

Don't be ein Schwein! Bekomm dein

Fr^{ingepig}g

#6 2018

rein!

FREE!

**Free Speech:
It's not just
for fascists!**

*Hour by hour
comedy listings*

Aussie fringes
Lloyd Langford
Andrew Maxwell
Richard Todd
Ivor Dembina

Gary Delaney
Zoe Lyons
Shappi Khorsandi
Andrew Doyle

FRINGE-FATIGUE? WE'LL HELP YOU RALLY! HAHAHA

GetComedy

"UNSTABLE AND DELICIOUSLY UNEXPECTED"
THE TIMES

★★★★★ THE GUARDIAN

BRETT VINCENT FOR GETCOMEDY BY ARRANGEMENT WITH DAUSTER PRODUCTIONS PROUDLY PRESENTS

TERRY ALDERTON

The Musical

www.terryalderton.com | @TERRYALDERTON | TERRYALDERTONCOMEDIAN

assembly
GEORGE SQUARE
STUDIO ONE

assemblyfestival.com | 18:30
BOX OFFICE 0131 623 3030 | 1-27 AUG (NOT 13)

BRETT VINCENT FOR GETCOMEDY PROUDLY PRESENTS

THE LAYMOND & MR. TIMPKINS

Revue

HAM

"SPECTACULAR"
"MAD TRIP STUPID"

23 SEASONS DOME

8:30PM
1ST-27TH AUG (NOT 13TH)

www.laymondandtimpkins.co.uk | @LAYMONDANDMRTIMPKINS | @GRAYMONDITIMPKINS



★★★★★ BRETT VINCENT FOR GETCOMEDY PROUDLY PRESENTS

QUADRUPLE BAFTA AWARD WINNERS

DICK AND DOM IN

DICK AND DOM

THE KNOCKOUT GAMESHOW FOR 5-105 YEAR OLDS

@dickndom | @dickanddom1996 | @dickanddomofficial

underbelly
BRISTOL SQUARE

0131 510 0395 | 1PM (2PM)
underbellyedinburgh.co.uk | 1-12 AUGUST 2018

BRETT VINCENT FOR GETCOMEDY BY ARRANGEMENT WITH GKP & INTERTALENT GROUP PRESENTS

DOUBLE EDINBURGH COMEDY AWARD NOMINEE
THE VOICE OF EX ON THE BEACH
AND SEEN ON LIVE AT THE APOLLO

ANDREW MAXWELL

SHAKE A LEG

"ONE OF THE FUNNIEST MEN IN BRITAIN"
THE TELEGRAPH

SCOTSMAN ★★★★★ INDEPENDENT ★★★★★
HERALD ★★★★★ EVENING STANDARD ★★★★★
SCOTLAND ON SUNDAY ★★★★★ DAILY MIRROR ★★★★★
DAILY RECORD ★★★★★ THE TELEGRAPH ★★★★★
THE TIMES ★★★★★ EDINBURGH EVENING NEWS ★★★★★
FRIDAY TIMES ★★★★★ TIME OUT ★★★★★

"ONE OF THE MOST SIGNIFICANT COMEDIANS WORKING IN THE COUNTRY TODAY"
THE INDEPENDENT

WISMAXWELL

KING

assembly
GEORGE SQUARE

assemblyfestival.com | 21.00
BOX OFFICE 0131 623 3030 | 1-26 AUGUST 2018

www.getcomedy.com

crafted

Twenty v and meth five of the b the stage HILE THE h no inhibition o masters, wh ous mind will g

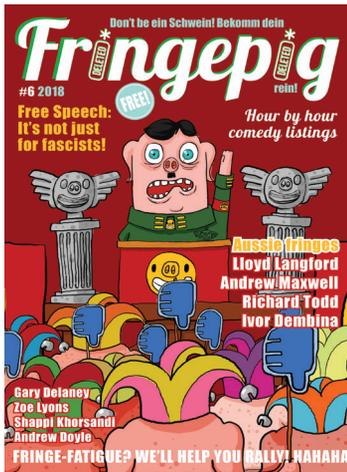
WWW.HYPR

22.00 (23 3RD-28TH AUG)

show is back! ng and defendi

proven INNOCENT! his Court Clerk will on each case

In this mock trial every Judge of this court, HURY to decide the



Publisher

MISTER KIPPER
KIPPER@FRINGEPIG.CO.UK

Managing Editor

LIAM MULLONE
EDITOR@FRINGEPIG.CO.UK

Edinburgh Editor

MARTIN WALKER
MARTIN@FRINGEPIG.CO.UK

Design

BECKY WALKER

Writers

DERWENT CYZINSKI
CHRISTIAN TALBOT
BILLY COCONUTS
ED ACZEL
EDMUND RUMANIA
GLYPH McCREATURE
IVOR DEMBINA
JULIET MEYERS

Artists

MUSHYBEES
JOSEPH CHAMPNISS
DARREN WALSH
IAN HEWITT
DAMIAN CLARKE
SOPHIE HODGE

Ad Sales

WRIGLEY WORM
ADVERTISING
@FRINGEPIG.CO.UK

Welcome to FringePig

Greetings!

We're well into the 2018 Fringe now. As you'd expect, this one kicked off with a huge industry lunch to celebrate the Festival Fringe Society's unrivaled ability to buy itself lunch.

To a sea of white faces (one woman, reportedly, looked a bit Oriental but may have been lost), Nica Burns announced that she was "Looking forward to comedy's future in the woke world". The 'woke movement', she says, is "setting an ever-evolving agenda as it seeks to establish what is unacceptable today. Let's remember how it snowballed the day before Sean died." OK. What??

She meant Sean Hughes - who died, conveniently for her speech, the day before #metoo started. And like the 'woke movement' (says Nica), Sean broke new comedy ground. Ah, right. Well, Sean Hughes' sexual politics were, let's just say, his own business and Steve Coogan, who Nica also jemmied into her address, only gets woke if the previous night's lapdancer slams the door too hard. Neither are bulwarks of the #metoo movement and neither would want to belong to her 'agenda' of making more and more things unacceptable. Except, perhaps, using a talented comic's death to make a rather trite statement.



A. K. Kipper
PUBLISHEJR

www.fringePig.co.uk
editor@fringePig.co.uk

FIND US AT THESE LOVELY VENUES:



C venues

THE STAND

COMEDIANS By Christian Talbot
Illustrated by Sophie Hodge



Christian Talbot will be at Finnegan's Wake at noon with *Desperately Seeking Approval* and at City Cafe at 20:00 with *Holt and Talbot: Mansplaining Feminism (2-16, not 14)*. Both are free shows. Sophie Hodge will be at home with a large gin and tonic.



The Left needs to rediscover reason

Far-Right snowflakes need to be exposed to the sunlight of debate, not locked in the freezer says **MARTIN WALKER**

Scottish comedy fans who enjoy football will be familiar with BBC Radio Scotland's *Off the Ball*. Its presenters, *Scottish Sun* journalist Tam Cowan and ex-*NME* editor Stuart Cosgrove, play the line between innuendo and filth, and have on occasion been accused of misogyny and homophobia. Despite this it's the best comedy show on radio.

A couple of weeks ago, after he used a derogatory term for gays, I tweeted Cosgrove to politely point out that his language was "a bit off". He quickly apologised, adding that he meant no offense. Apology accepted. The end. Except for what happened next.

I received, if not a torrent, then certainly a light barrage of anonymous tweets from self-proclaimed free-speech advocates telling me to "shut the f*ck up" or they would "rape my boyfriend's gay bumwhole" [sic] and variations on this theme.

Aside from the obvious irony of free-speech advocates trying to silence those who disagree with them, these threats

demonstrate that left-wing identitarians don't hold the monopoly on snowflakery. I wasn't calling for *Off the Ball* to be banned or for Cosgrove to be disciplined, or imprisoned, or even lightly spoken to by an overpaid executive. I was exercising my freedom to criticise his use of language.

Last issue, comedian Kate Smurthwaite detailed some of the threats she receives online almost daily, for being a woman with a strong opinion. In this information age, is free speech really going to be all about defending those who would happily silence others with threats and intimidation?

Of course abusive behaviour by idiots wasn't born with the internet. In my teens, back in the 1980s, the National Front would attempt to march through my estate, demanding that my black and Asian neighbours "go home". The counter demonstrations would always be bigger and the police would end up trying to protect the racists from the residents. My first political action, and my last violent act, was punching a Nazi in the face.



BARNSTORMERS COMEDY PRESENTS A STAND-UP COMEDY SHOW BY

KEVIN PRECIOUS

UNHOLIER THAN THOU

THE NON-BELIEVING RELIGIOUS STUDIES TEACHER



"KEVIN'S STAGE CHARISMA AND POISE SET HIM HEAD AND SHOULDERS ABOVE THE PREVIOUS ACTS"
-THE TIMES

2.15PM (1 HOUR) AUGUST 2-26
LAUGHING HORSE @ BAR 50 (VENUE 151)
SMART CITY HOSTELS, 50 BLACKFRIARS ST, EDINBURGH EH1 1NE

FREE FESTIVAL

KEVINPRECIOUS.COM

I'm not proud of it; I abhor violence but it was self defence.

Despite my modest history of fighting racism I've been accused of being a member of the far Right, merely for stating that I'm a free-speech advocate. I simply don't believe that the non-violent expression of racist, misogynist or anti-gay views should be unlawful.

I want my bigots where I can see them. I want to debate them openly, because I know for certain their attitudes are just plain wrong. If they start violently kicking off, as they did on a so-called free speech rally in London recently, then by all means chuck them in jail - but there are laws that cover

violence already.

The world's snowflake-in-chief, Donald Trump, has started to talk about extending US libel laws, potentially imprisoning anyone who tells the truth about him. Honestly, that man is so sensitive.

Unlike Trump, the Left has coherent arguments - about racism, sexism and homophobia - that are intelligent and evidence-based. It's time that it regained the confidence to engage in these arguments, rather than retreating to safe spaces and no-platforming.

Imagine a free-speech utopia where a man says an offensive thing and then apologises, with nobody threatened with anything! It's possible.

Gagging Acts

Blacklisting, censorship, no-platforming, hate-speech laws, the Communications Act, peer pressure: this is not an easy time to make unpopular opinions funny.

FRINGEPIG speaks to four comedians who speak up for free speech.

F: Free speech in comedy seems to divide into two camps: those who say it is sacrosanct, and those who want to subject it to caveats such as 'free speech doesn't mean hate speech'. Are the second group not just trying to make us a better, fairer society?

GD: Liberty and equality are opposites. You can't have both. So you can have freedom, or you can have 'fairness'. Those that want to curb free speech do these things to achieve a kind of equality, but what we get instead is awful, authoritarian nonsense. The comedians I argue with on this want good things. But the society they're trying to make is just fool's gold.

AD: What's so sad about it is that a lot of it IS well-intentioned. But many are reacting to a crisis that doesn't exist. A lot of people in the UK think we live in a nation of racists; that Brexit is

racist and that all Leave voters are racist. It's a fantasy. It just isn't true, and people only believe this because they live in a social media bubble where their own paranoia gets repeated back to them every day.

SK: There are a lot of good people I disagree with, yes. But you know what? They're ridiculously selective. The Left is very hot on, say, Western women's issues and that's great. But when it comes to whether women here should be forced to wear the veil, there is nothing but tumbleweed from them. You can't have good intentions but be a coward about the stuff that's a bit too difficult.

ZL: People just don't get free speech anymore. After the Charlie Hebdo attack we saw thousands on the street demonstrating for freedom of speech. The next week Marie Le Pen was due to speak



at the London School of Economics and the place was mobbed by no-platformers. And I thought 'I bet some of you were the same dicks waving pencils in the air a week ago'. You can't pick and choose; you either agree with free speech or you don't.

GD: Most liberals don't think they're against free speech. They'll say things like "I'm not against free speech, just hate speech." I've met people on the other side who'll say "I believe in free speech, just not jihadist hate-preaching". Well, that's another version of the same thing. There's free speech or there isn't.

F: It seems that there are few loud voices in comedy standing up

for free speech. Does it surprise you that so few speak out? Are they afraid of the Alt-Right tarnish?

AD: When Tom and I did the Jonathan Pie piece condemning the Mark Meechan verdict, it did surprise me how people reacted. I mean, it didn't surprise us that they didn't want to be seen defending him, particularly when he and Tommy Robinson became friends. I understand that. What I cannot comprehend is those who actively sided with the courts. When that piece went out we got a bit of protection for a couple of days because some big names – Gervais, Fry, Baddiel, Djalili – all supported us. The backlash came a

Some big names – Gervais, Fry, Baddiel, Djalili – supported us. The backlash came a couple of days later.

couple of days later, led by Graham Linehan. He explicitly mentioned me and Tom, insinuating that we're 'Nazi apologists'. Of course we protested. But he's not interested in debate. He just wants to send nasty tweets.

SK: After I wrote a piece in the *Independent* against that verdict, Linehan said about me: "These idiots don't know how the Alt Right work". Well, my family lives in Britain for one reason: there is no free speech in Iran. When my family got to Britain we were amazed – you can go to Speaker's Corner, say whatever you like, and nobody kills you. Graham Linehan has no f*cking idea what that's like; to leave your family and friends and roots behind for freedom. I've had a lot of sh*t from him. His beliefs are just childish and people like that employ the same playground bullying as the Alt Right.

ZI: Free speech has become a space the Right has moved into, but I think we take some responsibility for that. If we're prissy about free speech it will be used against us. If we had shrugged off that whole thing like the nonsense it was, we wouldn't have handed this to Tommy Robinson and his pricks.

