

● Hey, ya big attention slut! It's... ●

Fringepig

2017/3

FREE!



*Ed Aczel's Holy Places
of the Fringe!*

Simon Munnery eats a heron!

Bruce Dessau's Freakish Fringe memories!

EDINBURGH COMEDY AWARD NOMINEE
 "ONE OF THE MOST SIGNIFICANT COMEDIANS
 WORKING IN THE COUNTRY TODAY"

ANDREW MAXWELL SHOWTIME

★★★★★ SCOTSMAN
 ★★★★★ HERALD
 ★★★★★ SCOTLAND ON SUNDAY

★★★★★ DAILY RECORD
 ★★★★★ THE TIMES
 ★★★★★ SUNDAY TIMES

★★★★★ INDEPENDENT
 ★★★★★ EVENING STANDARD
 ★★★★★ DAILY MAIL

★★★★★ THE TELEGRAPH
 ★★★★★ EDINBURGH EVENING NEWS
 ★★★★★ TIME OUT



BOX OFFICE assemblyfestival.com 0131 623 3030 | 21:00
 2 - 27 AUGUST (not 14)

assembly GEORGE SQUARE

BRETT VINCENT FOR *GetComedy* PRESENTS
 THE MOST TALKED ABOUT HIT OF LAST YEAR!

HYPROV

IMPROV UNDER HYPNOSIS

"VERY FUNNY"
 THE TIMES

"BUY YOUR TICKETS"

ASAD MECCI
 (MASTER HYPNOTIST)
 2ND-27TH AUG

COLIN MOCHRIE
 (WHOSE LINE IS IT ANYWAY?)
 17TH-24TH AUG

MIKE MCSHANE
 (WHOSE LINE IS IT ANYWAY?)
 2ND-16TH AUG & 25TH-27TH AUG

@HYPROV *GetComedy.com* WWW.HYPROV.COM

BOX OFFICE assemblyfestival.com 0131 623 3030 | 22:30 (75MIN)
 2-27 AUG (NOT 14)

assembly GEORGE SQUARE THEATRE

Brett Vincent for *GetComedy* by arrangement with Arisael and Hat Trick Productions
 proudly present for the first time ever in Edinburgh

"EVERY BIT AS FUNNY AS THE TV SHOW AND MORE EXCITING FOR BEING LIVE"
 THE TIMES

Whose Line is it Anyway?

LIVE AT THE FRINGE

Created by Dan Patterson and Mark Leveson

HOSTED BY CLIVE ANDERSON

GUESTS ON ROTATION

COLIN MOCHRIE
 GREG PROOPS
 JOSIE LAWRENCE
 MIKE MCSHANE
 TONY SLATTERY
 STEPHEN FROST
 RICHARD VRANCH
 PHIL JUPITUS

PLUS EXTRA SPECIAL FESTIVAL GUESTS
 AND KIRSTY NEWTON ON PIANO

assembly ASSEMBLY ROOM GEORGE STREET

BOX OFFICE assemblyfestival.com 0131 623 3030 | 20:10 (60 mins)
 3 - 27 AUGUST (not 14)

BRETT VINCENT FOR *GetComedy.com* PROUDLY PRESENTS

BEN FOGG

HOW I WON BEST NEWCOMER 2017



33 PLEASANCE ROAD, EDINBURGH

4.45PM
 02-28 AUG (NOT 14)

www.getcomedy.com



Welcome to Fringe Pig

If you hop on a train to Glasgow, you can see an exhibition of absolutely nothing.

Glasgow's Gallery of Modern Art is showing Dutch artist Marlie Mul's *This Exhibition is Cancelled*. "Removing the exhibition from the gallery space forces us to question the value and function of cultural institutions," says Will Cooper, the curator. But why go out west? Edinburgh this year can offer you an absolute banquet of stuff that isn't happening.

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JOSEPH CHAMPNISS
MUSHYBEES
PAUL SAVAGE
ROBBIE BONHAM

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This is the 70th birthday of the Fringe, which started in 1947 with... well, we don't know. We assume there was someone doing *Macbeth*, because there always is, and maybe a satirical play about giving India back. Since then it has grown like knotweed for 69 years, until this year when Standard Life killed off the St Andrew's Square action and the council sprayed everything else with Weedol (see pages 6 & 7).

Maybe fewer venues will mean bigger audiences and more appreciation for what we have, like that Dutch chancer says. And there are things in the brochure this year that are more intriguing than any we've yet seen. Incidentally, Mul's previous exhibitions have included fag butts and dirty puddles. There's a similar collection of work at every local bus stop.



A. K. Kipper
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FIND US AT THESE LOVELY VENUES:

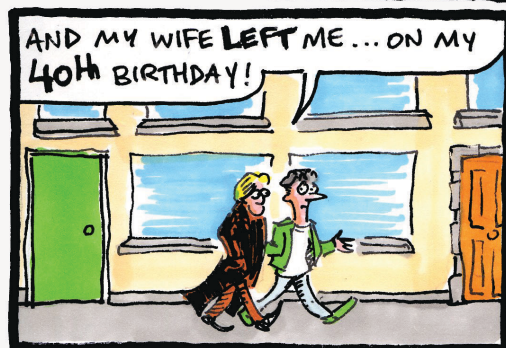
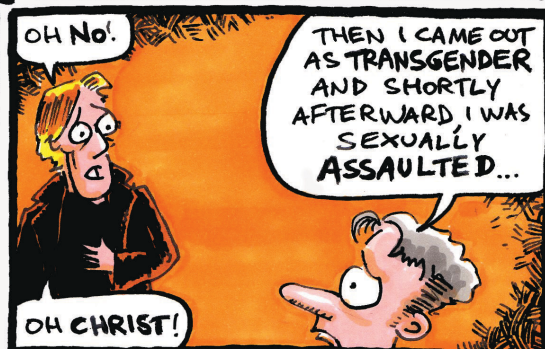
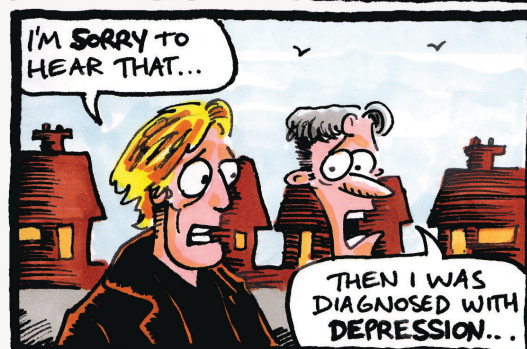
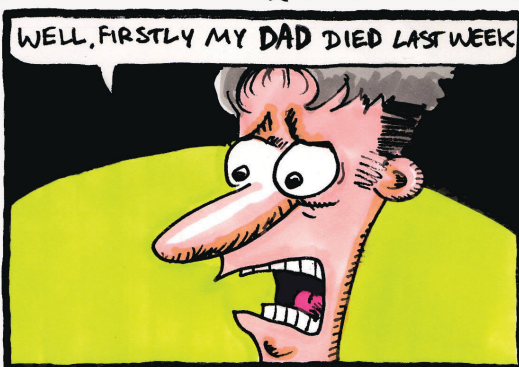
HEROES



COMEDIANS

BY CHRISTIAN TALBOT (@THE TALL BOT)

& ROB BONHAM (@RBONHAMCAROONS)



Christian Talbot appears in "Holt and Talbot" at Sweet Venues, Grassmarket at 20:10, Aug 3-27 (not 14);
Christian Talbot is a Work in Progress at Free Sisters, 13:30 on Mondays, Thursdays and Fridays

Nik Coppin Presents:

SHAGGERS

Celebrating Our 10th Year at Edinburgh Fringe!

★★★★★

"Cannot recommend it enough"
Herald Sun, Melbourne

★★★★★

"A tour-de-force of laughter filled mischievous comedy"
Arts In Leicestershire

★★★★★

"Spectacular... amazing"
FunnyTonne, Melbourne

★★★★★

"Excellent"
www.edfringe.com

★★★★★

"Utterly hilarious"
The West Australian - Perth Fringe World

★★★★★

"Catch Shaggers for some well-picked, mischievous and unburdened comedy!"
Voice Magazine



The best comedians at the Fringe, talking about the cheeky subject of SHAGGING!

3:45pm Laughing Horse @ Espionage (Bunker)
6:15pm Laughing Horse @ Espionage (Pravda)
10:45pm Laughing Horse @ Free Sisters (Maggie's Chamber)

FREE ENTRY

free festival

Nik Coppin & Laughing Horse Comedy Present

BATTLE OF THE SUPERHEROES

THE GREAT SUPERHERO DEBATE

Who is the Greatest Superhero?
You and a variety of great comedians decide



"A super fun night!"

★★★★★

Adelaide Fringe

"Fun and entertaining. Immensely funny"

★★★★★

Adelaide Fringe

"You're guaranteed an epic battle with laughs of comic proportions... Great Entertainment"
The Clothesline, Adelaide

Sell Out Shows at Perth Fringe World,
Adelaide Fringe & Melbourne International Comedy Festival

4:00pm August 5th-26th (Not Wednesdays)
Laughing Horse @ Free Sisters
(Maggie's Front Room)

FREE ENTRY

Nik Coppin and Dave Chawner Present:

HUGGERS

The family friendly comedy and cabaret show.

Mums and dads are onto a winner with this afternoon of delightfully immature comedy"
-Herald Sun, Melbourne

"A winner...Highly recommended"
-Rip It Up, Adelaide Fringe



2:00pm August 3rd-27th
Laughing Horse @ Free Sisters
(Maggie's Chamber)

FREE ENTRY

NIK COPPIN GLOBETROTTER

The British comedian brings stories of his many comedy trips around the world to the Edinburgh Fringe.

★★★★★

"The crowds loved him from the second it started!"
(Comedy Club Asia, Singapore)

★★★★★

"Imaginative and hilarious. Irresistable charisma."
(The Comedy Club Cambodia)

★★★★★

"A rapid-fire non-stop act full of energy...go and see him."
(Melbourne International Comedy Festival)

★★★★★

"Fast and funny... the audience loved it... Sweetly, wildly hilarious"
(Rip It Up, Adelaide Fringe)

5:30PM

ESPIONAGE
MATA HARI

Aug 3-27th
(not Wednesday)

FREE ENTRY

The Fringe is 70! This city's gonna Party like it's 1947!

The Fringe is 70 this year! Are you excited? We're excited! Edinburgh is excited! The world is excited! But is Edinburgh Council excited? SURELY our City Fathers are excited? Let's look at what they're doing to celebrate seven decades of fun...



Kyboshing the Kids' Summerhall

The Royal Hospital For Sick Children in Marchmont has been an Edinburgh landmark for time immemorial and is bound up in the city's psyche. This was where the city's children were rushed when they fell victim to typhoid, tetanus, traffic and badly-built treehouses. Soon the city's scamps will be treated at a shiny new building in Little France, but many in the city felt that the grand old Sick Kids – as it is popularly known – should celebrate its link with the city's children. Robert McDowell, the

eccentric philanthropist who owns Summerhall (the UK's biggest mixed arts centre after the London Barbican and Birmingham MAC) mooted the idea that his team could take on the building as a kid's Summerhall, particularly since Summerhall operates down the road in EH9. It would become a centre for children's art and theatre, and perhaps provide a base for the hundreds of kids' shows staged here every August.

