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2017/4

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*Phil Ellis: shed-bound
and pantless!*

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motorbikes!*

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

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

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 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?

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HOSTED BY CLIVE ANDERSON

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 GREG PROOPS
 JOSIE LAWRENCE
 MIKE MCSHANE
 TONY SLATTERY
 STEPHEN FROST
 RICHARD VRANCH
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 AND KIRSTY NEWTON ON PIANO

assembly ASSEMBLY ROOM GEORGE STREET

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BEN FOGG

HOW I WON BEST NEWCOMER 2017



33 PLEASANCE COURT YARD 4.45PM
 02-28 AUG (NOT 14)

www.getcomedy.com



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Welcome to FringePig

Well Hello,

Have you noticed how – despite it being the FRINGE's 70th birthday too – it's only the Festival that's having a party? All those banners and billboards of yellow and black; billowing with Hegelian intent? You'd think it was just their time, not ours. They'd roll their tanks down the street if it wasn't for all the forms they'd need to fill.

With Standard Life conspiring with the Festival to march into St Andrew's Square and turn it into a fluorescent paisley headache, there's a prevailing sense that the Fringe Society's 'Alliance of Defiance' is more like the Big Fix of the Big Dicks. Ever get the feeling you've been cheated?

Our high point was last year: our biggest ever, 69er year. We've shrunk since then, and the signs are we'll diminish more. The FFS would have us believe that what was 'defied' in 1947 was some nebulous notion of exclusion. It wasn't: It was the people with the money and the Town Hall's elbows. Maybe we need to defy them again?

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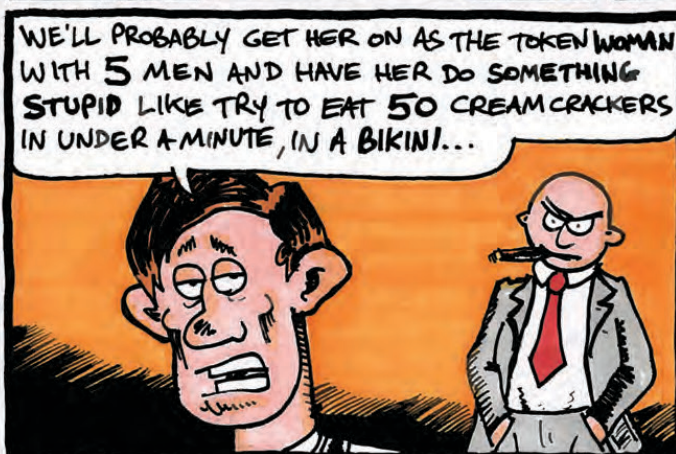
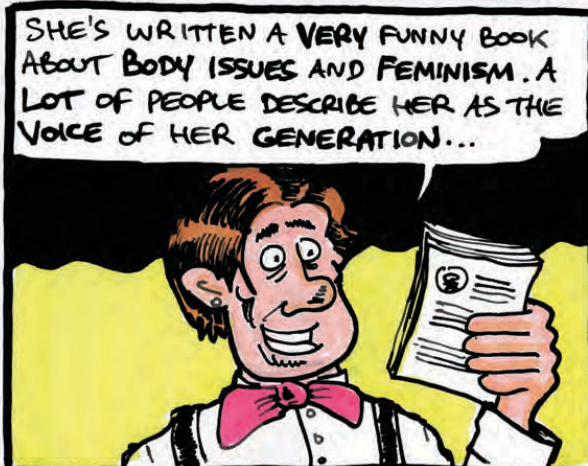
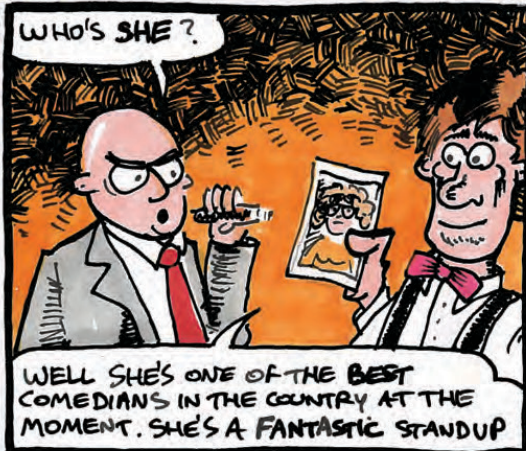
FIND US AT THESE LOVELY VENUES:



COMEDIANS

BY CHRISTIAN TALBOT (@THETALLBOT)
& ROB BONHAM (@RBONHAMCARTOONS)

CZ.17



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



Can't Give It Away

Flyerers! The fact that a show is free is *not* its main attraction, says **YIANNI AGISILAOU**

All the free show flyerers let me hear you say 'Hey!' All the free show flyerers let me hear you say 'Ho!' All the free show flyerers DON'T let me hear you say 'Free Comedy?'