GD: People who want to end free speech always fall back on the excuse of needing to contain



Gary Delaney
comedian, writer

Shappi Khorsandi
comedian, author

Andrew Doyle
comedian, journalist

Zoe Lyons
comedian

F: When my family got to Britain we were amazed – you can go to Speaker's Corner, say whatever you like, and nobody kills you.

.....
the Alt Right. It's a much smaller bogeyman than people think it is.

AD: Yes. People on the Left see the stuff online from trolls and 'shit-posters' and believe there's a Nazi conspiracy going on. Well, there isn't. I've met Meechan, I know shit-posters like him and I understand that world of trolling. It's anti-authoritarian, and liberal elites claim the moral authority, so they're easy to get a rise out of. When Hilary Clinton spoke out against Pepe the Frog, that was a massive victory for them. People had taken their nonsense seriously. And some of these people ARE really horrible, but it's panic that feeds them.

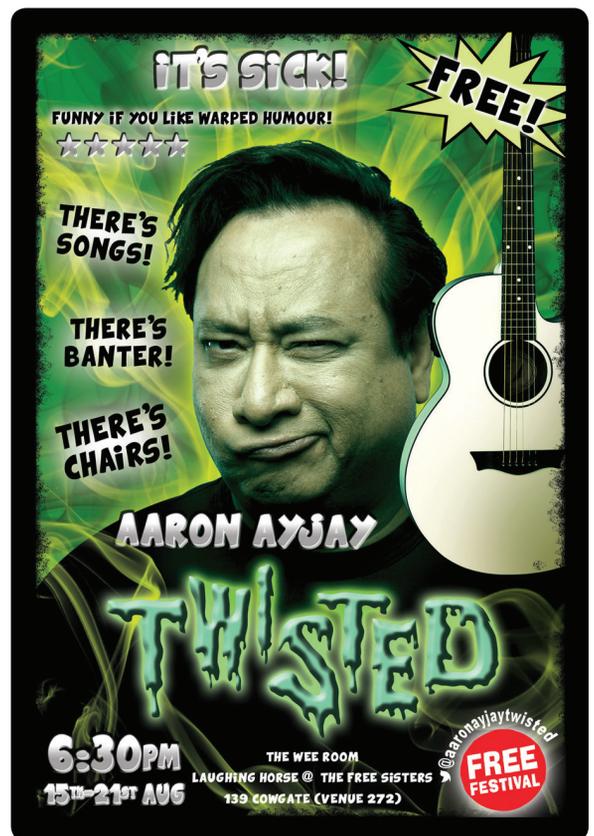
ZI: I think people can't help themselves, because offence is sought out now isn't it? There's a weird glee that people take in finding offence and applying it to themselves. I've had some truly horrible

things said to me; really vile things. And I've been disappointed by them; angry, bored. But I can't remember ever being 'offended'. To be offended is to have no sense of humour about yourself and a totally disproportionate sense of yourself within society.

F: Most of us, I suspect, are closer on this than it seems. We all want to explore dark themes in jokes, but most of us also want others to be safe in the knowledge

that it IS just a joke. Why is everything becoming so polarised?

SK: It has become very difficult. When people like Meechan have scumbags – and sorry but he IS a scumbag – like Tommy Robinson in their corner, it's really tough to say "No, I KNOW it's just horrible but he said it as a joke. He has done it in the context of a joke so we have to support that, if we're comedians." It's that simple. Not support HIM – of course not. But



support the principle.

AD: It's hard because you can't have a reasonable discussion anymore. Stephen Fry appeared with Jordan Peterson in a Munk Debate on free speech. Now, Peterson is absolutely against identity politics and the Alt-Right is BUILT on identity politics. But the Left has said that Peterson is Alt-Right enough times to make it seem true, and to establish guilt by association. So now even Fry is tarnished. When people become frightened to associate with you, then your enemies have won. They have silenced their opposition.

ZL: I've seen it from the other side. I used to be an actor for a roleplay company that taught

diversity training. I got £200 a day to pretend to be offended. But you can't legislate against stupidity, can you? So diversity training is the most meaningless waste of time, because all you're doing is telling people to hide their inner hatred. You're not changing anyone's core beliefs.

GD: The government tends to give itself new powers and then, sooner or later, it has an effect that it didn't foresee. The only surprise is that, between the Digital Communications Act 2003 and the Dankula thing, it took so long to happen.

AD: A lot of people want to expand terms like 'fascism' and 'far Right' to include everyone who disagrees with them.

“ Ideas don't need laws forbidding them. Not even really awful ideas, because no vocal expression of an idea is as harmful as the crushing of that idea.

It's ridiculous. *The Sun* isn't far Right. *The Daily Mail* isn't far Right. If you cannot make that distinction then you're not politically literate. What the Left has done so successfully is redefine these terms.

SK: What frightens me is that we've allowed these bastards who ARE on the far Right to get a hold of free speech. They've made it impossible to stand up for free expression now without being part of their narrative. And there are real consequences to not toeing the liberal line on this. Because of my pug article a lot of comedians messaged me to tell me I was 'dangerously off-message'. And those that agreed with me didn't want the headache.

F: How much danger are we in, though, really? I mean, a lot of people say 'This isn't Burma'...

GD: The state is there to protect your life and property, not your feelings. So: slander, libel and the credible threat of violence – these are all real things that need laws. What's dangerous is that we now have laws against ideas. Ideas aren't dangerous in and of themselves, and don't need laws forbidding them. Not even really awful ideas, because no

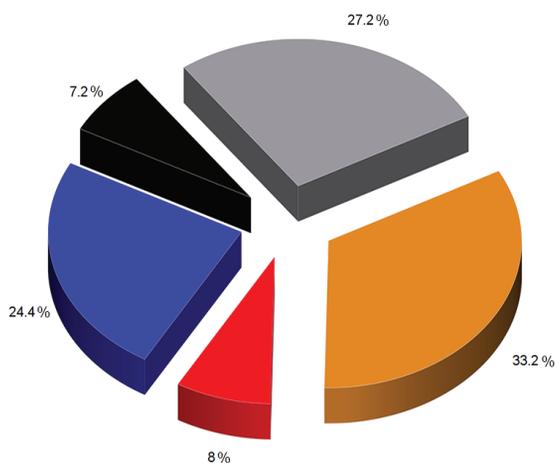
vocal expression of an idea is as harmful as the crushing of that idea.

AD: Our freedoms are not fixed. We don't have a written constitution. I showed the Nazi pug to a live audience, to talk about it. A lawyer told me not to; that I could be charged. But I know the police won't come after me or Tom because we're a bit too high profile. They will go after some working-class shitposter in Scotland. Comedians here ought to have a vested interest in someone in their own nation facing jail for a joke, because it sets a dangerous cultural precedent in which people will now self-censor.

ZL: Yes. In comedy we're at a stage now where comics are second-guessing what will be offensive. It'll be the death of it. It may even be the death of conversation.

SK: It's easy to ignore when it's just dickheads getting in trouble. But in the UK free speech is only going to be tested when we liberals, who have the power, find our sensibilities offended. In Iran or Burma it's people like us, saying the things that WE believe to be true, that are testing the authorities. And I want to live in a country where authority can be tested. **F**

Nazi pug pie



The 'Count Dankula' case in April brought differing opinions on free speech into stark relief. We asked **250** comedians at this year's Fringe how they felt about it. Just **8 per cent thought the joke was funny and entirely valid**, versus **24.4 per cent who believe Meechan got what he deserved**. The largest group (**33.2 per cent**) **felt that the joke was wrong but that it either should not have been a legal matter or that the outcome was unjust**. The most surprising thing – or perhaps not in this keep-your-head-down climate – is that more than a third of respondents either **danced around the question with no clear answer** or simply **refused to answer it at all**.

NOT AN ADVERTISEMENT

GLUMMERHALL

OPEN THE DOOR, OPEN A VEIN



10:00: Childrens' Farting Workshop: Farts are fun! And noisy! And smelly! But let us show you how they're also an instrument of white cis-male oppression in this interactive multimedia presentation with terrifying glove puppets. Crying guaranteed.



13:15: Refugee Tambourine Recital: People shake tambourines in a sad way during a multimedia presentation on people fleeing from war. All profits - after we've deducted venue hire, accommodation and cost of dinner at Harvey Nicks for all 26 of us every day - to Artists For Change.



23:10: Everyone is Awful: Are you a gender? A colour? Do you believe in a thing? Then you're awful and you ought to be ashamed of yourself. A three-hour sulkimoodier presentation on how insufferably horrid everyone is. Part of the 'Why Don't You Kill Yourself?' Festival. Now in its 14th year.

[That's enough Glummerhall - Ed]

BonQrz

Written and Performed by **Narin Oz**

Directed by **Erkan Mustafa**
(80s legend Roland Browning from Grange Hill)

A BonQrz style seminar about how Narin Oz's disastrous life choices made her decide to be a budgerigar.



"Exhilarating"
Marissa Burgess, The List

"Oz is the 21st century Kaufman"
Martin Walker, Fringepig

2:45PM
2-26 AUGUST

LAUGHING HORSE@
THE MOCKINGBIRD (VENUE 441)
72-74 NEWINGTON ROAD

FREE
FESTIVAL

YOU COULD HAVE GONE ON HOLIDAY!

HOMER GAMES INC

Ed FRINGE

snakes & Ladders

THE ADDICTIVE GAME YOU JUST CAN'T WIN!

ONLY £8000

13 You declare it's been amazing! but you are sobbing and rocking

14 Too much energy drink stimulates your bowels

15 Another performer says they've already written next year's show

16 It's at Sam Only two people are there

17 You find a message in a bottle at Portobello! It's another comedian's Rye.

18 Trying to act cool you insult your comedy idol

19 There's no loo roll in your venue

20 A CHANCE TO NETWORK!

21 A DAY OFF!!!

22 Extra gag to promote your show.

23 Your Twitter feed is just comedians rehashing their own praise

24 A reviewer keeps clicking his bin in a display of power then prints the punchlines of your best jokes

25 You need to sell a sidney to pay for PR but you've damaged it drinking

26 You're in the gutter gazing at the stars... on a rival's poster

27 You stink from wearing a Pac a Mac all day

28 You have the same joke as someone else. They are lauded as 'brave'

29 All a friend says after seeing your show is 'Well done remembering it all!'

30 The box office start all fancy/recommend the person on at the same time as you.

31 Someone has stuck their posties over yours

32 YOUR POSTERS ARE UP!

START HERE

FINISH HERE! (GASH!!)

HOMER APPEARS IN JULIET MEYERS: YEAR OF THE DOG AT HARRY'S SOUTHSIDE [264] (LAUGHING HORSE) AT 14:30 UNTIL AUG 26

Olaf Falafel

THERE'S NO I IN IDIOT

LAUGHING HORSE@THE PEAR TREE
36 WEST NICHOLSON STREET EH8 9DD - VENUE 267

AUGUST 2-26TH 14:45^{PM}*

*** 21-25TH 12:15^{PM} - NO SHOW ON 14TH**

FREE
FESTIVAL



LAST MONTH...

Did you get it brumming?

Yeah.. Why am I filming this shitty engine again?

A straight 6 Andrexi-Spamcan engine!

It's got corrugated cardboard wheels!

It's a SATIRE. We have to do everything that's in the original

So it's the same as the original, except with rubbish cars and not original?

Nothing's original. Seinfeld nicked it off Robert Llewelyn

Today's car is a 1972 Fiat Beano!

Anyway stop dissing my vlogcast! This'll be the first interview with Eddie Jerboa since the scandal!

You know the best way to get a billion views? Piss off the anti free speech libtwats!

I'm Bun Flopsy! And this is.....

very very minor COMEDIANS IN OLD BANGERS GETTING sausages

He said some terrible things, Bun. Are you sure about this?

Now film me driving off all suave 'n that

TEN MINUTES LATER

Hey Eddie! It's Bun Flopsy! How about some sausages?

You gonna kick over any more sensitive snowflakey hornets' nests? You gonna bring back the podcast? Cos if you need a guest...



Why are you pretending to phone me? I'm looking right at you.



No.



EDDIE!! It's been a long time, man! Great to see you're gigging again!

yeah...

Ha! Good one. Same old contrarian Eddie!



Yes we do. It's the whole format. NOW...

Do we really have to eat sausages? I'm trying very hard to go vegan

I want to hear YOUR side of what happened, with no social justice bullsh*t!



OK. I was a dick. The end. I've run out of excuses

NO WAY, DUDE!!



It was a witch hunt, man! They TOTALLY misrepresented you!

No...



I misrepresented myself



So... What's happening with your massive cult following? Your online army of trolls and sh*tposters?

Dunno. Don't care. I'm banned from Facebook and Twitter and Reddit. It's actually been a good thing

??

I feel a lot calmer these days, you know?



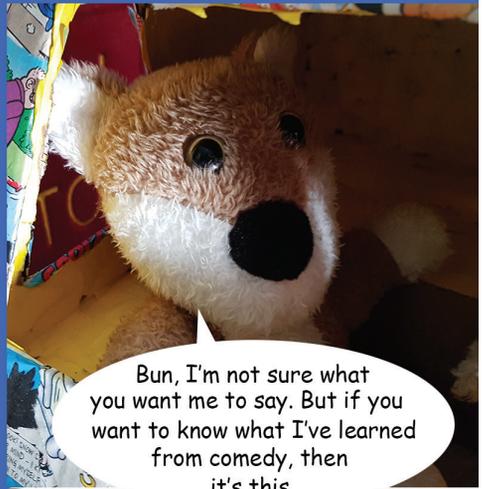
THEN...

Whoa! Look at that! An '88 Fiesta! Now that's what I call car porn, eh?