The old Sick Kids covers 400 acres and has more than 500 rooms. According to Summerhall Press Manager Miriam Attwood "The idea was rather ambitious, but it was essentially

right. I think everyone in the whole world can agree that a sick kids hospital, with so much of an emotional tie to the families in this city and further afield, should not turn into investment bankers' city pads."

Another possibility is yet more student accommodation. Conservationists were dismayed when the ancient piles down King's Stables Road were approved for conversion into student shoeboxes last year. Mike Wade, who needled the City Fathers with a piece entitled "Our Beautiful City, Betrayed For Years by Chronic Incompetence" for *The Times* in April last year mourned the fact that

"Low-grade hotels and student accommodation are greenlighted across the city centre" while heritage is bulldozed. Sure enough, the website of the quango Invest Edinburgh points out, temptingly, that "The University of Edinburgh's central campus is 500m north of the site" of this "development opportunity".

Closing all the music venues

The West End's Picture House – a music venue since the 1920s – closed its doors along with owners HMV in 2013. The Council allowed the venue to be sold to J D Wetherspoon in 2013 so that they could turn it



into a 'superpub' where alcoholics from across the city could converge and smell and throw pro-Brexit beer mats at each other.

At the time, music lovers wanted to know what our councillors were going to do to resurrect the city's once-vibrant music scene. The answer, it seemed, was to hit the survivors with a stick. The much-loved Studio 24 on Calton Road (an area which in yore had the Venue and the Bongo too) was besieged with noise complaints from people who had, by and large, moved in after Studio 24 opened in 1995.

To add to the pressure, the Council in 2006 approved controversial plans to build student flats just metres away, adding an influx of transient residents with no particular interest in the area's cultural history. Despite having invested £40,000 in soundproofing, the venue gave up the fight and closed its doors at the

end of June.

Just three months earlier, the venue Electric Circus announced that it, too, was closing when its owners surrendered the lease to the nice quiet art gallery next door. Olaf Furniss, local music industry expert, said in March that "The City Council, which owns the building, must work with the music community to secure a comparable space in the city centre." And have they? No.

Drink! Drink!

Last year, Fringepig made friends with the Titter Truck. This was a van parked on the Grassmarket where, if you hadn't seen *Silence of the Lambs*, you might get inside with complete strangers. For a pound a Fringe act would entertain you for 15 minutes. The van was always full, yet lost a fortune because of brutal licensing fees the organisers had failed to account for. Despite being a recognised venue, the Truck was also given a £40 parking fine it wasn't allowed to contest.

Edinburgh Council still won't sell temporary entertainment permits any cheaper than yearly ones; hence most entertainment happens in licensed premises that hold year-round events.

A public entertainment licence cost £950 last

year, rising to £1035 this year or £927 if the council judges you to be 'theatre', as it considers most comedy. Fife, next door, charges £30 for a year. In awful, overpriced London it depends on the borough but averages £60 a year.

Edinburgh's eye-watering fees apply to any venue up to a capacity of 200, and 1000-seater venues can renew at that price too. What this means is that the Titter Truck (capacity:10) was paying the same fees as the Queen's Hall. In its 70th year Edinburgh COULD be a carnival of quirky, bespoke pop-up venues, but it isn't. It's rigged so giants thrive.

Strange, then, that a year's booze licence for premises with no 'rateable value' – like a van, indeed, or an abandoned freezer or a tramp's sleeping bag – can be had for £316; recoverable in one good night. While wee creatives will be skinned for trying to do their own thing this Fringe, bevvv is a case of the more the merrier. Cheers, city fathers!

Derwent Cyzinski



The Stand Comedy Club by arrangement with IMWP presents

MITCH BENN

"The country's leading musical satirist" The Times

2.50pm
August 3 - 27
(not 14)

I'M STILL HERE

www.mitchbenn.com

STAND 6 | 34 YORK PLACE | EH1 3EP
THE STAND COMEDY CLUB
0131 558 9005 | thestand.co.uk

7 Sensible Questions with Billy Coconuts

Simon Munnery

He's master of the accessible avant-garde; of understated lunacy and any other contradiction-in-terms you like. A stuffed monkey interviews him



1 So this year you're telling us about renegade plumbing. I once drained the central heating system at 3am without waking Mrs Coconuts. What is your greatest plumbing triumph?

As yet I have had no plumbing triumphs at all, just a sequence of disasters. For I do not follow the plumbing rule book, indeed as soon as I got hold of a copy I flushed it down the toilet, such is my contempt for the rules of plumbing. I am a maverick, a renegade. I plumb by

intuition, instinct and sheer bravado. My lack of success does not deter me; it makes me work harder.

2 Apparently you have a dog that barks at buses and Seymour Mace. If you could train your dog to kill someone, and get away with it, who would you set him onto? My dog does bark at buses, and he did bark at Seymour Mace when he was wearing a black and yellow striped jumper. He looked like a huge wasp, and my dog was correct to alert us to the danger. On another occasion my dog has licked Seymour's hand, so there are no hard feelings on his part at least. As for training my dog to be an assassin, I don't think it feasible. He doesn't even fetch sticks. When I throw one for him he just looks up at me with an expression that seems to say "this demeans us both".

3 So this is your 31st Fringe. You must be sick to death of this place. I mean, you've spent two and a half entire

years here now. That's a long time. Seriously, you must be properly fed up of being stared at by people. Aren't you? Yes. I don't like anyone watching me while I work, which makes my vocation a little awkward at times. How I long for the lights to fail, or the audience to be blinded by my wit.

4 Do you put cream on scones first, or Jam? Do you say 'skowns' like a proper person, or 'skonz' like a murderer? I can't remember the last time I ate a scone. It must have been in the mid-1980s. There would have been no question of putting either cream or jam on; in our family we ate them plain on our special scone day - April 28th. Since that time I have not tasted the delight of a scone because my crippling uncertainty about how to pronounce the word 'scone' has prevented me from asking for one. I could buy a packet of scones from a supermarket, I suppose, but that would simply be avoiding the problem.

5 What do you think of baboons? They're dicks, right? As the old saying goes: "A baboon with a spoon is a boon, a baboon with a flame is a bane" They knew nothing, the ancients.

6 What is the highest tree you've ever climbed? As a child I imagined I was a cat and spent much time up a fir tree. It was very tall, but exactly how tall I know not. As a cat I spurned trigonometry. Recently however I climbed a huge willow in the garden, not as a leisure pursuit but with the purpose of cutting it down. It over-hung the garage to an alarming degree, and would have destroyed it had it fallen. This I could not tolerate. Sure, the garage was due to be demolished anyway, having been

condemned by a surveyor, but to have it destroyed by a tree? This I could not countenance. It was perhaps fifteen metres tall, and now just two, but it lives on.

7 Shag, marry, kill: A giraffe, A heron and a sort of sentient rail locomotive like Thomas or Koko off Chuggington. Please show your working out. I'd shag the giraffe; I have a step ladder, and plenty of ambition. The heron I'd kill - and eat. I don't like the way they look at me, and I fancy its flesh would be enlivening to my jaded palate. I would marry the sentient rail locomotive. At least it's sentient.

Simon Munnery: Renegade Plumber is at Stand 1 at 15:20, Aug 3-28 (Not 14)



Photo: Edward Moore

"At last, student comedy at the Edinburgh Fringe."



THE SHEFFIELD REVUE PRESENTS
COMEDY IN A BASEMENT
 12TH-18TH AUGUST - 48 BELOW - 5PM
 STAND-UP (FRI, SAT, SUN) SKETCH (MON-THUR)

Laughing Horse@
48 BELOW
 VENUE 146 - 46 BROUGHTON ST - 0131 557 0234

free festival

STEVE BEST
 CLICKING COMEDIANS

'INSPIRED COLLECTION OF VISUAL JAPES'
 TIME OUT



4TH - 28TH AUGUST

COMEDIAN AND PHOTOGRAPHER, STEVE BEST TELLS HIS STORY BEHIND THE PHOTOS HE'S TAKEN OF BRITAIN'S FINEST STAND-UP COMEDIANS, HIS UNIQUE ACCESS INTO THE COMEDY WORLD AND HIS HERCULEAN EFFORTS TO TURN ALL THIS INTO A BOOK.

THE SHOW: 4PM - 5PM (NOT 14TH)
 THE EXHIBITION: 11AM - 3.30PM
 ON SALE: FINE ART PRINTS; BOOKS; POSTCARDS

ADMISSION FREE (FOR BOTH)

STILLS: CENTRE FOR PHOTOGRAPHY (VENUE 275) 23 COCKBURN STREET, EH1 1BP

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Stare at your phone, it's

CIRCUIT BUNNY

Southeast England,
Midnight, July 31st

If you ask
me, Hicks was
overrated...

Yeah! Roads'll
be clear; we'll be there
in time for brunch!

You sure this is the
best way to get to the
Fringe, Bun?

Oh I'll tell you
about all the people
I don't rate as
comedians

And how will I
stay awake?

How you gonna
stay awake, though?

I'll tell you all the
people who don't rate you as
a comedian

5am

...so that's why
he won't book me...
just jealousy..

7am

EDINBURGH
A1 NEXT EXIT

LET'S
GO!!!

F*ckin
'ell Bun
this is
tight..

I said £40? You'd better make it
50 or I'm not going on! And then what are
you gonna do?...

11am...

Croc!
Wake up!
We're here!
You shoulda
had 14 coffees
like me! ...
Ask that guy
where our
venue is
will you?

mmmnn??

Scuse.. exc..
OI MATE!
Ah sod it...

Some time later...

This is us. Sh*t,
no parking. Let's carry
on to our Fringe
digs...

This is the
street, Bun.
Whoah, Parking
meanies
everywhere!

Man, this is just
impossible. Bun, I think-

Bun? Bun?
Bun wake
the f*ck
up!!!

AA
AAAA
GGH

Edinburgh
Council HQ!

CRASH!

HR? We have a car
through our window. Is that you
or facilities management?

I'm no
looking at it
'til Monday

John, get us a
BQ468 form?

It's a
BQ52X
now, Hamish

I'm on a break,
Claire...

Morag? I
need a form-issuing
licence...

MORE
CIRCUIT BUNNY
NEXT ISSUE

You know, I think we'll be alright
leaving it here for a bit.

Anyone
want tea?



Delusions

Dates: 4-27 August
Ticket Price: Pay What You Want
Showtime: 18.30

sponsored by
UNISON
 the public service union
 #scrapthecap

"Brilliant!"
 (**** 5 Stars)
Mumble Comedy

JOHN SCOTT

A brand new stand-up hour from John Scott, now returning to Edinburgh for his tenth run. A semi-biographical show about mental health, combined with topical satire. Looking at the world today, there's obviously a connection between the two.

Laughing Horse @
ESPIONAGE
KASBAR ROOM - TOP FLOOR
VENUE 185 - ENTRANCES ON VICTORIA STREET & COWGATE - 0131 4777 077

free festival



'Ave a Day Off!

