

## Keeping up with Jones

**Cathy has basked in a comedic glow for far longer than her 22 Minutes...**

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Cathy Jones, in Keeping up with Cathy Jones, on the Life and Times.

Some critics out there consider Cathy Jones the most interesting of the original CODCO troupe members. Her rambunctious sense of humour and where it came from are captured in a new Life & Times called Keeping Up With Cathy Jones. A warm but not uncritical look at Jones and her St. John's roots, it becomes a full bodied portrait with all the highs and lows.

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The highs are birth into a close knit family of some affluence but rapid alienation from her parents. Her mother became increasingly agoraphobic and even shopped for groceries by phone. Her father owned a camera shop but as she grew into teenhood became increasingly distant and alcoholic.

Although she detested Catholic high school, she was always bright and smart. In some ways she had been acting since she was a child - brother Andy was equally a cut up and says he recognizes the voices of many of the characters she does these days. He sees them as friends and relations of their mother. At any rate Jones began doing some of them at local clubs and in shows across the province where her brand of Newfie humour was right at home.

Fellow CODCO founding member Greg Malone says she always wanted her characters to be liked. Her comical creations always laugh a lot. Another distinguishing trait was a fascinating with the deteriorating condition of institutions she actively dislikes.

Despite one woman shows, movies, and everything else she says she doesn't have a sense of fulfillment. Could that be partly due to the ephemeral nature of sketch comedy? Or is she broadly hinting she'll be the next to depart from her Halifax basin and perhaps like Walsh attempt a show wholly of her own? Barbara Doran directed this profile with feeling and a real knowledge of her subject.

Monday at 8 p.m. on CBC.