Ooh that was good actually. Can you point the GoPro at it while I do that car porn joke again?



Now THAT'S what I call a car!
They don't make 'em like that anymore
eh? Cos they're NOT ALLOWED TO!
Eddie? Come on Eddie, I KNOW
you have an opinion on this!



Bun, I'm not sure what
you want me to say. But if you
want to know what I've learned
from comedy, then
it's this...



It's not about being
everyone's hero. It's not about
being everyone's pariah. These are
the impulses of needy
children.



OI!!!

SH*T SH*T
SH*T! I REAR ENDED
HIS CAR!

It's about loving yourself enough
to laugh at yourself. Accept that you're flawed
and that you'll die soon, and that laughter in the
face of this is the gift we are giv-



Agh!!
Please
not my
ears!!

Come 'ere you
dozy pr*ck!!

Hey fellah
calm down! It was
an accident! Put
him down!

INEVITABLY..

BBC?
Yes this
is Bun
Flopsy

... no, I
haven't
overdubbed
the
sound

... yes I
would love
to be on
Newsnight

search

Bun Flopsy
4 June at 18:33

The moment I deliberately ramm'd a sexist in his rape-culture car

Youtube.com
The Bun Flopsy Vlogcast: I just thought 'Enough is enough'
Comedy activist takes a beating while yelling 'Me Too!'

Like Comment Share

Zebra Frances-White and 467 others like this

Turnip Chuckie Egg Whoa dude
Like Reply 2d

Bun Flopsy Thanks for your support everyone. You guys totally rock. BTW I'm injured but still want to gig.
Like Reply 1d

Johnny Shitstick replied · 99 replies

Krait Smurfsnake This reminds me of when I beat up a chimpanzee on national TV for being religious
Like Reply 1d

Emily Beavis You must come and play the comedy yurt at Corbynbury here at Very Very Very Worthy Farm
Like Reply 1d

Johnny Shitstick replied · 56 replies · 3 hrs

Tim Munchkin Stupid gorilla was asking for it

More lapine edginess next year



Auntie Ed

... answers your most awful and agonising angst-nuggets

Dear Auntie Ed,

My partner has a massive thingy; much too big to be in any way pleasurable. So every year about now I paint it to look like a tour bus and I pretend my thingy is Cowgate. What else should I do?

Hillary Edifice, Edinburgh

Hi Hilary! I can understand it must pose a problem, and that's a practical and fun solution. Historic Scotland give grants for all sort of things these days, so it's really worth giving them a call re funding. Best of luck!

Dear Auntie Ed,

I found out recently that my girlfriend is leading a double life. She has no idea I've discovered her secret, but she is biologically dead. A mutual coroner friend told me this has been going on for two years now, and that there is very little chance of her ever responding to me again. I want to confront her but I'm scared of losing her. What shall I do?

Roman Artefact, Keele

Hi Roman. I get a lot of these kind of letters. I always say that life is for the living, not for the dead. Its a hard pill to swallow, I know. Forget about your girlfriend's feelings: she's

dead. If you decide to stay together no one will judge you. Except that some people will, of course.

Dear Auntie Ed,

My girlfriend and I have our own shows at the Fringe, and I am feeling a bit emasculated. She has much bigger crowds than me, six five-star reviews and her venue is adding extra shows. I know I'm being old-fashioned and silly because *I Chopped My Boyfriend's C*ck Off* is a very good show and far better than mine.

How can I deal with my un-PC feelings of male inadequacy?

Steve Bloodloss, Peebles

Ahh, the old Edinburgh relationship conundrum where you do a show about someone nobody else knows and somehow they feel part of it because they think they know who the other person is even if you or your partner don't. The idea is just infinite in my mind, Steve. I'll be honest though, I haven't been in a relationship with anyone for an awful long time so it doesn't really interest me at all.

Edward Aczel has no show this year, as answering these questions required his undivided attention.

SIMON JABLONSKI

Love

FREE FESTIVAL

AN ENTIRELY UNEROTIC JOURNEY THAT BEGINS IN A PUBLIC TOILET

12:45AM

2-26 AUG
(NOT 14 & 15)

THE WEE ROOM
LAUGHING HORSE
@THE FREE SISTERS
139 COWGATE
EH1 1JS (VENUE 272)

fringe 03-27 August 2018

FREE ENTRY

AATIF NAWAZ

Instant GrAATification

'Consistently Hilarious' - Edinburgh Festivals Magazine
'Side Spittingly Hilarious' - EdFringe Review

£8/£9

3RD-26TH AUGUST 2018 AT 7:05PM

STAND 4 | 28 YORK PLACE | EH1 3EP
THE STAND COMEDY CLUB
0131 558 9005 | thestand.co.uk

'His intelligent observations will have you choking with laughter' - Huffington Post UK

Venue map
on p20



What we're watching

There's too much stuff in the brochure. There's TOO MUCH EFFING BLINKING STUFF in the sh*tting brochure. Let us break it down for you. What time is it now? OK, so go and see this:



COMPILED BY
MISTER KIPPER &
WRIGLEY WORM



You should be first in the queue for this.



You ought to actually wet your pants with excitement about this.

Stupid O'Clock

11:00 at **Pleasance Dome** [23] *Alabama God Damn* until 26 (not 21) A Gothic road trip to the deepest and dirtiest parts of Dixieland, influenced by TV shows *S-Town* and *True Detective* and the music of Seasick Steve. I thought the cool kids had ditched Seasick Steve? Apparently not. Should make your breakfast go down.



Noon-12:30

12:15 at **The Counting House (Laughing Horse)** [170] *A Piece of Cake* until 26 This year, if you wanted to, you could easily just

stay all day at the Counting House and see some amazing stuff. I mean, it's really off the scale as a free venue. So why not start that experience - gently - with this selection of comedians doing stuff about 'enjoying things...' with free homemade cake! **F**

12:30-13:00

12:30 at **Bar-Bados (PBH)** [32] *Jack Shanik: A Verbal Tightrope Walk* until 25 Silly one-liners, risqué one-liners, ludicrous one-liners. A lot of it is wordplay. Jack's show starts daft and gets dafter as we go. But it's not just a collection of jokes, it's a game with the audience to see how much we can take. **F**

12:35 at **Voodoo Rooms (PBH)** [68] *Punel Show* until 26 The thing about pun comedy is that it can very quickly become exhausting and suffer from diminishing returns. But there is something about Darren Walsh and Mark Simmons' friendship that makes this one rather charming, and it benefits from constant format changes and a keen sense of competition. Also a guest participant who usually has no idea what to make of it all. **F**

12:45 at **Free Sisters (Laughing Horse)** [272] *Simon Jablonski: Love* until



26 If you can find a funnier show about the fecund fields of love (let alone one that begins in a toilet), we'd be astonished. Simon tries to evaluate his failings by talking about love. His jokes don't so much punch up as punch himself. **F**

12:30 at **La Belle Angele (JTT)** [301] *Afternoon Delight* until 26 Well, Just the Tonic have some pretty good acts this year so, at this time of day, you won't do better than seeing a clutch of them here. It's a nice venue that doesn't get too hot (famous last words). Sally-Anne Hayward, Tom Ward, Nick Price, Adam Rowe: NONE of these were on when we called in. But hey, it changes every day, and it'll be good.

13:00-13:30

13:00 at **C Aquila** [21] *Abstract Stand-Up Art* until 27 We're always intrigued when something that's within our 'funny' remit turns up at C because we know it'll be comedy from someone not versed (should we say jaded?) in the ways

of stand-up. This bloke (no name provided) will be using art to ask questions like, I dunno, did God mean us to use toilets? To fold or scrunch? Hey, it's probably not as low-brow as Kipper is making out.

13:30-14:00

13:45 at **Tollbooth Market (PBH)** [98] *Alex Martini: Mad About Food* until 25 (not Tuesdays) Alex, if you hadn't guessed, is Italian and thinks his people are GastroFascists™, while the Brits don't give two hoots about what we put in our mouths. Leave your prejudices at home and gain some new ones. Perhaps inevitably, Martini's humour is a bit dry (sorry). **F**

14:00-14:30

14:00 at **Banshee Labyrinth (PBH)** [156] *Horror - Gothic Tales and Dark Poetry*, til 26 (not 22) "Night time. Yearning. Ecstasy. The abyss of the human soul"... Isabel Schmier takes us to all these happy places through poetry. Shouldn't this sort of thing be on at midnight? Perhaps, but it's the Fringe innit. You do your thing wherever you can find a corner. It IS in a haunted venue though. **F**

14:15 at **Bar 50 (Laughing Horse)** [151] *Kevin Precious: Unholier Than Thou* until 26 Kevin (a)muses on his

experiences in teaching RE to teenagers as a non-



religious sceptic humanist agnostic, along with the philosophy of religion and the God-shaped hole. This is no TED talk though, nor any sort of anti-theist rant, but a funny show with plenty of wry absurdity. **F**

14:30-15:00

14:30 at Espionage (Laughing Horse) [185] Pottervision til 26 There's always a clutch of boy-wizard shows here in Rowling City, and this looks like a good one for fans and reluctant tag-alongs alike. The cast will re-enact the bits from the movies that don't make much sense. And no, you can't just say 'Well it's magic innit?' That's cheating. **F**

★ **14:45 at Espionage (Laughing Horse) [185] First World Problems until 26** Part comedy show, part rap gig, part group therapy, Andy Quirk and Anna J present an hour of musical nonsense where self-consciousness is left at the door marked Silly Good Times. Wrigley LOVES this show. Anna J's surly rapper routine is hilarious. **F**

14:45 at Gilded Balloon Teviot [14] Benny 9-13 As

a counterpoint to all the right-on stuff, how about this: a sympathetic one-man exploration into the life and lonely death of Benny Hill, a man disowned by TV at the height of his powers for being on the wrong side of social progress.

14:45 at The Pear Tree (Laughing Horse) [257] Olaf Falafel: There's no i in idiot until 26 Olaf is one of those hyper-successful social media comedians. Where Olaf differs from most online content providers is that he can also do it live on stage. In fact, for our money it's on stage where his surrealism is really at home. **F**

★ **14:50 at Liquid Rooms (PBH) [276] Stuart Goldsmith: End Of til 26 (not 16)** Last year's *Like I Mean It* got big star ratings across the board, apart from Kate Copstick in the *Scotsman*, who called it 'comedy brilliance' and gave it three. (Don't ask, we've given up.) Anyway this year he's doing "upbeat resentment". A sort of cheerful pre-Nazi Morrissey... and in a massive room. But you'll still need to get there early. **F**



15:00-15:30

15:00 at Monkey Barrel [515] Tony Law: A Lost Show until 26 Tony lost

The Stand Comedy Club by arrangement with IMWP presents

MITCH BENN

Doing it on Purpose



"The country's leading musical satirist"
The Times

"Britain's answer to Tom Lehrer"
The Swindonian

"Well crafted lyrics, catchy tunes and a charismatic performer. What more could you ask for?"
Leicester Mercury

3.25pm August 2-26 (not 14)

mitchbenn.com

THE STAND'S
NEW TOWN THEATRE

96 GEORGE STREET | EH2 3DH
0131 558 9005 | THESTAND.CO.UK

martha mcbrier

Fur Coat Nae Knickers

'Funny like Chic Murray was funny' - Scotsman ★★★★★



'A knack for funny storytelling' - Broadway Baby ★★★★★

Mumble ★★★★★
Scotsgay ★★★★★
Chortle ★★★★★
Metro ★★★★★
One4review ★★★★★

7:15pm
2-26 AUGUST

THE LOUNGE
LAUGHINGHORSE@COUNTINGHOUSE
38 WEST NICOLSON ST. (VENUE 170)

FREE
FESTIVAL

years of his life to, ahem, supporting the Bolivian economy, and from the rubble of those years he finds a toy bear in a space suit. What is it? What does it MEAN? Tony's as barking as ever but this is beautifully sad and thoughtful too.

15:25 at **The Stand New Town Theatre** [7]

Mitch Benn: Doing It on Purpose until 26

Mitch Benn is one of the country's leading satirists. This show features some great new tunes including *Flat Earthers*, *Alternative Right* and eight other songs that would be hits if musical comedy was as popular as it should be.

15:30-16:00

15:30 at **Moriarty's (Laughing Horse)** [332]

Ahab; or What If Moby Dick Were Stand-Up Comedy til

26 (not 20) Kipper will admit

he knows nothing about this show's creator Jonny Gillam, but he calls himself a niche idiot. I love a niche idiot with a literary fixation, and there's not much else happening at this end of town.

Incidentally, this place used to be a strip club. Kipper got thrown out of here once, but don't let that put you off. **F**

16:00-16:30

16:20 at **Sweet Novotel** [188]

Sameena Zehra: Existerhood until 26 Sameena is not a fan of arsebiscuits, though she is a fan of the word 'arsebiscuits'. Arsebiscuits are negative or selfish folk.

How do we purge the planet of arsebiscuits without becoming arsebiscuits

ourselves? Don't know, but you'll be saying (and recognising) arsebiscuits for the rest of the Fringe.