On the **14th** a lot of acts take a break and something one-off and quirky happens instead. **EDMUND RUMANIA** is checking these somethings out



NightDanger: Dance Hard

Stand 1 • 15:30 • £10

Lunatic Fringe favourites Antione Lawberry and Phillippee Nicholson (who could that be?) give a one-off masterclass that takes the p*ss out of dance. Or is it a tribute to dance that just happens to be knowingly over-serious? Anyway: dance. There is so much dancey dancingness to enjoy here... unless you actually like dance.



2017 Chortle Student Comedy Awards Final Pleasance

Courtyard • 22:30 • £10/£8

Gah, who'd be a student these days? Years of struggling with debt and Lidl beans and trying not to trigger idiots in Safe Spaces, and then Mister Chortle makes you go all the way to Edinburgh to lose a contest. Unless, of course you win. This is the contest that introduced us to Joe Lycett, Chris Ramsey and Adam Hess.



Get Happy! With InChorus

Assembly Roxy • 19:10 • £10

Last year FringePig got an email from an American couple, stating that they couldn't tell what was real and what was made-up in these pages and that we had been 'pretty much terrible' at helping them decide what to see. So: AMERICANS - GO SEE THIS. It's real and it's the full-on Brigadoon kilt-and-ceilidh McNonsense you expect from your Scottish holiday. It will make you even more certain that you are from here. And happy, like it says. If you get too happy, just remember you elected Trump and the people who really ARE from here all want to poke you in your fat rheumy eye.



Standard Issue Stands Up

Stand 3&4 • 21:10 • £12/£10

In case you've been living in a sound-insulated box under a rock on Venus with your fingers in your ears, Sarah Millican runs on online feminist magazine. It's called *Standard Issue* and it's full of the thoughts of funny and insightful women. And you can see them being both right here. It says Sarah will be there, but then says 'lineup subject to change'. So Sarah might NOT be there. Depends whether she's got anything better to do than talk to us mortal pricks, I suppose. (Also 15th)

FREE SHOW

ASIAN COMEDY FUSION

12-27 AUGUST
THE LOUNGE
LAUGHING HORSE
@ THE COUNTING HOUSE

11 PM

free festival



David Kay

Stand 1 • 19:10 • £10/£9

David Kay is quite unlike anything else in comedy. The peculiarly Scottish bathos with which he discusses his small-town problems such as scones and flat-pack furniture have made him the Belle and Sebastian of comedy. If you haven't seen him, grab this chance.



Acting: In Conversation With...

Fringe Central • 11:00 • FREE

If you're harbouring dreams of being an actor then this is the place to be if, by some quirk, you're the sort of person who wants to be an actor AND you're out of bed in time. Previous actors to share their life lessons at this show include Miriam Margolyes, Anthony Rapp, that woman who played Anna Dapton in KYTV and that bloke, y'know, Thingy from Whatsaname. Get there early because people with lanyards get in first. Everyone with a lanyard wants to be an actor; sadly most will end up in a factory, possibly making lanyards.



World's Best MC Award Grand Final

Free Sisters • 19:45 • FREE

What's your name? What do you do? Two blokes on the same table? You must be gay! Wearing check shirts? It's *Brokeback Mountain*! Are you a woman from Liverpool or did someone fall into an orange? Where did you learn to whisper, in a helicopter? Hear all the compère greats as the circuit's 'greatest' MCs shoot hot tropes at each other's faces.



Accessibility Gala

Pleasance Dome • 19:00 • £7/£5

"The Pleasance is committed to providing the most accessible venues on the Fringe," says The Pleasance. Well let's be honest: Edinburgh University has to be accessible by law and that's where the Pleasance mines its gold. But this will have some terrific disabled acts, plus some non-disabled acts. Which is cheating, frankly, but go anyway.



BBC: Fresh from the Fringe

BBC (25) • 17:00, 19:00 • FREE

Although they had the good grace to stop for a few years, the BBC has resumed its habit of using licence-payers' money to put on massive extravaganzas that suck paying punters out of the shows that actually need them. So, you know, go to this if you're the sort of person who drives fast through puddles to splash pensioners at bus stops.

IMOP presents

PAUL FOOT

'Tis A Purr SHE'S A PIGLET

fringe
sell-out show
2010

fringe
sell-out show
2011

fringe
sell-out show
2012

fringe
sell-out show
2013

fringe
sell-out show
2014

fringe
sell-out show
2015

fringe
sell-out show
2016



The show that offended
a thousand piglets
is back.....

PAULFOOT.TV



0844 545 8252
underbellyedinburgh.co.uk

7.10 PM (8.10 PM)

03 - 27 AUGUST 2016 (NOT 14)

Two Shows from Ivor Dembina



Old Jewish Jokes

3-27 August

(excl. Tuesdays) 1:30pm (60 mins)

Laughing Horse

@ Finnegan's Wake (Venue 101)

9b Victoria Street, EH1 2HE

Box office: 0131 225 9348

This is a free ticketed event.

See www.edfringe.com and

www.oldjewishjokes.co.uk

Fringe programme page 146.

IVOR DEMBINA SHOW

3-27 August

(excl. Tuesdays) 7:15pm (60 mins)

Laughing Horse

@ The Counting House

38 West Nicolson Street, EH8 9DD

(Venue 170)

Box office: 0131 667 7533

This is a free ticketed event.

See www.edfringe.com and

www.thinkbeforeyoulaugh.com

Fringe programme page 113.



“Let’s sell this gig out!”

MICHAEL LEGGE will be bloody cross if you don't go to THESE shows at THESE times. Follow #LetsSellThisGigOut. Listen if you want to live

Fri 4th



Jordan Brookes:
Body of Work
Laughing Horse @
Finnegan's Wake, 18:15
[@jordbrookes](#)

We're starting strong!
Jordan is one of the funniest comedians I've seen in years. You won't see anyone like him. The show is free and, in real life, Jordan's dog is called Mr Tits.

Sat 5th



Eleanor Morton:
Angry Young Woman
Stand 3&4, 12:05
[@EleanorMorton](#)

An absolutely brilliant bit of comedy at a great venue. Eleanor is a treat every time, and the angrier the better.

Sun 6th



Andrew O'Neill's
Black Magick Fun Hour
PBH @ Liquid Room
Annexe, 17:00
[@destructo9000](#)

It's Sunday so, straight after mass, let's head down to see Andrew O'Neill's show about dabbling in the occult. You will not want to miss this. And it's free.

Mon 7th



Caroline Mabey:
Quetzals
Just the Tonic @ The Caves, 19:40
[@CarolineMabey](#)

I've seen this show already and it is excellent. Caroline is always brilliantly funny and inventive. She's a true original. This is a two-for-one day so bring a friend.

Tue 8th



Dan Antopolski:
Return of the Dan Antopolski
Assembly George Square Studios, 21:15
[@DanAntopolski](#)

I am delighted he's back! Surreal, clever, daft and strangely beautiful. I doubt he'll have trouble selling out so get your ticket quick. This is a two-for-one day too, so... double quick.

Wed 9th



Joe Wells: *1 Hope 1 Die Before I Start Voting Conservative*
PBH @ Sneaky Pete's, 12:05
[@joewellscomi](#)

It's a bit early but it's a bit brilliant too. I love Joe and was lucky enough to see a preview of this recently. Let's all go! It's FREE!

Thu 10th



Lost Voice Guy:
Inspiration Porn
Stand 5&6, 13:15
[@LostVoiceGuy](#)

He's very funny. There. I said it. I know no-one likes to talk about the much-talked-about Lee Ridley but I just think it'll be obvious as soon as you see him. He's funny. Did I mention that?

Fri 11th



Gavin Webster: *It's About Time We Had More Women in There*
Stand 2, 19:35
[@Thegavinwebster](#)

I never, ever miss a Gavin Webster show because they're always insane, subversive and very, very funny. Gavin IS the Fringe, as far as I'm concerned.

Sat 12th



**Mat Ewins Presents
Adventureman 7:
The Return of
Adventureman**

Heroes @ The Hive, 20:45

Not on Twitter

It's my birthday today and I can have anything I want. So I'm having Mat. Trust me: you will love this show. Do not miss it. Bring cake.

Mon 14th



**Phil Pagett: Bare
Jokes**

**Laughing Horse @
Cabaret Voltaire, 01:00**

@Phil_Pagett

IMPORTANT: Phil is brilliant. Really brilliant. He's on at the INSANE time of 1am but we're all going. TONIGHT! Well, Monday night/Tuesday morning really.

Sun 13th



**Alternative Comedy
Memorial Society**

**Heroes @ Monkey Barrel,
23:50**

@AltComMemSoc

At some point, we all have to go to a late night mixed-bill show and ACMS is the best one there is. It's basically the whole Fringe in one very drunk 130 minutes.

Tue 15th



**Eleanor Tiernan:
People Pleaser**

Banshee Labyrinth, 15:10

@eleanortiernan

Surreal and self-deprecating brilliance. Not just self-deprecating, she deprecates others too. One of the very best comedy minds at the Fringe.



**Next issue: gig
recommendations
for days between
Wednesday 16th
and Sunday 27th**



Inheritance

A stand-up show about marrying your friend's mum for money
@bencllover_
15.15
C Royale (Studio Five)
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bencllover.weebly.com

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'UTTERLY HILARIOUS'

★★★★★
FEST

**'ONE OF THE COUNTRY'S
MOST EXCITING
COMEDIC TALENTS'**

★★★★★
GAY TIMES

ANDREW DOYLE THOUGHT CRIMES

**6.30 PM
3-27 AUG
[NOT 14]**

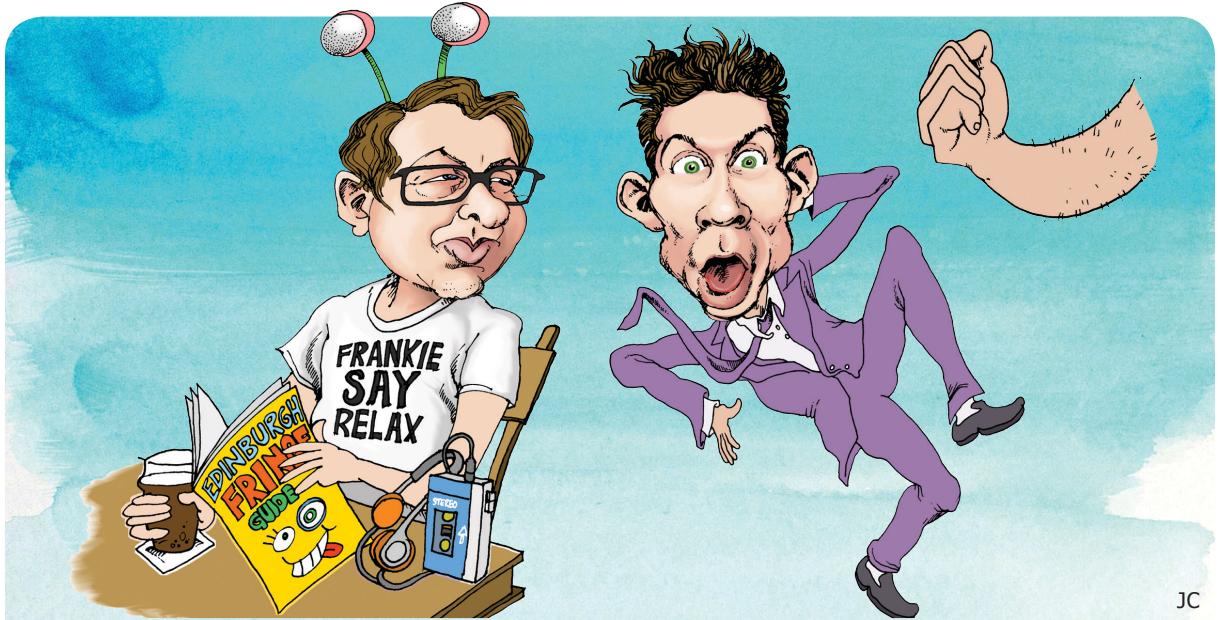


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What the Bruce?

