



MARY WALSH
MANAGEMENT: *Michael Oscars*

Born in St. John's, Newfoundland, Mary Walsh was given to her aunt and uncle, who lived next door to her parents, to raise when it was discovered that she had pneumonia at eight months of age. Her parents' home was deemed to be too damp for her to live there. Walsh's first job in show business was working as a summer replacement radio announcer for the CBC. Through that position, she was offered a part in a local play and then joined the Newfoundland Travelling Theatre Company (NTTC), where she worked with Andy Jones, Cathy Jones, Tommy Sexton, Greg Malone, Robert Joy and Dylan Olsen.

Afterwards, she moved to Toronto to take acting at Ryerson, then joined her former NTTC collaborators in a play called *Cod on a Stick* at Toronto's Theatre Passe Muraille. The play was such a hit that CBC brought them back to St. John's to record it for radio in 1974. They then named their company Codco (for Cod Company) and toured the play around Newfoundland and Labrador.

Walsh made her TV debut in 1979 starring the CBC mini-series *Up at Ours*, set in a St. John's boarding house. In 1986, Walsh and the rest of the members of Codco starred in the independent film *The Adventures of Faustus Bidgood*, written and directed by Andy Jones and Michael Jones. From 1988 to 1993, the Codco members wrote, produced and starred in their own self-titled series on CBC.

During her time on the series, Walsh was also very involved in plays, both writing and appearing in them, as well as making the occasional film appearance, including Mike Jones' *Secret Nation*, for which she won Best Supporting Actress at the 1992 Atlantic Film Festival.

When *Codco* broke up, Walsh created a new show called *This Hour Has 22 Minutes* for CBC. A satirical take on current affairs, it was a big hit within Canada. Since its 1992 debut, it has not been off the air, winning numerous Gemini and Canadian Comedy awards. Walsh has also won two Gemini awards (one for writing, one for performance) for her new series, *Hatching, Matching and Dispatching*, which debuted in 2005.

Having appeared in many feature films such as *New Waterford Girl* (1999, for which she received a Genie nomination), *Violet* (2000), *Mambo italiano* (2003) and *Geraldine's Fortune* (2004), Walsh decided to step behind the camera with a script she'd co-written—the dark comedy *Young Triffie* (2007). Walsh also appears in the film as Millie Bishop. In 2009 she starred in *Crackie* which garnered her another Genie nomination. Walsh appears in *The Grand Seduction* starring Brendan Gleeson, which has been nominated for Best Picture at the Canadian Screen Awards 2014.

Walsh has been ubiquitous on Canadian television including numerous recent appearances on *This Hour Has 22 Minutes*, that recently included one that caused a sensation when she ambushed the Mayor of Toronto Rob Ford. She has appeared diversely in both drama and comedy in such series as the award winning *Hatching, Matching and Dispatching* that she both wrote and starred in, *Mary Walsh: Open Book*, *DaVinci: The Quality of Life*, and as a guest star on the 300th episode of *Royal Canadian Air Farce* (as Marg Delahunty), *Murdoch Mysteries*, *The Wind In The Willows* for Masterpiece Theatre on the BBC, the very first episode of *The Republic Of Doyle* as Miranda Cahill, *The Duchess of George Street* and many more. Most recently she has guest starred in the new comedy series *Sensitive Skin*, which is set to air on The Movie Network in 2014.

Walsh has honorary degrees from Memorial University of Newfoundland and Trent University. She was made a Member of the Order of Canada in 2000 and in 2012 she received a Governor General's Performing Arts Awards for Lifetime Artistic Achievement.