Urgh. This is the worst. Within days, a walk down Cowgate became a never-ending Groundhog Day of pamphleteers waving flyers and wasting the mere two seconds of attention they may have with someone walking by; trying to market their shows with nothing more than 'Free Comedy?'

Free Comedy? That's your USP?

There are more than 1,000 free comedy shows at the Fringe this year. So trying to sell your show with nothing more than 'Free Comedy?' is selling ice to Eskimos, sand to the desert nomads or tired metaphors of superabundance to clever people like you.

The artist whose show you're selling didn't write a free show. They wrote a show. If you asked them what it's about, the first thing they'd say isn't 'It's

free.' Neither should you. It's about something. Try and hook people with that. Be creative. Ask an open ended question. Have a puppet that talks to people. Paint your face. Kneecap people.

Anything! Just not

'Free Comedy?' spoken as a question. Yet it's still the default slogan.

I have a dream.

That one day, shows from Cowgate to Greyfriars Bobby will not be judged by the price of their tickets but by the content of their characters!

I have a dream! That one day all of God's children, black men and white men, Jews and gentiles, Protestants and Catholics, will be able to join hands, walk down the Royal Mile and hear the words of the old Negro spiritual, "Free comedy at last! Free comedy at last! But thank God! The guy told us what it IS!"

Yianni Agisilaou:
Pockets of Equality,
is at Banshee
Labyrinth, 14:00, until
Aug 27 (Not Mondays)



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.

Comedy: Culture's ghetto?

It's a hot-button issue at last: the establishment thinks that comedy is worthless. LEO KEARSE (Tory capitalist) and ROB MULHOLLAND (socialist working-class agitator) have joined forces to ask why public money is only ever spent on entertainment few of us want

Long before theatre supremo **Nica Burns** took up the cause (check your next-best comedy news provider), **Rob Mulholland** was exploring the low social status of stand-up comedy in his one-man play, *Popular Comedian Rob Mulholland*. It's about a comedian who tricks

Arts Council England into funding his comedy

show by pretending it's a play.

There is also the small matter of his car, the Invisible Rob, named because it is officially a venue. As long as he's inside it, he's complying with funding regulations.

Stand-up comedy's lack of funding, from Arts Council England, Creative Scotland or the two other regional arts funding bodies is, he believes, the most blatant sign

that the comedian's art form is held in contempt by anyone with an oar in "the Arts".

Rob says: "Arts councils don't fund comedy because it's a 'self-funding industry', apparently – which came as a surprise to me



Rob Mulholland

after seeing my bill for last year's Fringe. I believe it has more to do with the fact that comedy is actually entertaining and enjoyed by working-class people. "These bodies waste vast sums of money on attempting to revive long-dead and irrelevant art forms such as opera and ballet. These old genres aren't fit for purpose any more. Their deaths are not something to be mourned; it's just natural selection.

"All of this is fed into by the bullshit notions of high art and low art; basically, if something is entertaining

and enjoyed by working-class people then it is of inferior artistic value."

This, he believes, is why comedy is neglected even though it remains dominated by the middle classes. "Surely giving working-class artists a chance to create art that is relevant to them is the whole point of Arts Council England or Creative Scotland?" he asks.

Leo Kears says the same prejudice is repeated at council level here in Edinburgh. Last year it abandoned (for the second



“More money needs to be funnelled towards poor comedians with something to say. Less money needs to be funnelled into Sebastian and Tarquin's Modern Dance F*ckabout”

time) a “transient visitor levy” during the Fringe. Last year *Fringe* warned that they would try again. And guess what? Starting as early as April 2018, a reanimated tax on visitors is expected to raise £10 million a year - about one tram wheel's worth - “to invest in festivals, venues and conference centres”.

Leo says: “Visitors may not notice the extra two quid on their already overpriced Fringe dosshouse. As Councillor Paul Edie assures us, it's just ‘the price of a cappuccino - hardly breaking the bank’. That gives us an insight into how a public-sector

salary allows you to see overpriced treats as insignificant frivolities.