The Edinburgh Fringe is 70 years old this year. Veteran comedy critic **BRUCE DESSAU** remembers 3/7ths of it. At least, he remembers the really odd stuff.



I've been visiting the Edinburgh Fringe Festival since 1963. In the early days there were six comedy shows in the programme, which was printed on vellum and hand-delivered to critics who were ferried from show to show on sedan chairs carried by theology students from Edinburgh University. Hog roasts were served in journalists' rooms at the end of the day – around 4.30pm.

OK, that's not quite true. Occasionally we finished at 5.30. Seriously though folks, I've been going since the 1990s and it has changed. Comedy now dominates Edinburgh in August.

Critics have to struggle to squeeze in as many shows as possible. At least we don't have to worry about finding time to eat between shows. We can't afford to eat these days.

Here's a shocking stat. When Arnold "Why Not?" Brown won the Perrier Award in 1987 – the first bona fide "alternative comedian" winner (it was mostly clowns, wannabe thespians and Stephen Fry until then) – the judges only had about 40 shows to choose from. It was a joint act with musical duo Jungr and Parker. I'm not sure if a joint show would be eligible today, but there was less to choose from then so maybe the rules were baggier.

“If you can remember the 1990s Edinburgh Fringe you probably weren't drinking as much as you should have.”

(You don't expect me to do proper research on Fringepig's rates do you?)

There have been calls to limit the Fringe, but as one venue closes more spring up, whack-a-mole-stylee. There used to be a joke that any space in the city would be used as a venue. Even the toilets. This was officially no longer funny when in 2015 Paul Ricketts performed *Now Wash Your Hands – Again!* in the public loos of the Pleasance, Gilded Balloon, Assembly and

Underbelly venues.

I digress. Fringepig has asked me to show my age by writing about some of the weirder acts I saw in my youth. The trouble is, as they say, if you can remember the 1990s Edinburgh Fringe you probably weren't drinking as much as you should have. I can remember more about events in the Assembly Rooms bar – someone now famous in a scuffle, Bob Mortimer telling me he'd just seen a brilliant new comic called Tim

Vine – than events onstage.

This was an era when little was filmed, so on the plus side little now clogs up YouTube. Most shows were like mayflies. Perhaps that should be Augustflies. If they didn't get a Perrier nomination there was no tour after the Fringe. Posters were binned and the acts started work on their next show. Repeat on an infinite loop.

Picking up a nomination was no guarantee of stand-up success either.

Johnny Immaterial was Perriered in 1993. He used to do a marvellous Kenneth "Ooh matron" Williams impression. The following year I saw him perform to only a handful of people at the old Gilded Balloon in Cowgate. He later became celebrated children's author Jonathan Meres and only gets heckled by 4 year olds now.

Having just ventured into my attic – yes, I have an attic, is that so wrong? – I've found some old paperwork that might jog my memory.

Ooh look, here's a printout of Fringe contacts from 1992. David Baddiel and Rob Newman are sandwiched between Bablake at Buster Browns and The Bastinado Theatre Company. I also found an undated press release from Jongleurs, announcing that they are planning "to create the UK's first fun portal". Whatever happened to

jongleurslife.com? Harry Hill is on the list and his press contact is...Harry Hill. I might call him in a minute. Remember 071 codes? Spangles? There are dead people on the list. Late stand-up head honcho

“In 1992 the press list only runs to eleven pages. Today it is bigger than Wikipedia.”

Addison Cresswell is PR for Jack Dee and Jo Brand. There are seven different Cambridge University shows. In 1992 the list only runs to 11 pages. Today it is bigger than Wikipedia.

Talking of comics-turned-authors (remember Johnny Meres a few paragraphs ago?) Edinburgh audiences – and judges – don't always spot talent. I saw unknown duo Matt Lucas and David Walliams try to maintain their dignity in front of indifferent audiences at the Assembly Rooms in 1995. Walliams thought it would be funny to put "Free creche" on the posters. One woman didn't get the gag, turning up with a baby. The show was at midnight.

I've just found a Fringe programme from 1998. The pictures are black and white and look like they were developed at Snappy Snaps. Ed Byrne seems spotty, Dave "I,

free festival
EDINBURGH FRINGE

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'Side Splittingly Hilarious' - EdFringe Review

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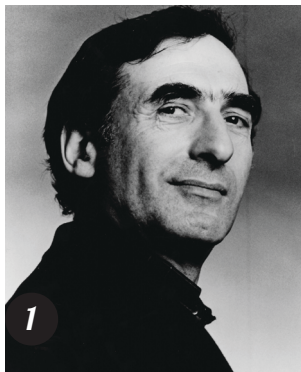
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"QUIRKY & original"
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2017

2.30PM
3-14, 16-17 AUGUST
(FREE ENTRY)

LAUGHING HORSE
@ SOUTHSIDE SOCIAL
(venue 264) 42-44 Buccleuch Street



1. Alternative comedy at the Fringe may have started with Arthur Brown, who won the Perrier award in 1987

2. Paul Ricketts' career got bogged down in 2011

3. Jonathan Meres, once Perrier winner Johnny Immaterial, saw his 12th and final World of Norm book published in June

4. Universal Grinding Wheel, whose sketches had titles like "Congress Prepares to Meet Mrs Elizabeth Reynolds (main theme: the supremacy of pragmatism)" and "MacCallum of Ardnish, Servant of God (main theme: repentance)" largely disappeared, but brothers Eamonn and James O'Neill turned up as Jehovah's Witnesses in Black Books

5. The Trachtenberg Family Slideshow Players, with all the glamour of a struggling Oxfam shop, were difficult to dislike in 2007. But the little girl is now 6ft 3 and an arsonist. (not really)

6. The Two Wrongies dared you not to look away in 2011

"Daniel Blake" Johns has hair and a quartet called the Universal Grinding Wheel – where are they now? – have a goofy member who thinks he is the new Vic Reeves. *The Independent on Saturday* – where is it now? – called them "crucial".

I do remember the Trachtenburg Family Slideshow Players. They were a mum, a dad and their 10-year-old daughter Rachel, and they performed songs inspired by vintage slides they had found in junk shops. I guess you'd call it outsider art today. Back then it was just a typical Fringe show. I wrote that they were a cross between The White Stripes and The Krankies.

It's at times like this

that the internet justifies its existence. I've just sparked up the wi-fi – yes, I have wi-fi, is that so wrong? – the band split and Rachel is now a "musician, singer, actress, model, former radio host and activist".

I've not heard much lately from The Two Wrongies, who did a synchronised swimming sketch naked except for nose clips, goggles and caps in 2011. But give them time.

I've got a tatty leaflet from 2005 promoting Dutch Elm Conservatoire. You may not know the name if you are under 30 but members included Dan Renton Skinner (now Angelos Epithemiou), Jim Field Smith (now film director), Rufus

Jones (all over stage/TV comedies like a rash), Stephen Evans (you'll know his face) and Jordan Long (dunno). There is also a small ad for a show called House Party. It stars Miranda Hart.

So don't give up. Stick around long enough and you too could be a superstar.

Bruce Dessau
is editor of
beyondthejoke.co.uk



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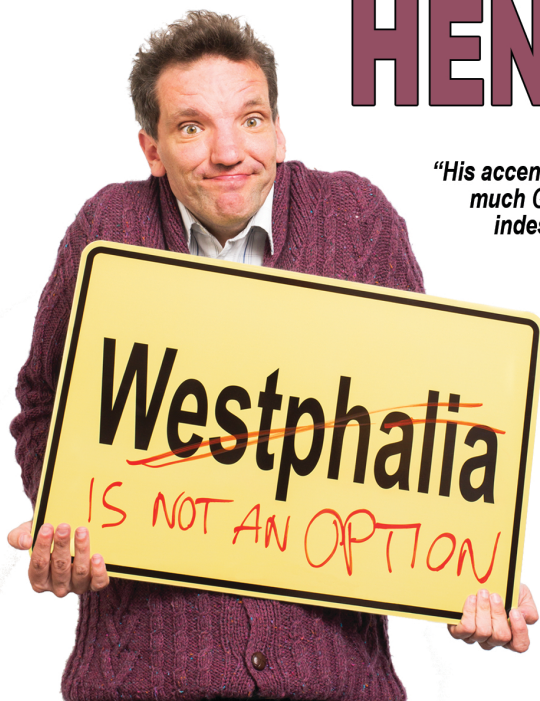
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 and identity. And he
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Interview Top Tens

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Top 10 Podcasts Fringe 2017



1. Ashley Storrie

Still in her 20s, Glaswegian comedian Ashley Storrie has already established herself as one of the most distinct comedic voices on radio and online. Fans include William Shatner. Yes, THAT one.

2. Luke McQueen

Enjoy a contrarian? Prankster Luke McQueen talks about Frankie Boyle and his new show, appearing as part of the Heroes of Fringe, The Boy With Tape on his Face. But not THAT Boy With Tape on his Face. That one is now called Tape Face. Easy.

3. Andrew Maxwell

In an episode recorded a day after the Manchester attack in May 2017, Andrew Maxwell's third appearance on On the Mic eschews comedy altogether to discuss the fear of terrorism.

4. Phil Nichol

Phil Nichol talks about his 2017 Edinburgh doings. We also hear three classic Phil Nichol songs, including the brilliant anti-PC anthem, You Can't Say That to Me.

5. Andrew Doyle

The Jonathan Pie co-writer and comedian has appeared more times than anyone else. Andrew Doyle chats about censorship, the nature of offence and his new show at the Stand.

6. Narin Oz

The imagined child of Andy Kaufman and a supermodel, Narin Oz is a comic genius and as barmy as a box of frogs. Narin talks about her work in progress Edinburgh show, #DirtyWoman

7. Mark Thomas

In his fourth appearance with On the Mic, comedian and activist Mark Thomas offers his response to the 2017 General Election result and to the disaster at Grenfell Tower. He also has a few choice words about the Sun newspaper.

8. Ivor Dembina

The comedian and comedy curator lives less than a mile from London Bridge, where terrorists struck in June 2017. Ivor Dembina shares his views and his fears.

9. Yohay Spender

After Dapper Laughs and Jim Davidson, this is the third-most-complained-about instalment to date. The Israeli comedian will appear in Boycotted: Comedy from Israel later this Fringe.

