

GAVIN STEPHENS

PARK BENCH ONTOLOGY

COMEDY FOR COLLAPSING REALITIES

Press kit & artist overview



BIO

Working class comic, writer, and cultural irritant.

Juno-nominated comedian and Canadian Screen Award winner, Gavin Stephens draws on his working-class Caribbean roots to bring a sharp, unflinching perspective to the stage. His comedy isn't crowd work or pandering – it's a live existential interrogation. Every show is a unique experiment: weird, risky, and uncomfortably honest. Absurdity, ideas, and uncomfortable truths collide – not just jokes, but sometimes arguments, sometimes revelations, always unpredictably funny.

His Juno-nominated album All Inclusive Coma proved that even when the industry doesn't know what to do with you, undeniable work speaks for itself. Park Bench Ontology Gavin delivers blue-collar critiques wrapped in existential dread, calling bullshit on polite liberalism, market virtue, and nationalist performance art.

Gavin has performed at Just for Laughs Montreal and Toronto, SXSW, the Hamilton Fringe, and the South African Comedy Festival, with two network comedy specials and two solo shows (Spectacular, Spectacular and Object of Strangeness), and appearances on CBC's Lol, The Debaters, and Comedy Inc. He's also a columnist for CBC Hamilton. Shaped by a background that blends working-class realities with Caribbean culture, Gavin's comedy explores identity, ideology, and the absurdities of modern life with clarity, wit, and urgency. Every performance is a rare experiment in comedy and ideas – best experienced in person.

PARK BENCH ONTOLOGY

Identity. culture. capitalism. dread. repeat.

Park Bench Ontology isn't a podcast – it's a low-stakes philosophical crisis disguised as a pop culture conversation. Each episode, comedian and writer Gavin Stephens explores the invisible ideologies beneath our everyday lives, using everything from sitcoms to sci-fi, Baudrillard to Black Twitter.

It's a show for people who feel like something's off, but can't always name what. Listeners can expect cultural criticism with jokes, existential spirals with hope, and just enough structure to feel like you're not losing your mind.

Themes:

- Ontological collapse
- Whiteness & identity performance
- Capitalism as myth and meme
- Afro-Absurdist resistance
- Meaning breakdown in media overflow

ARTIST STATEMENT

I make comedy for the end times. My work explores whiteness, capitalism, and symbolic violence through a neurodivergent lens — not as abstract theory, but as the psychic wallpaper of everyday life. Drawing from Black existentialism, media theory, and the absurd, I use stand-up, writing, and podcasting to interrogate the stories we live by: race, class, identity, and the capitalist dream state.

Influenced by thinkers like Mark Fisher, Octavia Butler, and Baudrillard — as well as late-night cartoons and sci-fi pulp — my art collapses the boundary between the hilarious and the horrifying. I'm interested in the moments where ideology breaks down, where anxiety leaks through the cracks of normalcy, and where laughter becomes a survival tactic.

I've always made work that disrupts — not to shock, but to show what's already there, hiding in plain sight. I believe art should be as accessible as it is critical, as funny as it is philosophical. I don't offer answers. I offer glitches in the system.

BOOKING / CONTACT

Email: info@gavinstephens.ca

Website: www.gavinstephens.ca

Instagram: [@countgavin](https://www.instagram.com/countgavin)

Podcast: [Park Bench Ontology](#) (available everywhere)

For tour bookings, media requests, and speaking inquiries.