16:30-17:00

12:50 at **Monkey Barrel** [515] *Nish Kumar: It's in Your Nature to Destroy Yourself (Work in Progress)*

until 26 This was still a little faltering and juddery when Kipper saw it but Nish is always both charming and disarming, and some of the routines showed every sign of being stunning by, erm... what day are you reading this? YES! Today! This oven will go DING! on this show TODAY. Deffo. **F**

17:00-17:30

17:00 at **Kilderkin (PBH)** [227] *Alex Love: Stop the Press, I Want to Get Off* until 25 (not 22) How do you get swearing into the Fringe brochure? You write it in journalist's shorthand and put it in your submitted image. Apparently it says 'f*ck all reviewers you're all c*nts' or something. Ha ha! We very much approve. It just shows the FFS brochure-monkeys aren't real journalists! Sorry? What's that? Can WE read shorthand? Erm... no. **F**

17:00 at **Gilded Balloon Teviot** [14] *Dominic Frisby's Financial Game Show*, until

26 (not 15) **Dominic Frisby** is a very intellectual chap, so Kipper believes him when he says 'you'll learn something'. He's a libertarian too, mind, so the answer to most questions may well be 'Dismantle the State'.

17:15 at **theSpace@Niddry St** [9] *Kids Play* 13-25

An actual theatre piece has sneaked onto this list, 'cos Wrigley is a fan of 'Taggart' creator Glenn Chandler. This play, on which he worked as head writer, features a stuffed toy but is very much for adults only. Don't give away the twists!

17:30-18:00

17:30 at **The Counting House** [170] (**Laughing Horse**) *Godley's Cream* (4-26) Janey Godley doesn't script her Edinburgh shows, she simply talks about whatever is happening that day. But after 20 years of touring and performing, she'll have a ton of classics to treat us with as well as new yarns. Godley is the queen of Scottish comedy and Wrigley adores her. **F**

17:30 at **City Café (Laughing Horse)** [85] *Bollywood and Birmingham to Berlin and Brexit* until 26 Named after a Bollywood legend, Dharmander Singh was always "Too brown for the white kids and the wrong brown for the brown kids" this comedy about identity says something different. It's also packed full of laughs. **F**

18:00-18:30

18:15 at **Grassmarket Centre (JTT)** [27] *Comedy in the*

Dark til 26 (not 20) This is an idea that began at the Leicester Comedy Festival about 10 years ago and has grown ever since. It's a simple idea to switch the lights off but somehow, when you're deprived of other distractions, comedy suddenly regains its magic. Different comics each night.



18:30-19:00

18:30 at **Assembly George Square Studios** [17] *Terry Alderton: The Musical* until 27 For a brief moment during Terry's barnstorming performance, Wrigley felt sorry for comedy reviewers. It is not hyperbole to describe this show as beyond description. Take no notice of the programme blurb, it won't help. Wrigley has seen it three times now and it just gets funnier.

18:30 at **Beehive Inn** [178] *Gary Little: Big Mouth* til 27 The first time Kipper saw Gary Little he laughed because he was scared Gary might hurt him if he didn't; the second time he was satisfied Gary would never do that, and laughed because Gary is a behemoth of Glaswegian charisma.

18:30 at **Free Sisters (Laughing Horse)** [272] *Twisted* until 21 For one week only musical

JACK SHANIK

A VERBAL TIGHTROPE WALK

A host of inventive gags doused in wordplay and performed with aplomb - Stagefright Comedy



Superbly formulated and consistently funny one-liners - Back Street Heroes

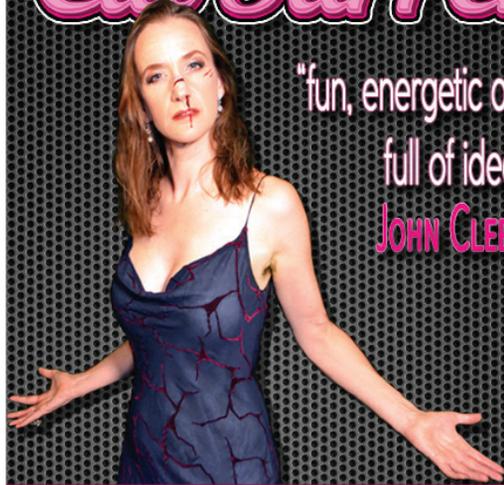
Left me with an aching side - Notts Comedy Review

Download our Free Fringe App

Graphics by Olex
Photo: Andy Hollingworth

12.30-13.15 BAR BADOS, ROOM 1
4-25 Aug. 68 COWGATE EHI IJW VENUE 32

Kate Smurthwaite Clit Stirrer



"fun, energetic and full of ideas"
JOHN CLEESE

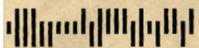
Banshee Labyrinth Cinema Room
VENUE 156
7:30PM 4TH-26TH AUGUST (NOT 14TH)



THE TRAVELLIN MAN COMEDY SHOWCASE



PRESENTED BY AIDAN 'TACO' JONES
LAUGHING HORSE @ HARRY'S SOUTHSIDE
6:15pm AUGUST 2-26



In six years of stand-up, Aidan 'Taco' Jones has met great comedians from every continent (except Antarctica, they're rubbish). He's picked the best to bring to the Edinburgh Fringe. Expect to see acts from Argentina, South Africa, New York, Paris, Moscow, Malaysia and many many more, all hosted by one loud-mouth Australian who can't keep his mouth shut!

NJAMBI MCGRATH

'60 FUNNIEST JOKES - EDINBURGH FRINGE 2017' (THE SCOTSMAN) '32 FUNNIEST ONE-LINERS FROM THE FRINGE 2017' (THE TELEGRAPH)



"Compelling, rarely-heard perspective" - FESTIVAL
"Extraordinarily powerful" - THE SCOTSMAN
"Potentially major comedian" - JOHN CLEESE
"A must see" - THE SCOTSMAN
"Dark and refreshing" - BROADWAY BABY
"Important voice" - THE TIMES
"Engaging, stark and vivid" - THE OBSERVER
"Trailblazing" - THE GUARDIAN

AFRICAN in NEW YORK

ALMOST FAMOUS

★★★★ "The most unique show at the Edinburgh Festival" - THE LIST
★★★★ "Harrowing confessional comedy" - FEST
★★★★ "Sharp, edgy... an excellent comedian" - THE MUMBLE

1:00pm THE ATTIC
LAUGHING HORSE @ COUNTING HOUSE
38 WEST NICOLSON ST (VENUE 170)
FREE FESTIVAL

3 - 24 August (not 13)

comedian Aaron Ajay delivers his energetic and aggressive musical comedy, peppered with expletives and very dark undertones. This show isn't safe for children (or anyone else), but it is utterly brilliant. **F**

18:45 at **Dropkick Murphy's** (Laughing Horse) *Aaaaaaaaand Now It's Time for...* **Roger Swift's Pun-U-Matic** (*The Second Leg*) til 26 The UK Pun Championship finalist in 2016 and 2017 presents 45 minutes of puns. Roger Swift doesn't care about appearing slick as he roots through his Tardis-like bag of gag props. So be punctual. Don't get a pun-cture. Please don't pun-cture me. **F**

19:00-19:30

19:00 at **Pleasance**

Courtyard [33] **Anuvab Pal: Empire**, until 26 We woke kids are used to finding the Empire, like Brexit, a bit embarrassing. So this is a timely reminder that, to Anglophile Indians, our 1947 walk-out was just as exasperating.



19:05 at **Stand 4** [12] **Atif Nawaz: Instant GrAATIFication** until 26 For his fourth solo comedy show at the Fringe, Aatif explores how the public (including his comedy

audience) have turned into impatient beings. Impatient for food. Impatient for work. Impatient for love. Aatif gives you what you deserve. You deserve hilarious.

19:15 at **The Counting House** (Laughing Horse) [170] **Martha McBrier: Fur Coat Nae Knickers** until 26 This is a funny show about class. Has the Glaswegian Martha become so successful that she has, 'forget the auld arse ye sat on'? A highly personal story from a sort of earthbound, female, Scottish Arthur Dent. Sort of. **F**

19:30-20:00

19:30 at **The Waverley Bar** (PBH) [438] **Alexander Bennett: Housewife's Favourite** til 25 (not 21) There's something spookily

LeStat-ish about Alexander Bennett. Just as unnerving is just how good he has become in the past five years. Here he talks about his abusive ex. **F**

20:00-20:30

20:00 at **The Caves** (**Just the Tonic**) [88] **Nathan Cassidy: If I Caused the Financial Crash of 2008** until 26 Nathan is a trickster and a former banker. In the spirit of OJ Simpson's book *If I Did It*, he suggests that if he HAD caused the financial crash of 2008 this is how he would have done it. This show is as solid as a (Northern) rock. **F**

20:15 at **Black Medicine** (**Heroes**) [503] **Sam Nicoresti's Bedtime** until 26

This rather charming debut from Sam explores the world

of dreams and sleepover fun. Apparently the only 'review' it has received so far was an unmarked package of LSD, delivered to Sam's home address. Maybe save it to get through the comedy awards?



20:30-21:00

20:45 at **Harry's Southside** (Laughing Horse) **Ashley Haden: We All Die C*nts** til 26 This is the third and final chapter of Haden's C*nting Trilogy. Who knew that listening to comedy's own Leonard Cohen could be so cathartic? **F**

21:00-21:30

21:00 at **Gilded Balloon** **Teviot Luisa Omelian: Politics For Bitches** until 26 (not 23) When Luisa performed *What Would Beyonce Do?* in a free venue in 2013 it suddenly changed the landscape of women in stand-up. This was so brash, so confident, so unapologetic and so inspiring to the sisterhood that it even made Dominic Cavendish in the Telegraph lose his sh*t.

21:00 at **Assembly George Square Theatre** [8] **Andrew Maxwell: shake a Leg** until 26 See a true veteran of the Fringe dismantle Brexit and the increasingly terrifying world of digital disinformation. A class act

Continued on Pg 21

Top Bananas!

Left v Right: the eternal struggle. **BILLY COCONUTS** asks which comedy manifesto will win the Fringe's great war of ideas

*LJ DA FUNK in... When Will These Fascist Bastards All Be Lined Up and F*cking Shot?* Moriarty's (Laughing Horse) [332] at **21:45 until 26 (not 21)** Our favourite 'mouthy Marxist snowflake' opens the Left's offerings with this scream of rage that won't leave you wondering what he REALLY means. **F**

Matt Forde: Brexit Through the Gift Shop Pleasance Courtyard [33] at **20:30 until 26** Ex-Blairites like Forde aren't as Left as some would like, but this very slick show mostly takes the p*ss out of Boris-style Brexit and frothy populism, so we'll put him on this side of the bananas.

Gráinne Maguire: What Has the News Ever Done for Me? City Cafe (Laughing Horse) [85] at **11:15 until 26** Always a hoot and Ed Milliband's most deathless admirer, Gráinne looks at the day's news through, it's probably fair to say, lefty liberal-tinted spectacles. A good way to catch up with the world after breakfast. **F**

Leo Kears: Right-Wing Comedian Espionage (Laughing Horse) [185] at **19:30 until 26** After last year's succesful (well he's still alive) run of *I Can Make You Tory*, Leo is having another poke at liberal sanctimony, Remoaning and the victim culture. **F**

Geoff Norcott: Traditionalism Gilded Balloon Teviot [14] at **18:45 until 19** The Conservative Party's most charming and erudite advocate, Geoff is a true working-class Blue. If he can't convince you nobody can. He's only here for a couple more days though.

Simon Evans: Genius 2.0 Assembly George Square [8] at **20:20 until 26** Simon is more small-C conservative than an acolyte, but Radio 4's *Simon Evans Goes to Market* came down firmly on the side of economic prudence. Always enlightening.



"Haden is like a drunk, tortured prophet of truth."

THREE WEEKS PEGASUS NEW ACT OF THE YEAR 2016 BROADWAY BABY

★★★★★

ASHLEY HADEN

WE ALL DIE CUNTS

"The final chapter of the critically acclaimed c*nting trilogy"

8:45PM
2-26 AUGUST
(NOT 14TH)

LAUGHING HORSE@
HARRY'S SOUTHSIDE (VENUE 264)
42 - 44 BUCCLEUCH STREET

FREE FESTIVAL

AS HEARD ON
JAMES ACASTER'S FINDINGS (BBC RADIO 4)
JOSH WIDDICOMBE'S XFM SHOW
AND
FRESH FROM THE FRINGE (BBC RADIO 4 EXTRA)

THREE WEEKS

THE LIST

'IMPRESSIVE'
SCOTSMAN

'DELIGHTFULLY SILLY'
TIME OUT

'THE POTENTIAL IS
EXCITINGLY EVIDENT'
METRO

'BRILLIANT, UNUSUAL,
AND VERY FUNNY'
JOSIE LONG

NATHANIEL METCALFE

**CHAMELEON,
COMEDIAN,
CORINTHIAN AND
CARICATURE**

DIRECTED BY
JAMES ACASTER

FREE FESTIVAL

1.10PM AUGUST 2-26 (NOT 14)
LAUGHING HORSE@ THE COUNTING HOUSE,
38 WEST NICHOLSON STREET, EH8 9DD

Venue Map

Assembly Rooms George Street

[20] EH2 2LR • **Assembly George Square Gardens**

[3] EH8 9LH • **Assembly George Square Studios**

[17] EH8 9LH • **Assembly George Square Theatre** [8]

EH8 9LH • **Banshee Labyrinth** (PBH)

[156] EH1 1LG • **Bannermans**

(PBH) [357] EH1 1NQ • **Bar 50** (LH)

[151] EH1 1NE • **Beehive Inn** [178]

EH1 2JU • **Black Medicine** (Heroes)

[503] EH8 9DH • **Bob's Blundabus**

(Heroes) [212] EH8 9AA • **Boteco**

(Heroes) [516] EH1 1HB • **C Aquila**

[21] EH1 2PW • **C Royale** [6] EH2

2PQ • **C Venues: C** [34] EH1 1HR • **Cabaret Voltaire**

(LH) [338] EH1 1QR • **The Caves**

(JTT) [88] EH1 1LG • **City Café** (LH)