10. Kate Smurthwaite

As well known for appearing on daytime TV and radio as she is for stand-up, Kate Smurthwaite talks about 'coming out' as polyamorous on live TV. Poor old Eamonn Holmes.

Top 10 Podcasts Of All Time

1. Josie Long

Dapper Laughs held the number one spot for more than a year, until Josie Long came onto the show. She talks about her despair at Brexit, her hopes for Jeremy Corbyn and her reasons for being optimistic.

2. Dapper Laughs

Daniel O'Reilly's comic creation features in the most complained-about instalment of On the Mic. It's a fair assumption that most people who listened to the episode hated it.

3. Shazia Mirza

In one of three episodes that the popular comedian has recorded for On the Mic we talk about ISIS, the Kardashians and the reason why Shazia is so popular with the LGBT+ community.

4. Adrienne Truscott

American stand-up comedian and performance artist Adrienne Truscott chats about feminism, Andy Kaufman and wrestling. This was recorded in 2015. We're looking forward to seeing her back at the Fringe this year.

5. Sarah Franken

In 2015, at the time of recording, Will Franken was living and performing as Sarah. This interview actually attracted more listeners over a year later, when Sarah returned to being Will, than when it was first broadcast.

6. Susan Calman

Having worked on Death Row and at the United Nations in Geneva as a former corporate lawyer, Susan decided to give up her promising career to become a comedian. This is her story.

7. Simon Munnery

Simon is another frequent guest at On the Mic. He discusses barking dogs, malfunctioning props and celebrating 30 years on the Edinburgh Festival Fringe.

8. Andy Hamilton

The writer of some of the biggest TV and radio sitcoms in the past few decades, Andy Hamilton talks about Outnumbered, keeping up to date with Drop the Dead Donkey and being Satan on Old Harry's Game.

9. Liam Mullone

Somehow the E-in-C of this rag made it in, chatting about FringePig's origins. It features, at the top of the show, the brilliant Andrew Jackson Jihad track We Didn't Come Here to Rock, after which most people stop listening.

10. Amy Howska

Recorded late one Friday night, Amy Howska's 2015 interview features a lot of giggling. Including a guest appearance by Amy's clumsy flatmate and a long chat about the lovely Alexander Skarsgård.



Key

📈 Rising

📉 Falling

↔️ Unchanged

🌟 New Entry



Too many at the trough

BRENDAN DEMPSEY

says Fringe acts need to stop aiding their own exploitation.

Comedians wondering how they'd next be gifted after Chortles 'Buy an ad to guarantee a review' scheme last year need look no further than here. *Fringe* can reveal some comedy agencies charge their acts a mark-up fee to place ads in this magazine (a common practice, apparently).

"Outrageous!" you cry. "Inevitable" say I. It's 20 years since I heard about an act who, after selling out every night, still owed his agency money.

Given that the number of shows increases every year – more than 3,200 in 2016 – it's no wonder agents look to cover themselves: after all, 15 per cent of nothing is nothing. With most of those tickets going on names in big venues, it's the one bath you can be sure most comedians will be taking at the Fringe. PR people, venue managers, photographers, poster designers, printers, flyerers, locals with a house for rent – all these people get paid. Is it so wrong that agents should too?

At the Fringe, performers used to doing two or three 20-minute sets a week suddenly become workaholics, doing three shows a day as well as late night slots to help pay for it all and publicise

their show. Regional publications and online websites are imbued with a preternatural influence and respect; second-year uni students are transformed into virtual Tynans and your agent grows in stature too by becoming a de-facto producer. Some set up the venue deal for you; some deal with PR companies, poster designers and printers. Some handle it all and stump up the money: often less money than

you will pay them later, accepting "That's just how the Fringe works". You might feel

that they should take 15 per cent of the risk, too.

The Fringe is tough. But meekly handing over thousands of pounds a year on a whim and a prayer? You have to ask where the fault lies: with those who blithely take your money, or those who blindly hand it over. It's little comfort that your hole was greased beforehand, especially when you learn you were charged for the Vaseline.

Maybe you've not got a business brain, or are too busy trying to write a show around the title you submitted in February.

But please, work for yourself. People will walk all over you until you stand up.



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MED GUARD

Slum Chums

It's that time of year when thousands of out-of-towners move into overpriced Georgian edifices, usually with some shady lower-showbiz comrades. Is that you? Well here are five types you should never have as a Fringe housemate. Although it's too late now isn't it? You'll be sorry. You idiot.

The one who only eats take-away

You found everyone a flat with a nice kitchen! And there's a nice big cupboard for everyone to store their stuff! And everyone gets a whole shelf in the fridge! And there's a lovely wholefood store round the corner, and an organic grocer! But this bloke (and in this case it almost always IS a bloke, for some reason) just wants to roll in a 2am with a bag that smells of warm dogfood. And he doesn't want to eat the warm dogfood from the carton, where the warm dogfood belongs; no: he wants to put it on a series of plates. He wants the warm dogfood to touch as much nice, clean crockery as possible. He will then roll into bed leaving the plates and

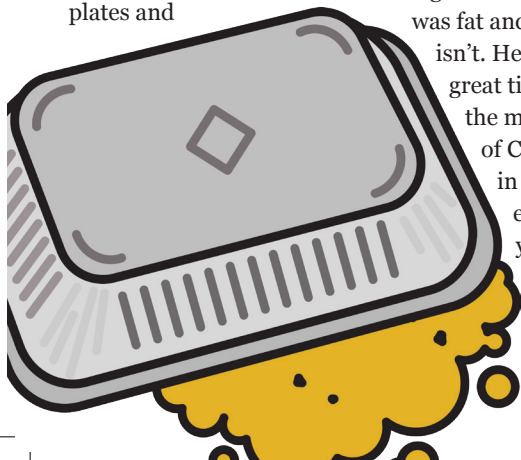
the cartons and the bits of rice and stray chips and shredded dead duvets of naan bread and the various serving spoons covered in achromatic goop because, come on, it's 2.30 in the bastard morning. NOBODY does dishes at that sort of time, you tyrant. He'll do it in the morning. Well of course he won't, because he doesn't NEED dishes in the morning. Or the afternoon. He won't eat all day until, just past midnight, he walks past a bloke carving horse flesh off a revolving, sweating meat-cartridge and it occurs to him that he's starving. And then he'll be back defiling your plates with something obscene and regrettable; the food equivalent of third-world sex tourism.

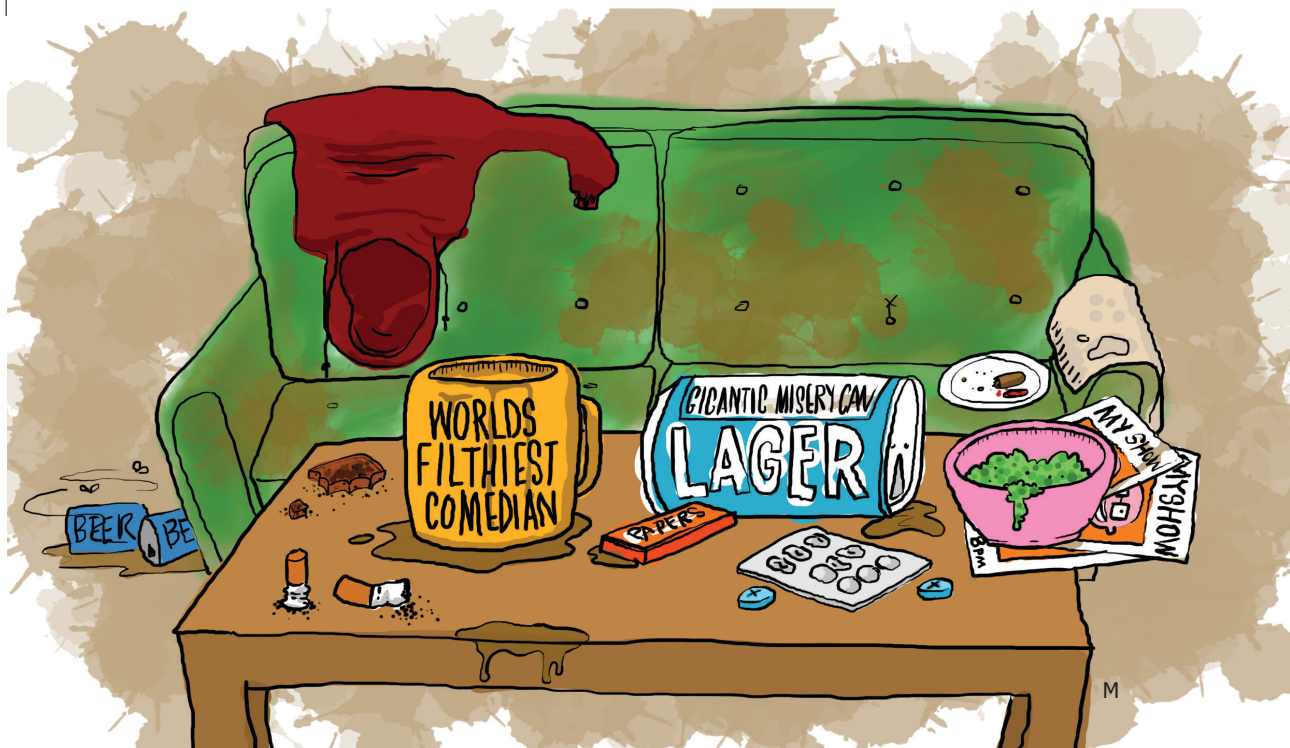
It might be alright if he was fat and ill, but he isn't. He's having a great time eating the missing cats of Corstorphine in gravy. He's everything you don't need at a time like this.

The one who never ever comes back home

So you rent a lovely flat with them, and then for the first couple of days you don't see them. But obviously they're busy setting up their show or whatever. And then for the next three days you don't see them. So, wow, they must really be throwing themselves into the Fringe social whirl. Good for them! And then for the next week you don't see them, so you think Hey, do you know what, this is great! They've already paid their rent and the fact they're not here means that I get that extra bit of apartment / fridge space / breathing room / bathroom time absolutely FREE! And then for the next two days you don't see them and you think: Actually, maybe something happened? Should I be worried or something? And then the next day they turn up to get a comb or a lanyard or some trainers and they say "Hi!" as if you're the receptionist or the cleaning lady and then just leave and then

you think F*CK YOU YOU F*CKING F*CK. WHO THE F*CK DO YOU THINK YOU ARE? TOO F*CKING BORING FOR YOU AM I YOU CONCEITED SELF-OBSESSED MISSING PERSON F*CK. I WANT TO BURN YOUR STUFF AND SAY 'OH DID SOMETHING HAPPEN TO YOUR STUFF? MAYBE YOU SHOULD HAVE BEEN HERE TO KEEP A F*CKING EYE ON YOUR F*CKING STUFF YOU SH*TTING WAYWARD ABSENTEE PRODIGAL KN*BEND'. And you don't want to think like that. You don't want to BE like that.