“This tax will have negative trickledown to the buckets and box offices of Fringe performers, but the cash raised will be spent far away from the comedians who draw those audiences here. Instead, it's going to be spent on the big ‘cultural’ venues. An unholy alliance called the ECV (Edinburgh Cultural Venues) is all for it.”

Perhaps, he suggests, we're fed this spending pattern in our own homes. “The BBC's licence fee is a flat tax levied on all households, but mainly supports a haughty cabal of Oxbridge nepotists.

Lottery funds are raised mostly from the poor and desperate scratchcard masses but aren't reinvested in things the masses enjoy - they're funnelled to elitist arts. The proles are given the Lottery-funded *Sex Lives of the Potato Men* instead of, say, Luisa Omielan's deeply personal, uplifting proletarian stand-up.”

Rob agrees. “More money needs to be funnelled towards poor comedians with something to say. Less needs to be given to Sebastian and Tarquin's Modern Dance F*ckabout.”

Sophie Bambrough, speaking for Creative Scotland, points out that the body funds the Fringe AND the Glasgow Comedy

Festival in general terms.

She adds that there is no specific ban on funding a comedian, but relatively few have ever approached Creative Scotland for support. To be considered, comedians would need to “make the case for public funding by demonstrating their vital contribution in increasing quality and access to their work”.

We're not sure what that means, exactly. But it sounds like a lot of forms.

Popular Comedian Rob Mullholland is at Just The Tonic at The Caves, 20:00, until Aug 27 (not 14)

Leo Kears: I Can Make You Tory is at Laughing Horse Free Sisters, 19:30, until Aug 27 (not 15)



Leo Kears

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fringe self-out show 2016

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7 Sensible Questions

with Billy Coconuts



Phil Ellis

He is comedy's first prince of carefully-crafted amateurism. We sent a stuffed monkey to talk to him.

1 **My Boss, Mr Kipper, started Fringepig partly because he was so pissed off with the reviewers who didn't understand your 2013 show, *Unplanned Orphan*. Now you're doing *Funz and Gamez* for the third time. Is it boring having a room full of people who understand what you're doing? Have you maybe lost your Kaufman-like, situationist edge?**
I loved that first Edinburgh show and part of the fun was playing it pretty straight and sending out a misleading press release that led reviewers to believe that it would be a powerful emotional journey.

I did expect more people to realise what the joke was: an idiot who'd lied and was desperately trying to make a shambolic show award-worthy. The reviews were a lot of fun to play with though. My favourite was Broadway Baby's opening line, "Paul Ellis's show was a series of errors". *Funz and Gamez* was meant to be a

continuation of that style.

I was initially hoping for walkouts, and there were a few at first, but I soon realised you could make it accessible for the kids and the parents on different levels and that it was probably best to not emotionally scar the children. Sometimes I wish I could go back to my old style of getting a masochistic pleasure from a room full of paying customers hating me and believing everything that was going on was real and unintentional.

2 **Uncle Mick was unwell last time I saw him. Is he getting the help he needs?**
Not really seen him since the court case but he assures me he's living clean and will be "out" in time for the Festival.

3 **In every show you've ever done, like, EVER, you've banged on incessantly about your ex-girlfriend. Leanne, was it? If you heard that she had been eaten by a**



crocodile do you think this would help you to move on, or would it make things even worse?

Well firstly I think it's unfair to say that I "banged on" about her. I may have mentioned her briefly in passing. I'm not even bothered that she kept the house and the Rover 416 and that she's married a builder called Jamie. Not arsed mate.

The crocodile "tragedy" would make life easier for me I suppose because she wouldn't be able to keep moving house all the bloody time. She's costing me a fortune in private investigator and legal fees.
... OK, what if she

hadn't been eaten by a crocodile but was now engaged to one? How would that stack up?
She already is married to a scaly, unpleasant reptile.

4 **What's the best banana you've ever eaten? Set the scene and mood. Include the weather. Take me there.**
Ah, I remember it like it was yesterday. The best banana I ever had was yesterday, inside the comfort of a shed. It was dusk and I had just woken from a deep slumber; there was a nice cool eastern breeze gently whistling through the spyhole I had made with a fork. I slowly

peeled the first banana skin flap southward as I closed my eyes and bit my bottom lip in anticipation.