[85] EH1 1QR • **The Counting House**

(LH) [170] EH8 9DD • **Dragonfly**

(Heroes) [414] EH1 2LD • **Dropkick Murphy's** (LH)

[289] EH1 2QD • **Espionage** (LH)

[185] EH1 2EX • **Finnegan's Wake**

(LH) [101] EH1 2HE • **Fireside** [75] EH8

8BE • **Free Sisters** [272] EH1 1JS • **Gilded Balloon at the Museum** [64]

EH1 1HB • **Gilded Balloon Rose St Theatre** [76] EH2

4AZ • **Gilded**

Balloon Teviot [14] EH8 9AJ

• **Harry's Southside** (LH) [264] EH8 9LP • **The Hive** (Heroes)

[313] EH1 1LG • **Kilderkinn** [227] EH8 8BT • **La Belle Angele**

(JTT) [301] EH1 1HJ • **Liquid Rooms** (PBH)

[276] EH1 2HE • **Harry's Southside** (LH)

[264] EH8 9LP • **The Hive** (Heroes)

[313] EH1 1LG • **Kilderkinn** [227] EH8 8BT • **La Belle Angele**

(JTT) [301] EH1 1HJ • **Liquid Rooms** (PBH)

[276] EH1 2HE • **Harry's Southside** (LH)

[264] EH8 9LP • **The Hive** (Heroes)

[288] EH1 1JG • **Mockingbird** (LH) [441] EH9 1QN • **Monkey Barrel** [396] EH1 1QR • **Moriarty's** (LH)

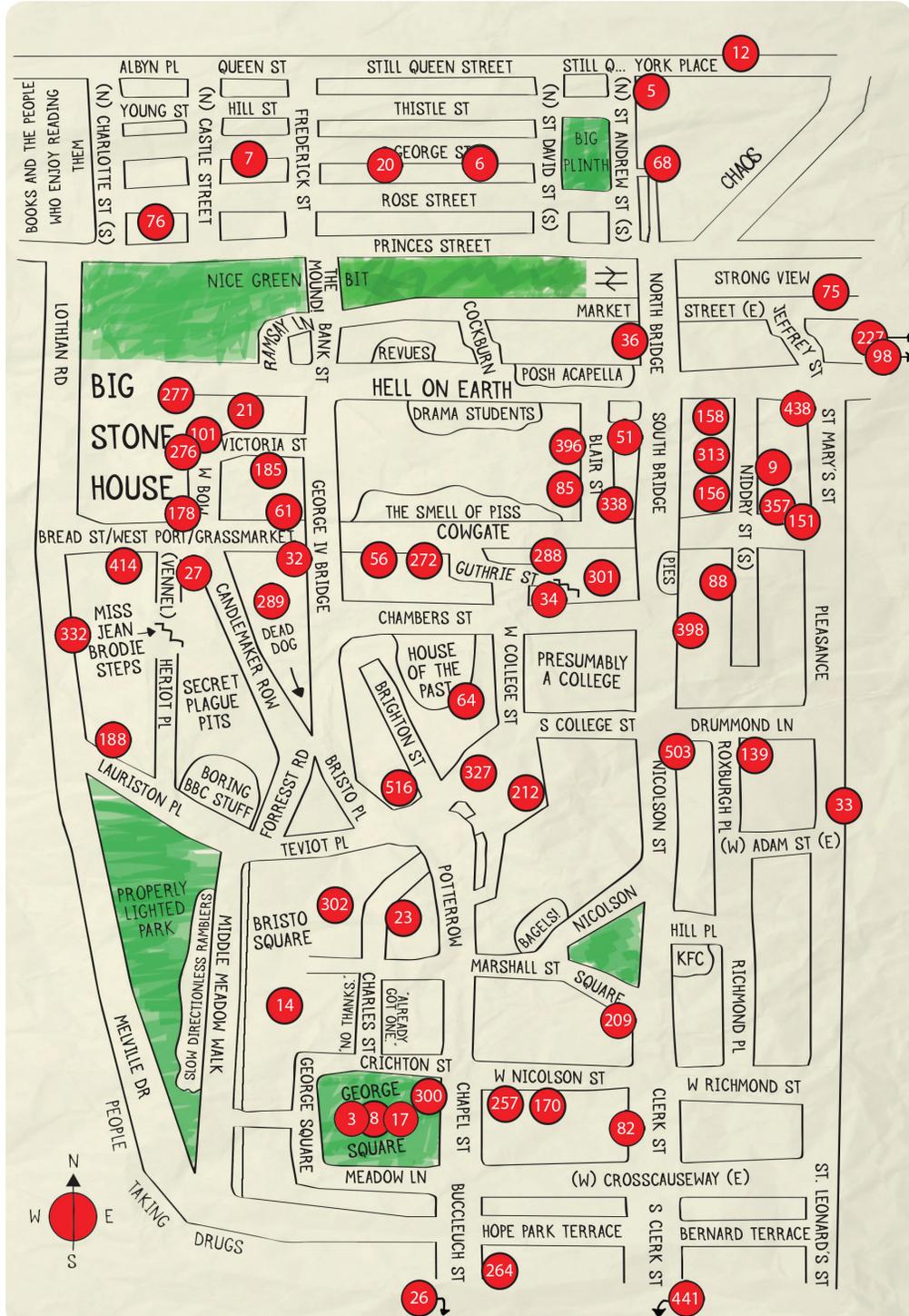
[332] EH3 9AA • **Novotel** (Sweet) [188] EH3 9DE • **Pear Tree** (LH) [257] EH8 9DD • **Pleasance Courtyard** [33] EH8 9JT • **Pleasance Dome** [23] EH8 9AL • **PQA Venues**

[277] EH1 2PG • **The Space at Niddry Street** [9] EH1 1TH • **The Space on North Bridge** [36] EH1 1SD • **Spiegelyurt** (Heroes) [327] EH8 9AA • **Stand 1 & Stand 2** [5] EH1 3EB •

The Stand 3&4 [12] EH1 3EP • **The Stand New** [7] EH2 3DH • **Subway** (PBH) [56] EH1 1JW • **Summerhall** [26] EH9 1PL • **The Three Broomsticks**

[398] EH1 1LL • **Tollbooth Market** [98] EH8 8BN • **The Tron** (JTT) [51] EH1 1QW • **Underbelly Bristo Square** [302] EH8 9AG • **Underbelly Cowgate** [61] EH1 1JX

• **Underbelly George Square** [300] EH8 9LH • **Voodoo Rooms** (PBH) [68] EH2 2AA • **Waverley Bar** (PBH) [438] EH1 1TA • **Whistlebinkies** (PBH) [158] EH1 1LL



who is passionate about his lampoonery (see page 30).

21:15 at **Three Broomsticks (PBH)** [398] *The LOL Word* until 25 Wrigley hasn't seen it this year yet but saw it last Fringe and loved it - but it was just too late for our second issue. Simply the best in lesbian stand-up, with a policy of "no sexism, racism, transphobia, classism" ... sort of like Lolitics used to be, but hopefully without the [Let's move on shall we? - Ed] **F**

21:30-22:00

21:40 at **Pleasance Dome** [23] *Yianni Agisilaou: I, Human* 1-26 For the best part of a decade Yianni has been delivering consistently thoughtful, scientific, philosophical - and funny - explorations into the human condition. This one examines the relationship between us and our technology. Expect talk of sex droids.

22:00-22:30

22:15 at **Underbelly Bristo Square** [302] *Tori Scott is #Thirsty* til 27 This musical comedian from New York is known as 'the Judy Garland for the Grindr era' and 'the Bette Midler of the new millennium'. Depends on your references really. Scott's version of *The Trolley Song* (you know, 'clang clang went the trolley...') from *Meet Me in St Louis* is hysterical.



Late

23:00 at **The Tron (Just the Tonic)** [51] *Oleg Denisov: Doublethink* until 26 A good dose of satire from a Russian perspective, this is in turns intelligently political and then, just when the hard stuff threatens to become too much, very silly. From Orwell, Dostoevsky and Chekhov to some puns that Tim Vine would be proud of. **F**

23:50 at **Spiegelyurt (Heroes)** [327] *Lucy Hopkins: Sect Circl* 4-26 This is Wrigley's favourite show so far at this year's Edinburgh Fringe. Lucy (pic below) shapeshifts between characters as she presents a healing seminar. What follows is an utterly joyous 90 minutes of interactive clowning, stand-up and improv from a comedy genius at the height of her powers. **F**

23:55 at **Underbelly Cowgate** [61] *Spank!* (til 26) If you're going to see a drunken late-night variety show then it might as well be *Spank!* which, for about a trillion years, has been bringing us an imaginative mix of bad behaviour. This could be gratuitous nudity onstage or a group of 50 estate agents in the audience who won't shut the f*ck up. It's like a comedy cock fight really, but messier.

Dave Chawner: Mental

A show about mental health (not mental illness)

As seen on:

BBC

itv

4

As heard on:

BBC RADIO **1**

BBC RADIO **4**

BBC RADIO **5 live**

★★★★★

The List

★★★★★

Ed Fest Magazine

★★★★★

Three Weeks

★★★★★

Broadway Baby

★★★★★

Ed Fringe Review

★★★★★

Voice Magazine

★★★★★

Arts Award Voice

★★★★★

Bunbury Magazine

LAUGHING HORSE 19:20
@ COUNTING HOUSE, VENUE 170,
38 WEST NICOLSON STREET,
EDINBURGH, EH8 9DD

FREE FESTIVAL

Bollywood and Birmingham to Berlin and Brexit.

Dharmander Singh

"Growing up - I was too brown for the white kids and the wrong kind of brown for the brown kids. That's when I first questioned my identity."

"Dharmander Singh is an energetic, lively, fun MC and comedian. He is extremely likeable and audiences warm to him immediately."
 - Nik Coppin (Laughing Panda Productions)

"Dharmander is an amazing and mesmerizing presence on stage. You cannot help but love him."
 - Lynn Ruth Miller (Stand-up comedian, entertainer)

www.dharmandersingh.com

17:30PM

2-26 AUGUST

LAS VEGAS ROOM
LAUGHING HORSE@CITY CAFÉ
19 BLAIR STREET (VENUE 85)

FREE FESTIVAL

Barry Loves You



'Ave a Day Off!

On the **20th-23rd** a lot of acts take a break and something one-off and quirky happens instead. **EDMUND RUMANIA** is checking these somethings out



Tales of the Unacceptable

Stand 3&4 [12] | 19:00 | Aug 20

A show for anyone in the comedy industry. Sameena Zehra and Seymour Mace have been gathering comedian testimony of the #metoo variety from across the UK and here present it in a shocking bucketful of yuck in order to, says Sameena, "Get a sense of where we are, and how we are going to go forward - if we want our industry to be a gold standard instead of turd central". This all sounds very worthy for Seymour. I hope he's not going to turn into Uncle Shitty during a serious bit.



Mum's the Word

Gilded Balloon Rose St Theatre [76]

16:15 | Aug 23

The very affable Katie Mulgrew presents a show for parents. Bring your crying babies and listen, if you can, to some nice, normal, occasionally filthy gags (the comedy is for you, not the babies). Here no barren millennials with laptops drinking froth will shame you. Because of the swearing there's an '18 months and under' rule, but I'm sure the jokes will wash over older, developmentally slower children too.



So You Think You're Funny (Sketch)

Gilded Balloon Teviot [14] | 21:15 | Aug 20

SYTYF has been running for about a zillion eons, but this competition to find the best sketch acts only started last year. I dunno what the winners are going to do with their accolade, exactly, since the BBC has been violently opposed to making any sketch comedy since *Watson and Oliver* six years ago. Still, they can always use it to become Fringe-famous like *We Are Klang*. Do you remember *We Are Klang*? It was a great sketch act with Greg Davies. The BBC destroyed it.



C20MEDY

Banshee Labyrinth (PBH) [156] | 19:20 | Aug 21

01001000 01110101 01101101 01100001
01101110 00100000 01100011 01101111
01101101 01100101... the 'show description' goes on like this for some time.

I've a feeling this may be a bit like 2016's cult thing *This is Business*, with its equally helpful description, 'BUSINESS BUSINESS BUSINESS'. I like going to unknown quantities with lots of apostrophes. It's the 'Fringe', innit?

FIRST WORLD PROBLEMS

JOIN ANDY QUIRK AND ANNA'S CREW FOR A COMEDY RAP SHOW OF
BEST PUMPING THERAPY FOR MODERN LEVIANS

"...delivers with infectious enthusiasm...demolishing any walls of self-consciousness...and he's even got a backing dancer with moody sass to help build the atmosphere." - Chortle

★★★★ - Bunbury Magazine



FREE FESTIVAL

August 2nd-26th @ 2:45PM
Laughing Horse @ Espionage Kasbar (Venue 185)
Victoria Street, EH1 2EX
FREE ENTRY / 12+
www.andyquirk.co.uk / @andy_quirk





Christine Bovill's Paris

The Stand New Town Theatre [7] | 21:10 | Aug 21

There are three things you must have at a Fringe. One is a comedian with a swear-word in the title, another is some students doing Macbeth. The third is someone singing Brel and Piaf in a clinical atmosphere where nobody is drunk or smoking or a prostitute, which to my mind is like singing rugby songs in a church. But Christine Bovill is seriously good, and French too, so just order a very large brandy, close your eyes and pretend.



Am I Normal? With Seann Walsh and Carl Donnelly

The Counting House (LH) [170] | 16:45 | Aug 22

I'm confused. It says here that this show has "two of the finest observational comedy minds in the UK" but then it says it's with Carl Donnelly and Sean Walsh. Hahaha! I am joking, of course. This will be aced. Incidentally, why does Seann have two Ns? One of them is superfluous. That Phill Jupitus is wasting ink, too. See, THAT'S how you do observational.