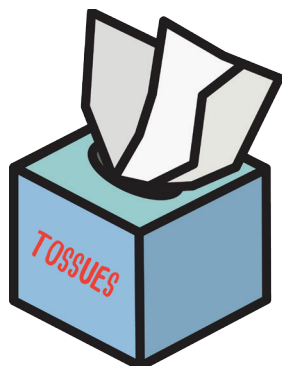




The one who has a month-long breakdown

He or she is SO up for the Fringe! They're gonna have a great time! With YOU! Are you excited? I'M SO EXCITED! And then... there's an early review! Yay! It's not very good! Agh! Quickly your energised flatmate realises that this Fringe is not all he or she imagined. In fact it's suddenly the worst thing ever and there are 22 more days of it to go. Days they will be spending with YOU. Inwardly exploding, outwardly sobbing days, spent in a room with the curtains drawn, possibly pissing into a milk container/ pint glass, crawling out only to do a show that has quickly become a living

corpse of a thing; fed only by the life support machine of financial obligation. And they're next door to YOU, like a conjoined twin that died three weeks ago but is still somehow borrowing your milk and hoping you'll make it a baked potato. I'm reminding you of this one because THIS year he or she will be back with another AMAZING idea, THIS year it's going to be SO different. And it wasn't



THAT bad last year, was it? That's what they'll say to you. Yes I got a BIT down, but it's the Fringe. Everyone has a bit of a wobble! Come on, let's be flatmates again! What do you say? Just say no.

The one who goes on an unexpected shagging spree

They seemed like such a nice, stable, balanced person before. I mean okay, so you'd only really known them from dressing rooms and backstage conversations, but you thought you had the measure of them. You didn't realise they were filled with an urgent, almost pathological need to bang the living shit out of every other Fringegeor who looks at them askance

Actually... aren't they married? You could have sworn they were married, or at least in a committed relationship, and often banging on about their lovely partner. Perhaps now would be a good time to raise that issue, as their headboard clatters into the paper-thin stud wall between you and them and their flyerer. But no, the question you ask yourself is: What's wrong with me? Why aren't I f*cking everyone around me? My show is actually called *I Am Full of Self Loathing and Misanthropy Already So Please Don't*



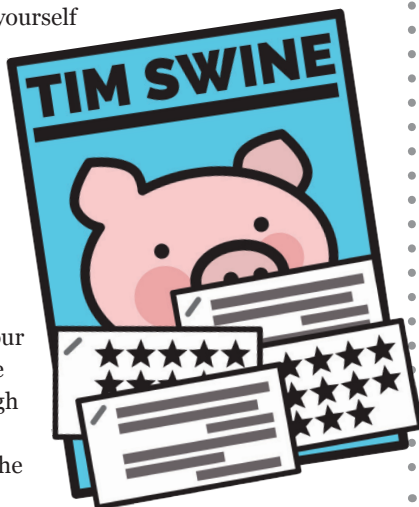
Bang The Arse Off Your Flyerer Right Next to Me and yet, somehow, this is happening. Well no. Next year you must lodge with old people or Muslims. Or Dominican friars. Anyone who believes that there are spiritual repercussions to flyerer-banging.

The one who's having a really, really good Fringe

You're having that Fringe thing where you're knackered with the fear and the angst and the butterflies and the flyering and the talking yourself up. You've said so many wildly positive things about yourself that you don't believe a word that passes your own liar lips anymore. And has any of it worked? Has anything been ransomed with this unseemly fire-sale of your soul? No. You've got more empty houses than Detroit and a two-star review from some maniac with a food blog. So you've barricaded yourself indoors and you're watching *Apocalypso* on Netflix, because at least f*ckin Jaguar Paw is having a more difficult time of it that you. And then at 3am you hear your beloved housemate bang noisily through the door, laughing, on the phone. On the

BASTARD PHONE at 3am, yelling "Yeah I know! No. THREE extra shows! I know, I'm so gobsmacked. No, they're all sold out now! Me? A five, a five, another five, a four – boo! That was from Chortle, typical – a five and a four and a half. I know! I know! I know!!!" Everyone needs to be aware of this rule: if your Fringe is going really well then you must say ONLY one of these three things: "I'm just sad my parents didn't live to see it"; "I would trade it all in for someone who truly loves me" or "I'll tell you a secret – I f*cked all these reviewers and I will never escape that shame". If you say anything other than those three things then you're a git. And nobody wants to flatshare with a git.

Liam Mullone spent most of August 2007 watching *Apocalypso*.



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Fringe T £12.99



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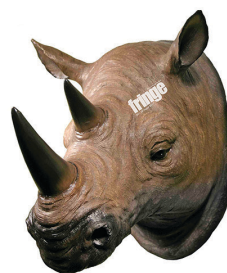
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Where are you coming from?

Hard Times

FringePig gets the gory details from two of the Fringe's darkest declaimers. **STUART BLACK** is the Uriah Heep of self-flagellation; **JOHN ROBERTSON** prefers to have the Dickens beaten out of him by someone else.

Stuart Black

"My dad drank a bottle of whiskey a day. He was never violent but you always had the feeling he was about to go off on one. Marc Maron has written the perfect bit about having to be the grown-up to your own dad, and it really was like that. I spent my childhood trying to break the tension with stupid jokes. It was like that every day; just trying to defuse situations.

I failed all my exams and ended up on the dole in Brighton for four years. What money I had was

spent on booze, ecstasy and LSD. At one point I didn't wash for six months and when I finally had a bath the skin kind of came off in rolls. Sort of like dissolving tubes. It wouldn't go down the plughole. It looked like half a pound of brown rice.

"Eventually I got a job screwing the lids on bottles of dog shampoo. Then I was taken on by Hill Samuel the jewellers and eventually I worked my

“ I got a job screwing the lids on bottles of dog shampoo. ”



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Heroes @ Monkey Barrel (Venue 515)
MIDNIGHT on August 3-14, 17-21, 24-27 (60mins)

way up to being a diamond valuer. Eventually I got my shit together enough to buy a copy of *Programming For Dummies* and got a job with Microsoft. But I was still very much a functioning alcoholic.

"The one thing I had was a house in Cambridgeshire. My mum begged me not to sell it. But I did, and moved to South Africa to get wasted, basically.

I was playing my own version of Nicholas Cage in *Leaving Las Vegas*. Except that my Elizabeth Shue was a guy called French Dave. I don't know why he was called that; he was Afrikaans. Anyway, he was psychotic. He'd lost an eye smashing a toilet. On his first day at a building site they'd told him to break up bathroom suites for

rubble and gave him a pair of goggles. He said (South African accent) "Fak off. Am not a bluddy puffta!"

So, goggle-less, he battered a loo and a chunk of it took his eye out. He might have been alright if he'd gone to a hospital but he hadn't.

"So French Dave and I hung around taking drugs and going to brothels. I talk a lot about brothel visits in my shows; I think I get away with it because they were such sad, drunken, flaccid humiliations. Once when I was too drunk to perform the lady was nice enough to spend the time giving me an Afrikaans lesson. I learned all the nouns in her room. Wall, bin, window, bloodstain...

"Anyway, I pissed all the cash away. I had a massive

house by the beach and two great cars. One day I'd been up all night at a rave in Cape Town when I thought I'd go swimming. I was still wasted and got caught in a rip. I came so close to drowning. I ended up on my knees a few yards from the beach, but I had nothing left. I thought, this is it, I'm going to drown in two feet of water. Two girls were right there, playing Frisbee, and I wanted to shout for help but my fear of humiliation was stronger than my fear of dying. I told myself "If you've got the strength to shout, you've got the strength to crawl."

"So I'm talking about the past, and the title refers to the fact that the world of our youth is gone when it's gone. I've been seven years dry and don't miss the drink a bit. I just miss being young."

Stuart Black: It's The End of The World as We Know It, Tron, 23.40 Aug 3-27 (not 14)

John Robertson

"As a teenager, the fact that my dad had killed himself was always my thing to play with. Like, if anyone said that *Star Trek* was shit, I'd say 'Hey, my dad liked *Star Trek*' and that would shut them up. Nobody had thought to say 'Your dad liked *Star Trek*? No wonder he killed himself.' It took coming to Scotland for that!"

"So I'd seen a comedy show that was supposed to be true tragic stories. But it was obvious they

“Now I sometimes have shows where everyone is either dealing with grief or is a bondage weirdo.”

were all lies. They were horrible little homilies that were supposed to contain some universal truth. So I thought I'd do a show where the death of my father was just one detail in a stream of fictitious nonsense, and people could take it however they liked.

In Australia the critics loved it or hated it. And then in Scotland it was "Meh, three stars" and "Yeah, all our dads killed themselves. So what?" So then I thought: "You know what, I'm done with the suicide thing now." "Then, in 2014, I'd just done my *Dark Room* show at the Brighton Fringe. I was on Mark Dolan's radio show and for some reason I was feeding him gumbo on air. Later on I got a message that my best friend in Australia had killed herself. When I had been growing up as a transvestite in Perth, she was the one who would buy me clothes. All I could think about was that she was in deep trouble while I was shoving shit fish stew into Mark's mouth. And this was the person who had told me to be a comedian; I'd always thought I was going to be a lawyer. She'd been a brilliant illustrator so my first response was to get one of her designs on my back. The six hours of pain, and those endorphins, were



perfect. And my second response was to write *Let's Redecorate*, my 'suicide show'.

"My dad was a priest. My mum was very accepting of everything I did. I remember the first time my girlfriend and I played with razors I came home expecting her to be asleep. I was wearing a white shirt for some reason; I hadn't realised how much I would carry on bleeding. My mum switched the light on and I threw myself against the wall like a sider and tried to edge along it to my room... all the way leaving a great bloody smear along the wall. But she just said 'Don't get AIDs, will you?'"

"I've always thought that if you can trust someone to take you to the furthest limit of pain, and not beyond that, then that's the most intimate you can be with someone. But the dungeon scene where I live, in London, is strange. They're in buildings where the flat

next door is a normal family just doing their thing. And whereas in Australia they'd cover the noise with metal, or maybe cabaret to make it a bit weird, in this place we had to listen to *The Best of the Vengaboys*. So I was once tied to a cross screaming over *We Like to Party* when the people next door start thumping the walls.

"So now I sometimes have shows where everyone is either dealing with grief or is a bondage weirdo. I know those people so well now. I once had four massive skinheads, one of them slightly smaller. That guy would look anxiously at the others and only laugh when they laughed. I said to them 'I bet you all p*ss on him, don't you?' After the show one of them came up to me and said 'You're right. He's our p*ss pig'."

John Robertson: Dominant is at Stand 5, 18:00, Aug 3-27 (not 14)



Eight-Fold Sociopath

New Yorker **PETER MICHAEL MARINO** got plenty of unwanted attention after his West End flop *Desperately Seeking Susan*. Here's his 8 tips for Fringe solitude

- 1** Someone is approaching you moments after you read your 2-star review. Get out your mobile and fake an exciting conversation with your PR. Just remember to turn off the ringer so you don't blow your cover if your PR actually calls. Which they won't.
- 2** The best way to attract attention at a pub is to sit alone in a corner and write. So do all of your writing in the loo. No one will bother you there and if you don't like what you're writing you can easily destroy the evidence.
- 3** When you're doing a live press interview, answer the reporter with the same questions they ask you.
- 4** Always have another show you have to run to right after your show, even if you don't. When punters who can't do anything for your career want to chat, they'll admire your "busy schedule" and "support of other artists".
- 6** Do your show with your back to the audience.
- 5** Flying is the worst. Instead, sit yourself down outside a busy venue on an elaborately designed, attention-grabbing chair and let them come to you.
- 7** Don't ignore flyers. Take one in exchange for one of yours. Hopefully, they'll accidentally give your flyer to a punter you then won't have to talk to.
- 8** Performers will want to talk to you about themselves. It's awkward and often painful. So listen more, say less, and excuse yourself often.