I couldn't wait any longer; I de-flapped the banana, opened my mouth wide and took it whole into my mouth. Gagging slightly and with my eyes watering, I threw my head back and let it slide comfortably down my throat and into my cavernous belly. I smiled from the corner of my mouth and winked at no one in particular. Then the door flew open, as if it was in a hurry to embrace the lawnmower.

There stood Police Constable Patricia. We'd met a few weeks previous but, this time, I wasn't disguised as a chimnea. She cuffed me like a common criminal and dragged me toward the car before I even had a chance to pull my trousers up (and I ALWAYS go commando). "I put that shed up Leanne! I have visitation rights to the shears too you know!" I exclaimed proudly. But my well-made argument was ignored and now I have to

collect litter three times a week in a hi-vis jacket. Good banana though.

5 Yes, that sounds like an excellent banana!

What do you think of baboons? They're dicks, right? Too right! My dad used to shoot the pricks for a laugh.

6 I'm sure I'd get on with your dad. If your comedy career was on fire, which two items would you save? What do you mean 'if'? I'd save my chiselled good looks and my incredible sense of...

7 Shag, marry, kill: An ostrich, former African dictator Mobutu Sese Seko Kuku Ngbendu Wa Za Banga, and the crocodile from question 3? (Note: it has apologised about eating Leanne and bought you a drink). Timing. I don't believe in any of the above activities so I'd just sit them all down and talk to them about myself until I felt they knew the real me.



Funz and Gamez: Flogging a Dead Horze, 13:30, Just the Tonic at the Community Project, until Aug 27 (not 14)
Phil Ellis has Been on Ice, 19:40, Just the Tonic at The Mash House, until Aug 27 (not 14)

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.

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Laughing Horse@
THE HANOVER TAP
 VENUE 259 - 112 HANOVER STREET - 0131 255 2022
 2:30PM DAILY FROM 4TH TO 28TH AUGUST (EXCEPT THE 15th)

CIRCUIT BUNNY

The Fringe is in full swing...





YOU must be pissed off, Bun..

Yeah, you got him into comedy and he hasn't even spoken to you all Fringe!

Yeah... I s'pose...

He used to pee himself before every gig before I taught him some breathing exercises.

Bun that is HARSH. talk about it on my live Fringe podcast tonight!

Next day

He DOES owe it all to me. The ungrateful sh*t

un be li ev ab le !

Hey Bun!

Oh hi Jimmy! Congratulations on the show Jimmy!

Bun... listen, my show's going to tour. Do you want to be my support?

That's just... I mean... YES

W... wow... Really??

bleep

You know I don't always get your stuff Bun, but at least it isn't the lame my-problems-are-someone-else's-fault self-pitying 'adversity' bullshit everyone else seems to b- hang on... getting a text.

What the f*ck? You betrayed our friendship? WHY? To impress these bitter sh*ts?

"Just been sent a link to Bun talking about you pissing yourself - call me"

I... I... don't... um

ONE YEAR LATER

FREE SHOW

FREE SHOW

FREE SHOW

Don't miss "Bear Faced Lies" The shocking tale of how my dreams, devotion and trust were DESTROYED by massive TV star Jimmy Nicebear! IT'S FREE!

THE END

Fringepig's Fringe Picks



Teddy Medic

Teddy Medic was thrown out of the US Army for loving comedy theatre. He can't fix grunts no more, but he's damn well gonna try and fix culture! These are his fav'rits...

6 x 6 x 6, Pleasance Dome, 16:20 until Aug 29

For 12 years the Comedians' Theatre Company has been casting stand-up comics in straight-up roles in stuff written by comedians. so it ain't surprisin' that a lot of it ends up funny. Curated by Maggie Inchley and Phil Nichol. Nice!

Baba Brinkman's Rap Guide to Consciousness, Assembly George Square, 17:40 until Aug 28

A Fringe First-winning comedy rapper returns – and how! – with another science show. He's moved on from climate change an' such to 'the scientific study of consciousness'. He's kinda like a cross between Robin Ince and Stormzy. Sure is funny!

#DirtyWoman Laughing Horse @ The Cuckoo's Nest, 16:15 until Aug 27.

This is kinda like a disastrous seminar which falls apart with the help of mud, water and *blushes* nudity. It's just so frickin' Fringey!

Fleabag, Underbelly George Square, 17:15 until Aug 27

This is Phoebe Waller-Bridge's play that inspired the best damn Beeb show in ages. Some damn how, it's even stankier than the TV version!



