, and started a twenty-year career, creating, writing and story-editing popular young people's television like *Ready or Not*, *Majority Rules*, *Miss BG*, *Eckhart*, *Treasure Trekkers* and *Beat Bugs*, for which the writing team won a Daytime Emmy. By the time she was ready to retire, her career encompassed story editing international teams of writers on three continents and working for world-spanning co-productions in multiple languages. Deborah was a proud member of ACTRA, Equity and The Writers Guild of Canada.