Show Up is at the Counting House at 15:30, Aug 3-27 (not 14,21)

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Goldfringe-er

Special Agent **JOZ NORRIS** has a day of high-stakes action thrillers for you

So you're at the Edinburgh Fringe to catch a few shows. But you're also an MI5 agent at the top of your game, and you're here to find the secret hideout of the notorious Squid Gang before they activate the laser, yeah? Well okay, I'll talk you through it...

Start at the **Stand 3 & 4**, where you can treat yourself to a performance of **Eleanor Morton: Angry Young Woman** at **12:05**. You know how she feels! Having 24 hours to avert a global disaster perpetrated by a criminal empire can get you pretty wound up too.

It's hard work following clues on an empty stomach, so head over to **Chez Jules** on Hanover Street for some delicious French cuisine as you meet up with your undercover contact, Mikey the Pigeon, who's got some hot intel for you. Mikey's a fast eater so you should have plenty of time to mosey through **Princes Street Gardens** (why not listen to Fish's "Internal Exile" on the walk? He mentions Princes Street Gardens in the opening lyrics!) and get to **Heroes @ Monkey Barrel** for **14:20** in order to see **John-Luke Roberts: Look on My Works, Ye Mighty, and Despair!**

John-Luke's impression

of nudist icon Geoffrey Chaucer puts you in the mood for something historical, so pop round the corner to **Heroes @ The Hive** in order to catch **Will Seaward Goes To El Dorado** at **15:30**, in which Will is genuinely planning an expedition to find the lost city and wants his audiences to volunteer.

The clock is ticking, so it's high time you investigated further – perhaps the head of the Squid Gang is in disguise? No better place to start than by watching **John Kearns: Don't Worry They're Here** back around the corner at **Heroes @ Monkey Barrel** at **17:00**. Maybe the outlandish wig and teeth John wears are hiding more than he claims? You rip them off, hoping to expose a criminal mastermind, but woops, it's just a comedian under there.

There's been a lot of

false starts, so you'd better make dinner a quick one. Head over to West Nicolson Street and grab some delicious noodles from **Red Box**, then quickly dispatch the quirky assassin who's been sent to kill you on your dinner break. A strange amulet round his neck seems to bear the logo of Just The Tonic, so it's up past Bristo Square and down to Grassmarket, to **Just the Tonic at The Community Project**. You should probably go and see the technicolour sketch comedy stylings of **Siân and Zoë's Sugar Coma Fever Nightmare** at **18:45**. Don Tonic, who runs the joint, swears he's being framed, but he knows about a master of disguise at the **Pleasance Dome**.

There you catch **Rachel Parris: Keynote** at **20:20**. Hmmm – so many different characters in one show! Maybe THIS is the

master of disguise Don Tonic told you about! But before you can question her, she's off across the rooftops! You give frantic chase in a cool parkour sequence that takes you into the treetops above George Square. You remember that **Sam Simmons A-K** is on at the **Assembly George Square Studios** at **21:40**, so you slither down a vine to watch because you're a big Simmons fan, as all MI5 agents are.

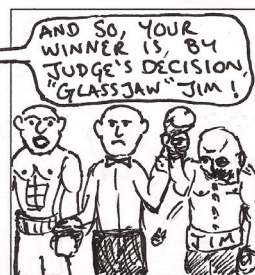
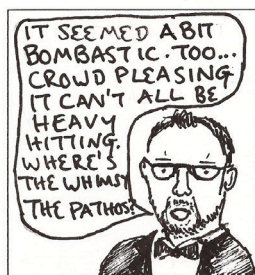
Then the race is on, back across the same rooftops, to the **Pleasance Dome!** Rachel slips into **Tim Key: Work in Progress** at **23:00**. "The gig is up!" You shout. "What's the deal with the Squid Gang?" "Oh, hooray, we got you!" Rachel replies. Then a firework goes off and loads of balloons fall on your head. Rachel tears off her face – it's your boss, the head of MI5!

"You're the best boss ever!" you sob.

The Incredible Joz Norris Locks Himself Inside His Own Show, Then Escapes, Against All the Odds!! is at **Heroes @ The Hive** at **19.30 3-27 Aug (Not 16)**

Paul Savage

Steve Bennett's New Job



As Seen On TV



Time a bit tight? Just want the bigger names? **WRIGLEY WORM** plans three days among the stars...

Day One

Fresh from leaving her Bake Off TV series, **Sue Perkins Live! in Spectacles** is at **13:45** at **Pleasance Courtyard**. In the show based on her bestselling book, American, Ruby Wax returns to Edinburgh with **Ruby Wax: Frazzled** at **17:10** at **Underbelly, George Square**. Later, Liverpoolian Godfather of Alternative comedy, **Alexei Sayle** delivers an hour of stand up at **18:45** at the same venue. Finally, for day one, Improv TV favourite **Whose Line is it Anyway?** returns with host Clive Anderson and a rotating original cast at **20:10** at the **Assembly Rooms**.

Day Two

Still starry from her appearance on ITV's **Tonight at the London Palladium**, Pippa Evans delivers some proper old-fashioned entertainment in **Pippa Evans: Joy Provision!** at **14:40** at **Pleasance Courtyard**. TV panel show regular and German comedy ambassador **Henning Wehn** reminds us that **Westphalia is Not an Option** at **19:30** over at **The Queen's Hall**. Then round off with Irish social commentator **Andrew Maxwell: Showtime** at **21:00** at **Assembly George Square**.



Day Three

Check out Scottish TV and radio favourite **Fred MacAulay in Conversation** at **13:30** at **Gilded Balloon at The Museum**. Star of BBC1's **Dead Ringers** and countless other impressionist shows, Jan Ravens does her best Theresa May and a host of other characters in **Jan Ravens: Difficult Woman** at **19:00**, also at **Gilded Balloon Teviot**. Simon Cowell's favourite clown and international megastar **Tape Face** finishes day three at **21:40** at the **Pleasance Courtyard**. Sorted!

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Ed Aczel's Holy Places of the Fringe

Oh if these cobbled streets could talk! They'd say "Ha ha I f*cked your tyres!" So ignore them, and gaze instead upon 70 years of legendary Fringe events and the sacred sites upon which they happened. Saddle a donkey, pilgrim, and join us...

A. The site of The Edinburgh Fringe's first mobile kebab van in 1981. Regular clientele down the years have included luminaries from stage and screen such as Stephen Fry, Jon Pertwee, Jeremy Corbyn and Lady Antonia Fraser. In fact, so synonymous was the van with late night showbiz life that Hale and Pace immortalised it with their sketch *Large Donner and Chips Please...* No Coleslaw Thanks.

B. The Shrine of Daniel Kitson (used mainly on fallow years). This is where fans tend to congregate to tell stories, play scrabble and talk all things postmodern, because they can.

C. This is where the legendary 1970s collective and sketch group Grand Monkey YoYo? came up with the concept of a show as a lived-in experience. They simply existed in their Grassmarket venue, The Grassmarket Venue. Audiences could join them if they chose and, if asked, make them a cup of tea. An unintended consequence was Channel 4's *Big Brother* (something the collective has distanced itself from).

d. The site, in 1982, of Malcolm Hardee's first legendary toilet gig, now an Edinburgh institution. One comedian, one toilet, anything goes.

E. The Tron Church hosted

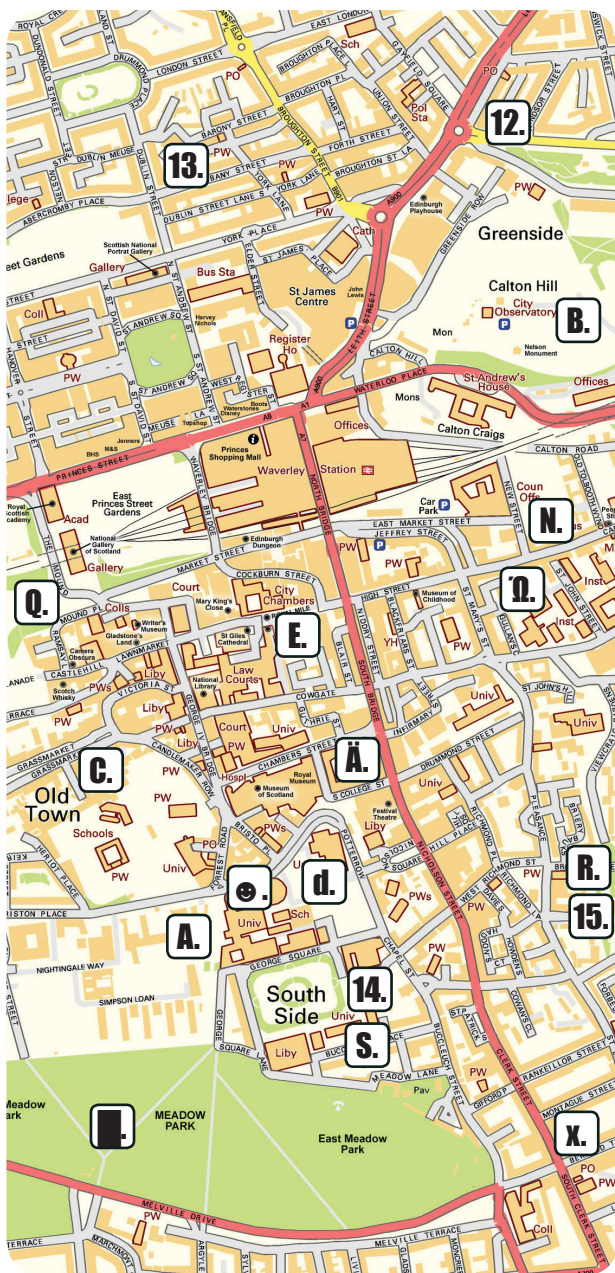
the Meeting of the Four Venues in 1979. This marked the end of The Battle of The Bars (1973-79), where the big four agreed to come off the mattresses and tie up festival comedy into an oligopoly. The price of Stella and sausage rolls would later quadruple as a result.

12. The site of the original Pandemonium Theatre where, in 1957, Arthur Askey performed his first solo show entitled *It's All About Me Because It's My Show*.

13. Margaret Thatcher performed her hugely successful show *Is it Me Or Everyone Else?* here in 1974. Oddly this is the actual cause of the antipathy she received from many left-wing comedians in later years and not, as some people now think, because she ruthlessly destroyed British industry. It was universally felt that she cynically pandered to her audience with lame well-trodden comedy fodder, which had traditionally been the left's territory.

N. This is the Awkward Silence, the pub where John Bishop first showed his face on August 2, 2003: Often considered a sad day in comedy for many reasons.

Ä. This is the site of the first immersive multimedia show in 2005. Johnny Vegas created an abstract artform by having his audience program Java and sometimes HTML 4.0 where required.