Worst. Date. Ever.

Banshee Labyrinth (PBH) [156] | 20:50 | Aug 20

A storytelling show of dating disasters. I'm surprised this isn't a more well-trodden format to be honest, but then I suppose 'Shaggers' is a bit like this but just cutting to the filth. All genders and persuasions are welcome, and there are games. Saucy games, probably. And it's only ten to nine. Best bevvy up at home first.



Stamptown Comedy Night

Underbelly Cowgate [61] | 23:59 | Aug 23

Who doesn't like a bit of raucous late-night comedy cabaret, eh? Well, my neighbour for one. But then he voted for Brexit and shouts at takeaway delivery drivers when they forget his prawn crackers. One of them even cried once. Anyway, now that the Spiegel tent is too p*ss*d off to come here this is the best in international cabaret we're likely to see. Hosted by Zach and Viggo, with music by Thumpasaurus. Come on, it's Thursday!



Fringepig Farewell: Free Speech and Loose Lips

Bob's Blundabus (Heroes) [212] | 00:10 | Aug 25

OK this one's outside the usual date range but it's a definite one-off. One of several Top Deck Takeovers on Bob's bus, this will see a panel of Fringepig staff and guests discuss free speech while drinking whatever Bob's got left in his fridge at this point of the Fringe. Come along. Speak free. We'll record it for posterity. I mean pistority. Podcastity. Whatever.

AAAAAAAAAAAAAAAAAAAAAAAAAAND

IT IS TIME

NOW FOR

ROGER SWIFT'S

PUN-U-MATIC

THE 2ND LEG

The UK
Pun
Championships
2016 & 2017
Finalist

6:45PM
2-26 AUGUST
(NOT 14)

LAUGHING HORSE@
DROPKICK MURPHY'S
7 MERCHANT ST (VENUE 289)

FREE FESTIVAL

2-26 AUGUST (EXCLUDING 13)

JACOB HATTON

OZYMANDIAS

'ATTUNED TO THE HUMAN PSYCHE'
BROADWAY BABY

'VERY FUNNY'
JOHN KEARNS

Just the Tonic
COMEDY CLUB

@ THE CAVES, 253 COWGATE EHI INN
£5 ADVANCE OR PAY WHAT YOU WANT
JUSTTHETONIC.COM 0330 220 1212

International Fringes

Oz failure



The Australian festival scene has long been the biggest challenger to Edinburgh's crown. Yet this year something went very wrong down under. **Derwent Cyzinski** reports.



Alastair Barrie, who was in Perth last year and so got away with his takings, says: "I found that if you flyer constantly, you can still do really well. I managed to average 40 a night which is fine. People complain because you can't just turn up and print money now. Over the last few years there's been a 50 per cent increase in outside acts, especially British."

These acts have not brought more people. The downside to having a captive audience is that, when trying to build on it, there's literally nowhere to go: Perth is one of the most isolated urban centres on earth, with little outlying population.

Perth

Where did all the money go?

Of the Australian big three, Perth has long been the favourite of visiting comedians. "They're more Brit and Irish than the people in Adelaide or Melbourne," says Irish comic **Mary Bourke**. "They're not too cool for school. They know how bogan they are and have no pretension."

There's little point filling a room with lovely people, though, when unlovely people make all your cash

disappear. This year the Perth Fringe is in crisis after the private company it installed to look after ticketing, Jump Climb, announced it was seeking voluntary administration leaving A\$200,000 (about £114,000) in artists and technicians' fees unpaid. Fringe World, Perth's version of our own Festival Fringe Society, has offered £49,000 - its own cut of the takings - to help ease the pain.

Jump Climb blames "a combination of factors including a downturn in ticket sales, debtors going

into receivership and the general economic slow-down". This slow-down includes the collapse of the mining industry around Perth and stagnation in the wider Australian economy. But none of this explains what they've done with other people's money.

The question now is whether Fringe World can redeem itself in time for next year. It is looking for a bailout from Perth's city fathers and the Adelaide Fringe. It will need to start from scratch financially, in the face of a lot of acts vowing never to return.

Adelaide

Where did all the punters go?

Adelaide has the second largest Fringe festival in the world,

despite the general opinion of Brit comedians that it's the most boring town on the continent. Its biggest party now seems in question after a Fringe season **Brendon Burns** called "A terrible festival - the worst by a long shot".

“Adelaide in March is like a war crime.”

If Perth suffered from spreading a good crowd too thin, the audiences in Adelaide just failed to turn up at all. "Nine shows in and my total sales across my entire run are still 50 per cent of my opening night sales in Perth" posted **Alexis Dubus**, perhaps better known as sarcastic Frenchman Marcel Lucont, at this year's Fringe. "Having visited Adelaide before, I was blown away by how much this sleepy town got behind weird and wonderful offerings. Seven years on and those people seem to have vanished."

Brendon Burns stated "I lost count of the number of times I bumped into world-class international acts, declaring they would never return. I

certainly won't."

"It was awful," agrees **Seymour Mace**. "The people running it just kept banging on about how it was the second biggest Fringe after Edinburgh. Well it's not the size that matters; it's making it work. Edinburgh is a worldwide destination. In Adelaide the ONLY audience is local, and the more stuff you put on the less of them you have in each venue."

Seymour suspects the Fringe's organisers are indifferent to the acts' experience. "There's big maps in the street, but most of the venues aren't on there. Ours wasn't. They only care about the big official stuff, like Garden of Unearthly Delights and Gluttony. It's just rich people running things for themselves and not giving a sh*t about anyone else."

The City of Adelaide must take a share of the blame too. It schedules pretty much every bit of fun into one month - 'Mad March'. The Clipsail 500 street race, the Writer's Festival, the main Adelaide Festival of Arts, the Adelaide Cup horse race and numerous culinary and wino events leave the crowds jaded, divided, distracted and worse for wear.



"The audiences are drunk a lot of the time," said Mary. "They'll buy a ticket for a show just to get to a bar with no queue. Adelaide in March is like a war crime."

Cabaret act **Tomás Ford** has criticised mega-venues such as the Croquet Club and the Garden of Unearthly Delights for "f*cking it up for everyone else" by turning the Fringe into a sort of beer tent with acts, rather than a cultural event with bars.

Henning Wehn thinks it has outgrown itself. "The Garden of Unearthly Delights used to be a nice little garden back in 2010," he says. "Now it's like Hampstead Heath."

There may be a more endemic problem, however, as voiced by **Frank Ford**, the Adelaide Fringe's founding director. Last year he was questioned by Australia's ABC News after culture snobs claimed that

there was too much comedy for it to be a true 'fringe' anymore. Ford shared their grievance. "I was terribly concerned because all of a sudden, they were swamping the Fringe," he said. "It really looked like in the late 1990s the Fringe was going to be swamped and become a comedy festival." He assured the public that this crisis had now been averted by an upswing in more arty (and dare we say, farty) fringe fare.

Adelaide's sniffy attitude is all its own, but a problem endemic there is growing in Edinburgh: the crowds are only going to the big stuff. And even the big stuff is having slow nights, which it weathers by 'papering' shows with free tickets - as Alexis recalls, "Sometimes to people waiting in line to buy an actual ticket for something niche that's struggling to survive".

Melbourne

Where did the 'open festival' idea go?

.....
This is a strange, strange beast. Normally an international festival is either free to all comers (like a fringe) or it's invitational. Somehow the Melbourne International Comedy Festival (MICF) receives tens of thousands of dollars from the State of Victoria to run an open festival, but actually runs what amounts to a closed shop.

It is run by **Susan Provan** (pictured above); mention her name and the words 'dictator' and 'cabal' flow like Victoria Bitter in the sunshine. She's not exactly a Melbornian Mugabe, but **Boothby Graffoe** once indecorously said on stage that Provan "has her vagina fastened

over this city like a bottle top" and he hasn't been seen in Melbourne since.

Over 23 years of Provan's rule the state-sponsored festival has run all the main central venues, with its flagship at the Town Hall. It has a vast budget with which to invite the cream of international talent, with hotel rooms, blanket publicity and the acts' faces on city trams.

Other, smaller venues can bring people over too, if they fancy competing with the state behemoth. But stories abound of MICF meddling. **Dan Willis**, who runs independent venues with Scot **Alan Anderson**, says "There were attempts to have my acts' visas turned down; sometimes because Susan doesn't like them politically and sometimes because MICF wanted to bring them in later. Our



show listings would get changed too."

It's well known that Provan dislikes taking on any act that has already been to Melbourne in a non-MICF venue. Henning visited the festival as a freelancer in 2012 with his sometime comedy partner **Otto Kuhnle**.

He recalls: "At the end of the festival Otto and I had enjoyed a good run and had been nominated for the Barry Award; Melbourne's main comedy gong. So we expected to be invited back as part of the main event. We never did."

Success was all the more surprising given the barriers erected. "Every day we'd get a sales report at 2pm. The numbers were always good but we soon noticed that, at night when the show started, there hadn't been a single extra ticket sold since that 2pm report. I phoned the ticketing agent – the one put in

place by MICF – and was told that after 2pm the people on the phones all go home. Only the MICF sales were automated, so if you were not in the Town Hall you couldn't sell tickets after 2pm! After a lot of haggling they agreed to keep the lines open til 5pm just for us, as long as I didn't tell anyone.

"A person might suspect that Provan's lot don't want people to think an independent model can work."

Alastair Barrie says: "My feeling is, if you're not part of Susan's cabal you're very unlikely to have a Barry judge visit you. She just doesn't like being challenged. I had a very strange conversation with Susan where I was explaining I'd just done the Free Fringe in Edinburgh. She seemed to think that, over here, the Big Four venues are under attack, and that free-show people are ruining all the hard work they've put in.

"Everything is sewn up," says Henning. "In Edinburgh everyone has a fair crack of the whip. I love Melbourne; the people are great and we had a right laugh. But I won't return there until that monster goes."



Talking With Pork

It's all change in Fringepig's Q&A charts! These are the most popular of 272 comedian Q&As conducted in association with **On The Mic**

Key (since 25/7)

📈 Rising

📉 Falling

↔️ Unchanged

★ New Entry

on the
MIC

Top 10 Q&As: Fringe 2018



1. Jo Caulfield 📈

"Chris Rock saw me at the Comedy Store in London. Afterwards he introduced himself. He told me what he liked, why he liked it and what he thought I could improve. To have Chris Rock quoting my lines back to me was mind-blowing."

2. Kate Talbot ★

"My show is about some school experiences, two very dumb but arguably adorable dogs, a vast amount of nerdy interests and winning the Malcolm Hardee Cunning Stunt Award at 12."

3. Ivo Graham ★

"My first gigs were at Oxford's Corner Club (now closed), the Free Beer Show (now closed), and my own gig, the Ministry of Mirth (now closed)."

4. Nathaniel Metcalfe ★

"I'm a big film fan and read certain critics or a selection of critics to get an idea of whether I'd like a movie or not, so it would be pretty churlish to complain about criticism in comedy. That said, I can't bare aggregate websites like Rotten Tomatoes which compile reviews to give an overall score."

5. Nick Dixon ★

"There were bright lights. The stench of dried sweat in the air. Sudden loud noises that could come from anywhere. Then a loud piercing sound like... screaming? No...I think...that's...laughter. My first gig was over

in 4 minutes and 20 seconds. I would never be the same again."

6. Grant McLachlan ★

"I have performed in 5 previous Fringe shows as part of the London Gay Men's Chorus in classics such as Oklahoma, Hi-De-Homo and my own personal favourite, Thoroughly Modern Willie."

7. Kate Smurthwaite ★

"There are jokes that ridicule sexism and challenge it. And there are jokes that reinforce it and make light of it. When people try to justify nasty sexist material by saying 'it gets a laugh' I think they must be very needy. And very bad at writing jokes."

8. Glenn Chandler ★

"I'm best known for creating Taggart, but I'm just a frustrated comedy writer. Scenes in Taggart which involved severed heads and skeletons under floorboards would have been undoable without lashings of black humour."

9. Lauren Pattison ★

"It's possible to make comedy from any subject in my opinion, and we shouldn't shy away from sensitive or taboo matters but it has to actually be funny."

10. Scott Capurro ★

"I once asked an old lady in the front row why she was on her own, were all her friends dead? She said she was in town for the funeral of her son. He'd died of AIDS. Total Debbie Downer. I now avoid AIDS as a subject, especially 'cos it's been fixed."

Top 10 Q&As for free shows

1,2,3,4: Kate Talbot, Nathaniel Metcalfe, Kate Smurthwaite, Scott Capurro <<see opposite

5. Samantha Pressdee ★

"I got one star from a young lady from Broadway Baby. She completely dismissed me as a comedian, saying she thought I should find a different platform. I called her a bitch and a snotty-nosed brat. But I wasn't well."

6. Andrew Sim ★

"My favourite gig was at the first Icelandic comedy festival called Scotch on Ice, which was an exchange of Scottish and Icelandic comedians. The big show was in a beautiful old theatre in Reykjavik."

7. Jim Tavaré ★

"My Edinburgh show is a true,

survival-against-the-odds story about a nasty car accident that I had last year in Los Angeles. It's about what happens when a spur of the moment decision causes irreversible life change."

8. Stuart Goldsmith 📉

"I sort of don't believe reviewers exist. Anyone who's watching a show with an agenda disqualifies themselves, so reviews are paradoxical. I'm happy to benefit from the good ones, because I have to feed a child."

