

CALGARY AND AREA HOMES

Show has fun with repairs

By KYRA HOGGAN

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Home and Garden Television (HGTV) has a new offering for its viewers.

Called the *Broken House Chronicles*, the show is a home improvement how-to with a twist, since neither of the hosts has any professional background in home improvement.

George Brook, the homeowner, and his roommate, Leigh Uttley, are actually displaced musicians trying to shore up George's house — a fixer-upper if ever there was one.

The show highlights mistakes and errors along with every project, teaching viewers, by example, not

just what to do, but also what not to do and why.

It's *Bill and Ted's Excellent Adventure* meets Martha Stewart — the project of the episode gets done and done well, but not before the hosts share with their viewers the quirky and often absurd aspects of do-it-yourself home improvement.

Fast-paced camera work and regular interludes offer a refreshingly engaging departure from the more traditional home improvement show, with humour thrown in to keep viewers on their toes.

The show will also provide relief for anyone who has tackled a home improvement project, since *Broken House Chronicles* is proof positive

that it's not as easy as Bob Villa makes it look.

The show is produced by Mountain Roads Productions Ltd., the producers of long-standing HGTV hit *Lofty Ideas*.

Broken House Chronicles, like *Lofty Ideas*, is presented in half-hour segments, each highlighting a new challenge taken on by the redoubtable Brook and Uttley.

Certainly what the two lack in finesse they make up for in determination, and a willingness to laugh at themselves and each other on national TV.

The show airs Wednesday, Thursday, Saturday and Sunday on HGTV.



— Photo courtesy of HGTV

DO-IT-YOURSELFERS ... George Brook and Leigh Uttley of the *Broken House Chronicles*, which airs on HGTV.