N. The most famous spin-off from an Edinburgh Fringe show is *Game of Thrones*, first performed at the White Horse as part of PBH's Free Fringe in 2009. The show actually didn't do that well, but George RR Martin felt he was really onto something when an audience member in medieval gear was sick all over him.

N. A funny Fringe fact: 1970s supergroup Supertramp first met whilst attending a lunchtime mime class on the Meadows in 1968, taught by comedian and raconteur Roy Walker from TV's *Catchphrase*.

14. Bob Hope, Dean Martin and Don Rickles did a three-hander at the original Gilded Balloon in 1958 – but did not return due to a disagreement with door staff over mid-week seating arrangements.

15. Famous double acts at the Pleasance Courtyard have included Little and Large (1981), Paul and Linda McCartney (1983), and Cameron and Clegg (2015).

☺ • Bob Carolgies and his dog Spit, Bernie Clifton and his horse Oswald, and Rod Hull and Emu were regulars on the Fringe circuit, but famously fell out at the Doctor's pub in 1974 for stealing each others' act.

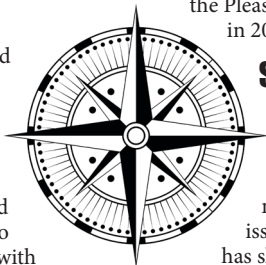
X. Eamon Andrews presented a Fringe *This is your Life* special in 1967 – surprising Jimmy Edwards just before his *Jimmy Edwards has a Handlebar Moustache for Fun* show.

Q. Yoko Ono was a regular audience member at the Assembly between 1982 and 1985. She was known to be an abusive heckler and often drunk. In later years she was banned from some venues.

R. The mathematician Godfried Godel came up with his theory on axiomatic Euclidian diagonal sets after seeing the Mighty Boosh at the Pleasance Courtyard in 2004.

S. Although the last 70 years have seen many shows focus on major political issues, research has shown that only one person's opinion has ever changed after seeing a political Fringe show. His name was Arthur Holmes and he saw Rob Holroyd's *The Revolution Will Probably Be Televised Actually* at PBH's Bannermans in 1964. Arthur had always veered towards Trotsky as a good egg, but after the show leaned more towards Leninism purely on dialectical grounds.

Is Edward Aczel Infinite? is at **Heroes @ The Hive at 18:15, Aug 3-27 (not 15)**



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Only mainstream comics get big DVD deals. So where can you get good recordings of the stuff that's more niche, more challenging, more... Fringe?



According to the comic and poet John Hegley, to make a living as a comedian, you need 5,000 fans prepared to buy your stuff. Five thousand enthusiasts going to gigs, reading books, downloading podcasts and watching DVDs. Keep feeding these devotees new product and they'll never leave you. They are all powerful and without them there would be no Daniel Kitson.

Indie comedy outfit Go Faster Stripe, has adopted this idea as a business model.

Chris Evans, Go Faster

Stripe's founder, tells its origin story. "In short, no production company wanted to make a DVD of Stewart Lee's show, *90s Comedian*. So I Did."

Stewart Lee was fresh from near bankruptcy, having had his West End musical, *Jerry Springer the Opera* closed as a result of heavy lobbying by a right-wing Christian sect. Those offended by Stewart's gay Jesus in the now defunct musical did not appreciate Lee doubling down on the blasphemy in *90s Comedian*. So Chris asked a couple of mates, who happened to be professional camera operators, to help out. More than ten years later and they're still helping.

“ Stewart Lee was fresh from near bankruptcy when it all started. ”

.....

"After the *90s Comedian* release became successful, Stewart introduced me to Richard Herring, who has since become our most prolific comedian."

Go Faster Stripe now stocks DVDs, CDs, albums, books, downloads and some of the UK's most successful comedy podcasts. An episode of Richard Herring's Leicester Square Theatre Podcast (known as *RHLSTP*) reunited Lee and Herring for a touching and hysterically funny

interview. Another episode featured Stephen Fry, in which the national treasure talked openly for the first time about his attempted suicide.

"Richard Herring is a living, breathing example of John Hegley's 5,000 theory in practice," notes Chris. "He uses his podcasts to build his fanbase enough to sell out live tours, without the faff of having to appear on television."

Chris has now worked with pretty much a Who's Who of modern alternative comedy. Munnery, Eldon, Lovett and Law among many others. Simon Donald, the founder of *Viz*, has released his autobiography through the company. Brendon Burns

produced a limited-edition vinyl record, with extensive sleeve notes recreating the comedy albums of yore.

"The comedian retains control of the project all the way through. Nothing happens without the comic wanting it to happen. Importantly, the comedian shares copyright on each release."

Does Chris have a favourite? "Well, Stewart started the whole thing.

"I don't do marketing. We make the best product that we can and the audience finds it."

Richard is terrific. I am very proud of Susan Calman's release, *Ladylike*. She's a brilliant comedian, the film looks amazing and, best of all, a clip of it was shown on *The One Show*, which made my mum very proud.

"My biggest thrill though, was probably meeting the great Barry Cryer. He can drink me under the table."

So how do you market stuff that people haven't heard of? "I don't do marketing. We make the best product that we can and the audience finds it. People have been doing this in the music industry for years. I have an email list

and I'll use Facebook and Twitter, but by doing that I'm only speaking to people who are fans already.

"I don't think about whether a product will sell, particularly. I just want it to be good."

So perhaps it's true that the Stewart Lee releases keep the whole enterprise going? "That was certainly the case in the beginning. But these days Richard and several others also have strong followings."

It's a recurring theme in Stewart Lee routines that he has the sort of fans who are happy to steal his stuff from the internet, whereas Michael MacIntyre's devotees will obligingly buy a DVD.

"Go Faster releases do appear on torrent sites and on YouTube occasionally but, to be honest, when I message folk to state that we're only a small company, not a nasty multi-national, they almost always get taken down.

"One of Richard Herring's shows turned up on the internet dubbed entirely in Russian. It's bloody hilarious. I'm trying to find out who it is so we can ask permission to use it as a DVD extra."

Now there's integrity: asking a bootlegger for permission to use something they nicked from you in the first place.

gofasterstripe.com



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Copyright In-Fringe-Ments

Got an edgy parody/tribute show? **Becky Walker's Panda** says look out for lawyers. Lawyers are cocks. Is that actionable? Sorry... lawyers are allegedly cocks

Spare a thought (and some time) this August for Cambridge comedy set The Amorous Prawn, whose Famous Five satire *Five Go Off On One: A Jolly Good Romp Through Childhood* was threatened by the legal end of Hachette Book Group, which owns the Famous Five brand, claiming infringement of trademark.

Despite a well-established point of law in both England and Scotland that allows for parody and the use of well-known names and brands where it's clear they're not mimicking for profit ('passing off'), the group didn't want bother. They offered to rename themselves *The Reasonably Well Known Five: An Unofficial, Unlicensed and Unrestrained Parody*. This, too, was not good enough for Hachette which appears to believe that it owns the number five. So now it's *Four Go Off On One* (ditching Timmy saves a month of dog biscuits, I suppose), having caved in to the chip-pissers.

Hachette may wish to be the only group profiting from Blyton parodies; its own series of adult books such as *Five Go Parenting* and *Five on Brexit Island* are on sale now. Therefore the childish drawing on the right is not a parody of the Famous Five, but a parody of the official parody of the Famous Five. So there.

This is not the first time Fringe Shows have been forced to adjust for reasons of copyright. In 2011 Jody Kamali was threatened by DK Publishing for his show

Idiot's Guide to Business Coaching. In 2012 Alan Anderson's *Whiskey Fir Dafties* emerged last-minute when *Whiskey For Dummies* was threatened by IDG Books. Shouldn't these two publishers be suing each other instead of vulturing Fringe bods?

“The BBC went apesh*t, faxing through pages and pages of cease and desist”

.....

In 2014 *Whose Line Is It Anyway* returned as *What Does The Title Matter Anyway* when it failed to secure the rights to the original name in time for the Fringe although, with all the stalwarts from 1998 on board, it was pretty authentic.

Quite the opposite was *Ted & Co: The Dinner Show* which began at the Fringe in 2012. The company, Laughter Lines, also does *Fawlty Towers: The Dinner Show*, not to be confused with *Fawlty Towers: The Dining Experience*, which has now run for more than 20 years. Despite making writers Graham Linehan and John Cleese livid, no legal recourse seems to have been taken – although one reviewer who dissed *Ted & Co* was threatened with libel by Laughter Lines, which is hilarious. Sorry... which is terrible.

Perhaps the best story in this canon is told by Fringe producer David Johnson, who put on *Just A Minute Live!* At the Acropolis, a big

tent on Calton Hill, in 1993:

“The show duly appeared in the Fringe programme and the BBC went apesh*t – faxing through pages and pages of cease and desist to me, the venue and the Fringe Society. But the rights were owned in full by Ian Messiter, the lovely man who invented the game and who I had already paid for a licence.

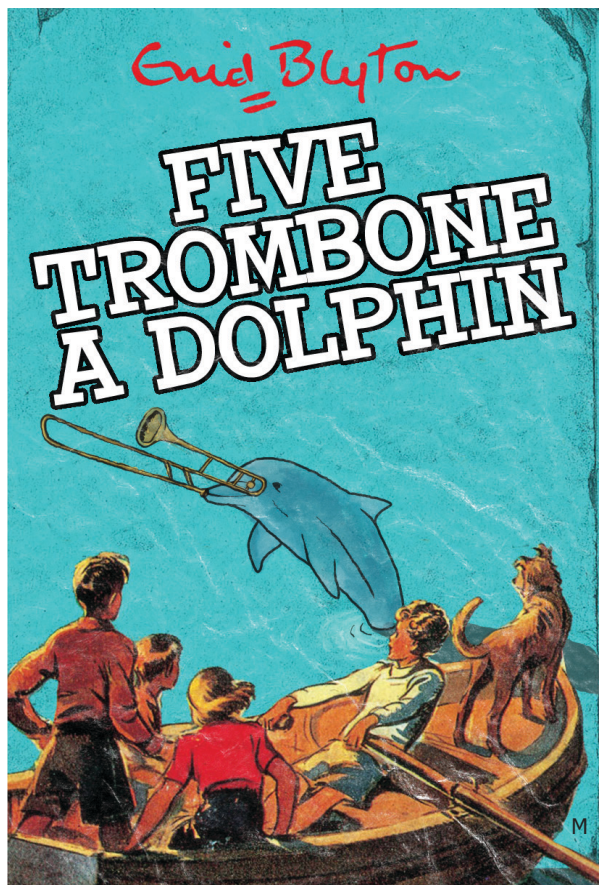
In the end they settled for a disclaimer on the venue doors that our version was nothing to do with the BBC.

“The very first challenge

in the very first show was Lynn Ferguson for repetition of the word ‘c*nt’.

“This led to another hysterical call from the Radio 4 series producer who rather spoilt her case by, in the same call, asking for phone numbers for our stars Graham Norton and Greg Proops (then unknown), because she wanted to book them for the broadcast version.

“I’m told this is why people are no longer allowed to keep the copyright to game shows they devise for BBC Radio. I blame Lynn.”



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