9. Alex Petty ★

"I am becoming Ivor Dembina. I have developed a tendency to re-emphasize everything I say, and tell Old Jewish Jokes."

10. Dominic Holland ★

"All poor reviews hurt but one that irks me still... '...nobody called Dominic can be funny!'"

7 Sensible Questions with Billy Coconuts



Lloyd Langford

Like a sort of comedy hamster, this up-and-coming rascal packs laughs into his big face. We sent a stuffed monkey to make him spit out some masticated fun morsels

1 Your show is called 'Why the Big Face'. Is your face particularly big this year? Have you tried reducing it with de-emphasising makeup?

Edwin Hubble, the inventor of that telescope and also Hubble Bubble chewing gum, observed that the universe is always expanding. My face is part of the universe and so naturally has

expanded. I have contacted the NHS about getting face reduction surgery but I think they are preoccupied right now.

2 You are part of a vanguard of exciting young male Welsh comics. But what we want to know is this: which of you would win in a fist fight? What about with knives?

Good question. I would be useless in a fist fight. I think Elis James might be a bit tasty. And he has experience watching ne'rdowells at the football. Steve Williams is very hefty and angular. But if you throw knives into the mix, you level the playing field. In which case, I think Ben Partridge could easily stab 15 people to death.

3 Last night I had to kick a drunk baboon off my porch. I hate baboons. Which animal do you think is a dick?

The killer whale is an absolute showy prick. Sleek and powerful yet heartless. It's the BMW of the animal kingdom. I saw a documentary once where some killer whales were just playfully tossing seals to each other, literally turning the death of another animal into some morbid game of keepy uppy. F*ck those guys. F*ck them in the blowhole.

4 How far do you reckon you could chuck a can of beans? Allow for the curvature of the earth in your answer.

I'm not very good at throwing and





had a great few of them in the Cook Islands circa 2014. Also, the red banana is the perfect girth to stuff down and jam up a killer whale's blow hole.

I really like beans so this isn't playing to any of my strengths. I'll say 12 feet before I then go and awkwardly retrieve the can.

5 Imagine you're king of the whole world, right, and on your birthday two people have to fight to the death. Who would you have mutilate and bludgeon each other for your sadistic pleasure?

Wembley Stadium. August 6, 2019. Ant versus Dec. Let's get ready to rumble.

6 August 6? Happy belated. Now, what's the best banana you've ever eaten? Paint me a picture. Take me there.

Ever had a red banana? Smaller and sweeter than your bog standard Cavendish. I think I

7 I will send my valet to the Cook Islands without delay! Now, shag, marry, kill: An octopus, Bertrand Russell, Neil Kinnock. You can swap in Glenys Kinnock if you need to.

I'm definitely f'cking the octopus. All those arms! You could have all your erogenous zones tweaked whilst she simultaneously put the kettle on. I say she; could be a he. I think if you're shagging an octopus your sexuality becomes a bit more fluid. Okay, I'm going to sub Glenys Kinnock in for Neil and marry her. I met Neil Kinnock once and I think she'd be glad of the peace. I'll kill Bertrand Russell, as he's already dead and so would be the least inconvenienced by it.

Lloyd Langford:
Why the Big Face?
is at **Banshee Labyrinth (PBH) at 22:00 until Aug 26**



**TWO SHOWS FROM
IVOR DEMBINA**

1:15pm

**Old
Jewish
Jokes**

6:15pm

**Ivor
Dembina
Show**

2-26 August 2018

(Not Tuesdays). Both shows at Finnegan's Wake.

Box office: 0131 225 9348. Both shows are free ticketed events. Duration: 60 mins. See www.edfringe.com

LAUGHING HORSE@
FINNEGAN'S WAKE (VENUE 101)
9B VICTORIA STREET EH1 2HE



FUNNY, FIERY, BRAVE & TRUE, THE HERALD, SCOTLAND

SAMEENA ZEHRA

EXISTERHOOD

WINNER
OUTSTANDING PERFORMER
NEW ZEALAND FRINGE 2017

NOMINEE
BEST IN FRINGE
NEW ZEALAND FRINGE 2016

★ ★ ★ ★ ★
ADELAIDE FRINGE REVIEW

★ ★ ★ ★ ★
THE LATEST, BRIGHTON

★ ★ ★ ★ ★
THREE WEEKS, EDINBURGH

★ ★ ★ ★ ★
THE AGE, MELBOURNE

★ ★ ★ ★ ★
METRO, LONDON

AUG 3 - 26 @ 4.20 PM NO SHOW 8, 15

SWEET NOVOTEL @ LAURIESTON PLACE. VENUE 188

WHERE ARE YOU COMING FROM?

Andrew Maxwell is getting to grips with Brexit, the Kremlin and the social-media brainwashers. Richard Todd is getting to grips with toilets and electric hobs...

Andrew Maxwell

“I used to talk about the SNP, but they’re not particularly relevant now, are they? They’re way past their peak because a lot of things have gone wrong under their watch. And in the meantime Alex Salmond has been taking money – as in, LITERALLY taking money – from a Russian propaganda outlet that is planting the seeds that’ll f*ck over democracy; and that has really put all his BBC-baiting in context.

“I just feel that nationalism, of any kind, is divisive by its very nature. A lot of people said ‘But this is progressive nationalism’. Well that might play really well at your dinner party but on a street level it means somebody getting punched outside a chip shop. The language of the Yes campaign was the same language as the Leave campaign: Don’t worry, it’ll be fine, everything will carry on and we’ll all still be friends. Well, you cannot break up an alliance – be it a trade agreement, a political union, a marriage – and still be ‘friends’. It just doesn’t happen. It’s a complete lie and it always was.

“At the very best, you’ll be rivals. More likely it’ll be a shouting match and possibly a shooting match. That’s just human nature. When two sides who used to be one say ‘I’m this now, and you’re that’. It becomes violent. Look at human history. It’s a series of people getting beaten up outside chip shops!

“We’re all talking in own

silos, though. Everyone I knew in Glasgow thought the whole of Scotland felt like Glasgow and they really just couldn’t believe the referendum result.

“I’m talking about that kind of thing in a wider sense this year; the blind spots in which people come to astonishing conclusions.

“So I’m going to unpack Brexit a bit, and talk about this internet culture that is f*cking us over. We’ve seen election after election now where populists have won, and it’s all actually

“ Human history is a series of people getting beaten up outside chip shops.

being done from offices in St Petersburg. People are just off the scale with the stupid ideas planted in their heads. I got arrested in Area 51, essentially because so many people think it’s an alien prison and I wanted to show them it’s just a f*cking airforce base. I mean, we all make mistakes. But there’s so much stuff happening all at once now, and it’s scary.

“Nobody in Government understands, even now, how powerful Facebook is. How much engagement and virality – plus just utterly rabid greed – has put them beyond anyone’s control. I mean, there is a shitstorm of antisemitism now. And so much of it is happening on the platform of a young Jewish man. But none of these people care about



that. They don’t care about anything except growing their f*cking platforms. Facebook makes it so easy to attack democracy. I mean, the Facebook ads that pushed the Leave vote to victory, right – they were SO effective, and they were placed for £30,000. Russia couldn’t keep one spy in London for that: it wouldn’t have paid for his accommodation. And it’s all running alongside this nihilistic narrative of “You can’t trust your MPs”... and Salmond of course, who kind of proves that point, telling

us we can’t trust the BBC. “There’s this idea that all information is equal, or equally rubbish – people saying proudly ‘I don’t read any newspapers’ as if that somehow puts them above making bad conclusions. No! Read ALL the f*cking newspapers. It would take less time than sending memes to your Facebook friends, and actually make you a worthwhile person.”

Andrew Maxwell: Shake a Leg is at Assembly George Square Theatre [8] at 21:00 until Aug 26th

Richard Todd

"I once went for a job interview in a library; they gave me an information pack about their equality policy that was so huge I just couldn't be bothered to read it. So in the interview they said 'Did you read the information pack?' I said 'No, but I believe so strongly in equality I think I should have as much opportunity to get this job as someone who did.' I didn't get it. The first thing you need to prove if you go for a library job is that you're a keen reader.

"One year I came to the Fringe with my girlfriend and we kept all our pills in a big container, all mixed up like. And as far as I knew I was taking my antidepressants. I was quite enjoying the Fringe, I thought 'Wow, I really feel on fire this year!' Then Bobby Mair pointed out that I was not taking antidepressants but antihistamine. So soon after getting back home I had a complete breakdown. But I was not itchy AT ALL that Fringe!"

"One thing that annoys me is radio phone-ins where idiots say things like 'I think we should have fast and slow lanes for pedestrians!' And then it annoys me when I'm speeding to get to a gig and I think 'Actually, yeah. That would be really good.' I hate it when slow people use their one burst of speed to walk in front of me and then slow right down again. Why is that?"

"OCD is quite debilitating of course. When I lived in Glasgow I had an electric hob. I am obsessed with tea and coffee and I was using it to boil water all the time. There was no visual



indication of whether it was off or on unless you touched it. And I would think 'I'm pretty sure that's off; I'll go out now'. Somehow I'd come back to a blackened husk, and I'd think 'Wow I thought pans were stronger than that'.

Talking of pans... I remember the first time I needed a number two at senior school there were these kids hanging out in the toilet. And they were like 'If you want to use the cubicle mate, go ahead.' And I thought "Wow, how very pleasant". And then of course they spent 20 minutes kicking the door in and screaming at me. And after that I'd get up an hour early and try to go to the loo, and I'd be like: 'Can I have diuretics for breakfast again please, mum?'

"I'm not political AT ALL and I don't see that many 'edgy' acts. I like Finn Taylor. I think he's skilful at walking that line between being good and being offensive. I mean, I like tightrope walks. But my comedy is a tightrope walk where the danger isn't that I'll upset anyone, it's that I'll fall into my own abyss. I like that Phil Kay thing where you're thinking 'Is it going to be a horrible failure or will he succeed?' My edge is

ANDREW WHITE: COMING OF AGE

2018 'Hotlist' of comedians to watch
Chortle

Top 5 Free Events @
2017 Edinburgh Fringe
Daily Record



PQA VENUES Venue 277
3-27 AUGUST **6PM**
PQA THREE @ RIDDLES COURT, ROYAL MILE
0131 353 0059 | edfringe.com | £5
www.standupandrew.com
@standupandrew

pgavenues.com
PQA THREE
RIDDLES COURT ROYAL MILE
£5 TO RESERVE A SEAT IN ADVANCE OR PAY WHAT YOU WANT ON EXIT

“The danger is I'll fall into my own abyss.



the edge of failure!

"The idea of right and wrong is pretty fascinating. Fritz Lang's *M* is an amazing film; it really affected me. Peter Lorre is this vile child murderer, and all the other criminals decide to catch him because he's making things a bit hot for them. So they get him and put him on trial, and Peter Lorre does this speech that's like 'How can I help what I am? How are you people who choose to be criminals better than me?' It's such an interestingly compelling moment: I like that moral argument about what we can and can't help.

"I remember a Jimmy Carr interview where he says your sense of humour

is the one thing you can't help. But then, if you've got racist parents you'll be more comfortable laughing at racist jokes, right? Or if they were really right-on you'll get a weird thrill of hearing something that's just wrong because there is something about that sense of release.

"I guess, in the end, you just have to trust the comedian. Like, really trust them."

Richard Todd: We Need the Eggs is at Pleasance Courtyard [33] at 22:45 until Aug 26th (not 15th)



The Fringe is halfway through, the presses are rolling and opinions are more numerous than discarded flyers. What's going on in the world of looking at stuff and saying 'Meh'?



Reviewer \wedge Roundup

by our
Publisher
**MISTER
KIPPER**



Pringefibs

What a gent **The List's** chief theatre hack, **Gareth K Vile** is! Some time ago Fringepig reviewed **Yasmin Sulaiman** from *The List*. We gave her two and a half stars and criticised her inability to have a solid opinion about anything. Apparently she was saddened by this, so – to cheer her up – Mr Vile showed her his own Fringepig review, which was much, much worse.



You might even call it excoriating. Fringepig has, of course, never actually reviewed Vile; he's a theatre person and we don't know enough about theatre to needle its reviewers. It wasn't us that said "Vile roams all over the arts, spilling his onanistic seed over anything he sees", but we hope it cheered up *The List's* dejected soldiers. Vile's ersatz FP review is badly written, verbose and not at all funny, so it reads uncannily like one of ours.

Scraping the barrel of laughs

What on earth is going on with **The Scotsman's** **Kate Copstick**? She started this Fringe with a furious rant on social media at **Paul Sinha**, **Reginald D Hunter** and **Andrew Maxwell** for not letting her into their first previews. Her tone was one of sheer disbelief and fury that she should be turned away.

Paul later oiled the waters by telling the **Observer** "To Copstick's credit, she spends time looking for unheralded talents and acts people have not heard of," and that was that.

But now Copstick has followed up with a curious piece in the *Scotsman* claiming that 'struggling circuit comics', 'unknowns' and 'nether regions' comedians - also known as 99 per cent of the industry - have been all over Facebook jealously demanding that comedians who appear on the ITV show *Britain's Got Talent* be 'banned from the circuit'. Well we've looked and we cannot find any such thing expressed on social media by any comedian we've actually heard

of. But two questions occur: 1. Has it come to this, Kate? Scouring Facebook for something to hit comedians over the head with? And 2. Are these denizens of the netherworld the same 'unheralded talents' that play Oliver to your Fagin?

Bi-lateralism

First Fringe Saturday can only mean the Pleasance Press Gala. We must forgive Copstick her sins (a bit) for daring to be in the middle of Cirque Berserk's motorbike globe of death. But before that our friend **Richard Stamp** of **Fringe Guru** was live-tweeting the whole thing. "We start with stand up from **Catherine Bohart**, who's tackling the groundbreaking and little-discussed topic of being gay," he sniped.

Then he tweeted "Sorry, in fact she's bi (she revealed that later). And I shouldn't have been catty about it, because it was a very funny set". Then, when **Felicity Ward** appeared, he exclaimed: "It's been a long week and my well of halfway-insightful things to say about standup has run dry ... I



laughed a lot. Will that do?" Three minutes later: "Of course, as soon as I've said that it goes a bit dark. I feel bad now."

The **Edinburgh Evening News** used to sell itself with the motto 'Tomorrow's news today', which was bollocks, but 'Comedy reviewed before the denouement' is almost as bad. To be fair to Richard (who we quite like), he says he won't live-twit anymore.

Nut right

Is it too early to do stupidest review comment of the Fringe? **Mark Monahan** of the **Telegraph** said of Felicity Ward's *Busting a Nut*: "This is comedy perhaps more for audiences than critics" (three stars). GET YOUR PRIORITIES STRAIGHT, PEOPLE!

Moscow's top satirical stand-up is back in Edinburgh!

OLEG DENISOV DOUBLETHINK

«Denisov is quick-fire funny and leads you along some curious byways with shocks and surprises on the way!»
Vin Arthey, The Scotsman



Just the Tonic
THE TRON

WWW.JUSTTHETONIC.COM

11-40 P.M. (1 hr)

AUG 2-26 (NOT 13)

5£ (4£) OR PWYW

9 HUNTER SQUARE 0330 220 1212

JUST THE TONIC
AT THE TRON
(VENUE 51)

MVP und henningwehn.de präsentieren:

HENNING WEHN Get On With It!



“Die endgültige
Teilung Europas -
das ist mein Auftrag”
Henning himself

“As subtle as
Schumacher
on Battiston”
Everybody else

August
02nd-26th
(not 6+7 & 13+14
& 20+21)

6pm

Just the Tonic
CAVES VENUE 88
01315565375

henningwehn.de

ALEX MARTINI IS MAD ABOUT FOOD



“ALEX MARTINI IS
THE FUNNIEST
THING TO
COME OUT OF
ITALY SINCE
BERLUSCONI.”
- MARK DOLAN

“TERRIFIC,
GREAT ENERGY
AND QUINT-
ESSENTIALLY
ITALIAN.”
- KATE COPSTICK

PRINCE'S
FREE
FRINGE
2018

DOWNLOAD
OUR FREE APP

4TH-25TH AUG
(NOT TUESDAYS)

1.45PM
(60 MINS)

ROOM 4
TOLLBOOTH MARKET
173A CANONGATE
EH8 8BN

FREE
FESTIVAL

The world has gone to hell.
Step forward a rose wine
sozzled Fop who is
here to help you make
sense of it all...

‘Another highlight’
- Culture NI

‘His writing & comedia touches
were spot on’
- Derry Journal

As heard on BBC NI's
‘The Blame Game’ and
‘Live At The Sunflower’

Peter e Davidson FOPICAL

www.peteredavidson.com
@pepdavidson

fringe



12:15PM
2-20 AUGUST

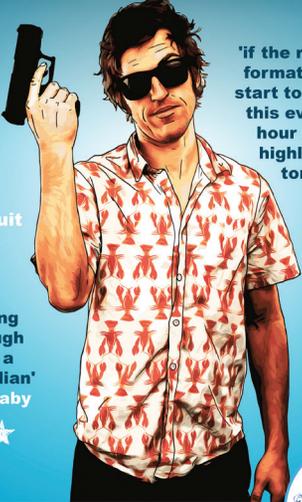
LAUGHING HORSE@
THE PEAR TREE (VENUE 257)
38 WEST NICOLSON STREET

FREE
FESTIVAL

Delphine Manley Presents

RUSSELL HICKS

Love Song For The Viciously Ambitious



'If the rigid sets and formats elsewhere start to get tiresome, this ever-changing hour should be a highly effective tonic' Fest

Fringe Biscuit
★★★★★

'A rip-roaring night of tough love from a witty comedian' Broadway Baby
★★★★★

AUGUST 2ND-26TH
5:45PM

Laughing Horse @ The Free Sisters (Venue 272)
139 Cowgate, EH1 1JS



comic-comic

© Damian Clark



I'm doing the Edinburgh Fringe this year

Oh yeah? What's your show called?

"STUFF AND THINGS"

Cool. What's it about?

Dunno yet.

DAMIAN CLARKE: EXTRA SHOW IS AT 22:00 AT GILDED BALLOON TEVIOT, AUG 1-26

Boys of the Empire Productions

KIDS PLAY



Written & Directed by
Glenn Chandler

Praise for Glenn Chandler's recent Edinburgh shows

★★★★★
"A gem of a play"
Sunday Express on Sandel

★★★★★
"Bound to delight thousands in its fringe run and beyond"
ScotsGay on Sandel

★★★★★
"Sharp, witty & poignant"
Edinburgh Evening News on Lord Dismiss Us

★★★★★
"Should most certainly not be missed"
British Theatre Guide on Lord Dismiss Us

theSPACE @ Niddry St. Venue 9
www.thespaceuk.com
Box Office: 0134 510 2388
boxoffice.niddry@thespaceuk.com
Niddry St. EH11TH
fringe: 0131 226 0000 www.edfringe.com



Announcing the Chortle.co.uk

Bursary for inanimate and inaerobic reviewers

Hey kids,

I have worked very hard over the past year to deal with the issue of bullying in the comedy industry. Basically I AM the comedy industry and I would like you to all stop bullying me please.

On your insistence I began the 'Lower Class Reviewer' initiative where I paid a bursary of whatever a cup of tea costs these days to an ethnic woman with a dog on a string to write reviews for me. I hired another one who was Scottish and therefore probably drunk. When reviewing acts I've taken a star off everyone who went to Oxford (it's a terrible place and I should know!) and redistributed these stars to single-parent comedians who were not to become funny because of the Conservative government.

It has now been pointed out that, of all the comedians to appear on Chortle.co.uk, a staggering 99.8 per cent of them are alive, and have been reviewed by people who are also alive. I can only apologise profusely as I usually do. I realise that using breathing reviewers to assess living comedians has given a very skewed impression of the industry. Let's change that.

If you are deceased, or you identify as not alive, please apply for our special bursary. Preference will be given to people who died in Third World conflict zones or on a march or something. Please please like me.



Steve Bennett

Land of Guilt and Funny

Jews, comedy's chosen people, used to love free speech - until recently, says **Ivor Dembina**

The audience's response to my 20-minute set was kind rather than enthusiastic, but we were all enjoying ourselves, all Jews together, the stage draped with the visual glue that held us together: the flag of the State of Israel.

More than 20 years later I stood near the same flag, flying over a checkpoint on the occupied West Bank. I was heading to Ramallah, to do my Jewish comedy to about 100 Palestinians. This audience, understandably, was even more curious. They couldn't believe that anyone, let alone a Jew, had come from abroad to entertain them in their landlocked prison. I felt like Johnny Cash without the cash.

Between those two gigs I'd

learned a fair bit about freedom of speech and the Jewish predicament.

When Jews weigh into the freedom of speech debate, as we invariably do, we do so on the libertarian side. Like our greatest comedian, Lenny Bruce, we tend to think anything goes.

So nothing is more unhelpful to the cause of Jewish humour than the growing belief that criticism of Israel equals antisemitism. Along with this there's an unwritten edict now that only Jews are permitted to tell Jewish jokes, as if we Jews need special treatment.

I'm not very popular among the UK's Jewish leaders and I'm kept well away from most Jewish comedy

crowds. I have been told by professional bookers that I am not wanted because of my political outlook. Countless times, Jewish people who enjoy my comedy begin to book me and then suddenly disappear. At other times my gigs get cancelled.

I can't claim to be a victim of exclusion, because I have happily done my share of excluding others.

A few years ago I let it be known that any comedians doing benefit shows for an organisation called the Jewish National Fund (JNF), would not be welcome at my comedy night in north London. The JNF raises money to buy homes in the Holy Land for Jews only.

I regard it as integral to Israel's ethnic cleansing.

Many of my fellow Jewish comedians, who have no difficulty pocketing the JNF coin, have

taken umbrage and we've fallen out. It's a pity because I like them, they are funny and they're not racists. But we see things differently, at least we do now: The JNF is the group I performed for on that flag-draped stage more than 20 years ago. I've

changed. Jewish comedy needs to change too.

I enjoyed David Baddiel's joke: "Jeremy Corbyn states there is no room for anti-Semites in the Labour Party. That's because it's already full up with them". I am a supporter of Corbyn and I think the basis of this joke is false, but I still laughed. Jokes don't need to be true to be funny.

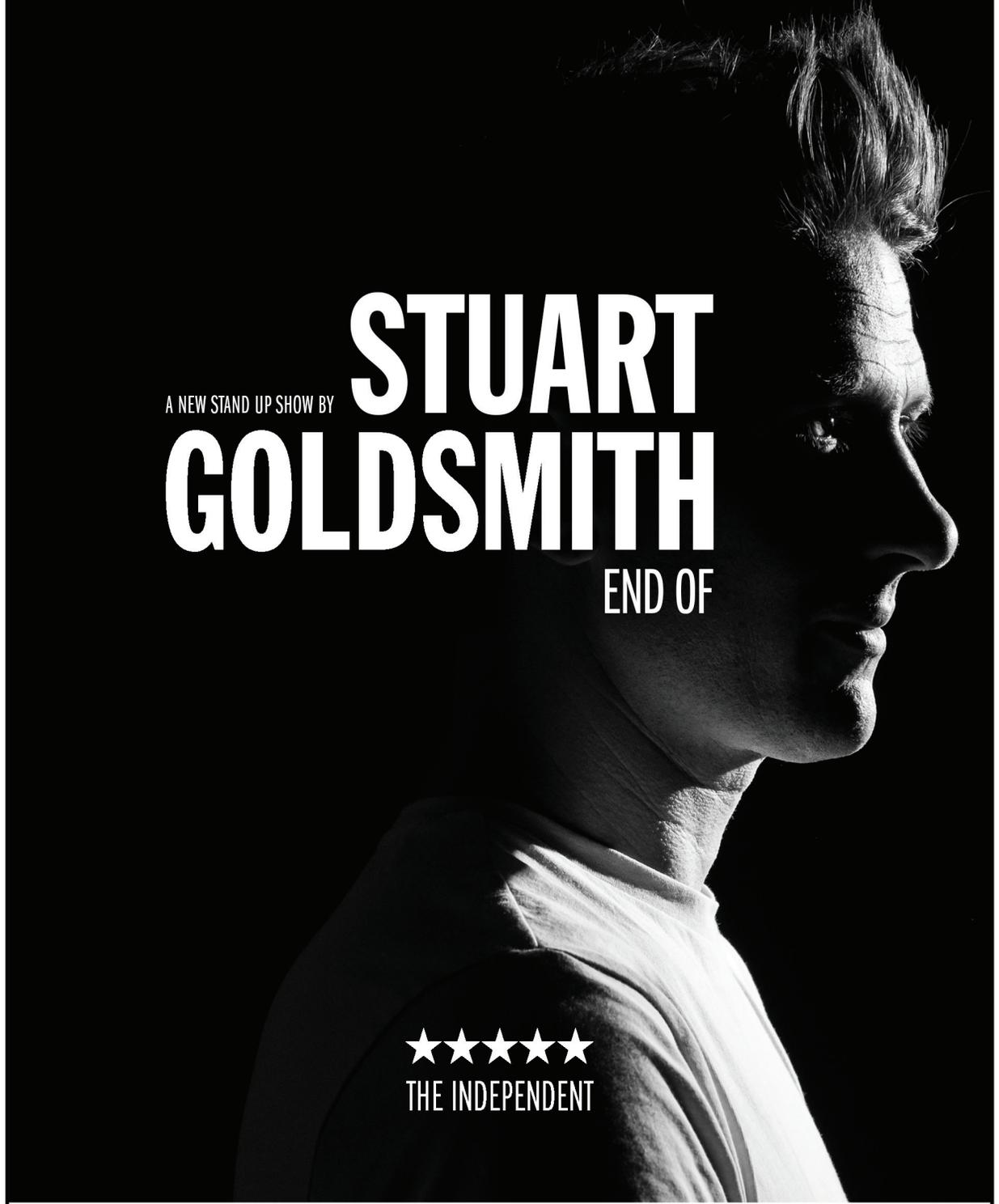
Sadly, most Jewish comedians now seem afraid to challenge their audience's conservative consensus for fear of being labelled traitors, and many Jews seem afraid to hear, let alone laugh at, anything challenging or new.

I like to think that Lenny Bruce was the first person to present stand-up comedy as social critique, and that he lived and died exposing hypocrisy in the US establishment. We Jews owe debts of gratitude to Mr Bruce. But who do we have in stand-up today that compares?

Now that antisemitism is rising across Europe again, a new impetus to Jewish comedy has never been more urgent.

Old Jewish Jokes (13:15) and The Ivor Dembina Show (18:15) are at Finnegan's Wake [101] until Aug 26 (not Tues)





A NEW STAND UP SHOW BY

STUART GOLDSMITH

END OF

★★★★★
THE INDEPENDENT

STARRING
STUART GOLDSMITH · **END OF** · LIQUID ROOMS WAREHOUSE (276) · 2.50PM
4 - 26 AUGUST 2018 (NOT 16)

ComediansComedian.com

FREE SHOW

DOWNLOAD THE
PBH FREE FRINGE APP