Ocho Brown

Ocho is a comedy purist: one man, one microphone. Or woman. But no more than one woman on a panel show! Not really: Ocho's husband said that, and she ate him.

Andrew Doyle: Thought Crimes, The Stand, 18:30 until Aug 27

Co-writer of Jonathan Pie and a regular writer for the libertarian cyber-tabloid Spiked!, Doyle offers a left-wing defence for voting to leave the EU. A tightly-written hour about the lost art of engaging with those that disagree.

Dane Baptiste: G.O.D., Pleasance Courtyard, 21:00 until Aug 27 (not 16)

For someone who has been on *Live at the Apollo* and all sorts, Dane can still come across a little nervous – which I like. And despite the grandiose title it's still his talent for silly little details that crack me up the most.

Martha McBrier: Balamory Doubtfire, Laughing Horse @ Finnegan's Wake, 17:00 until Aug 27

Storytelling comedian McBrier asks: "Is being soft (soft) the same as being daft?" The poster has proven controversial, as it depicts

Martha with a didgeridoo. She has insulted Indigenous Australians, say some smelly white people.



Becky Walker's Panda

Becky Walker's Panda joined Fringepig as a reviewer-reviewer and soon felt compelled to see all the most misunderstood shows. He became our John Peel of esoteric comedy. These are his 2017 picks:

Ben Fogg: How I Won Best Newcomer 2017, Pleasance Courtyard, 16:45 until 28th

Ben has written a heart-warming, pole-stiffening watermelon of a show. Ben says: "I'm delightful and inspiring, like a hill-top wizard battling a sadness dragon." So yeah.

George Egg: DIY Chef, Gilded Balloon Teviot, 16:15 until Aug 27

This chap was a straight-up prop comic for years until he suddenly found a new mojo in cookery using the stuff in tiny hotel rooms. Now he's in the garage. He's not using Gideon Bibles to hold his pancakes this time but his exploits are just as off-doctrine.



Hyprov: Improv Under Hypnosis,

Assembly George Square, 22:30 until 27th
North-American Whose Line-ers Mike McShane and Colin Mochrie join forces with the hypnotist Asad Mecci. They whittle a stage full of volunteers down into the five most suggestible improv dupes. It's hilarious. Cruel, but hilarious. Imagine doing improv and not knowing? Yikes.

Paul Foot: 'Tis a Pity She's a Piglet, Underbelly Cowgate, 19:10 until 27th

Ever since I saw Paul explain the precise likelihood of when I could next expect to see a shire horse I've been a fan of his unique comedy manner; sort of like an irritated vicar who has been forced to entertain children. Except that I've seen Paul entertain children and they bloody love him. This show is very, very, very similar to all his others – which is why it's good.

Rob Kemp: The Elvis Dead,

Heroes @ Monkey Barrel Midnight. until Aug 27 (not 22, 23)

Bob Slayer, Heroes of the Fringe creative dictator, iconoclast, jockey and bus driver says that Rob's show is his favourite this year. "If this isn't a hit at the Fringe I'm going to sew my bumhole up and never poo again", he vowed. And the drunken idiot is right, because I've seen it and it's brilliant. *The Elvis Dead* I mean, not Bob's bumhole. Let's be very clear about that.

Twonkey's Christmas in the Jungle,

Heroes @ Dragonfly, 19:20, until 27th.

Winner of the 2016 Malcolm Hardee Award for comic originality, character comedian Paul Vickers

returns as the absurdist storytelling clown. Some of the songs are actually rather lovely. But then Paul is also the vocalist and lyricist with cult rock outfit *Dawn of the Replicants*. Not a lot of people know that.

Pics (left to right):
Phoebe Waller-Bridge,
Martha McBrier and
Twonkey.



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"Breathtaking"
- LEICESTER COMEDY SCENE

ROB KEMP'S
THE ELVIS DEAD

A tribute to the sequel to the ultimate in gruelling terror
...and the King of Rock 'n Roll.

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

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"HOW TO
ENTERTAIN"
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**VICKI SARGENT:
ONE WOMAN ARMY**
13.50 (50 MINS) FREE

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free festival
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3RD-27TH AUGUST
(NOT 6TH, 14TH, 20TH)

LAUGHING HORSE
(A) THE CUCKOO'S NEST
VENUE 106 - 69 HOME STREET EH3 9JP



#LetsSellThisGigOut

Great shows need more people. Hilarious angry git **Michael Legge** urges you to give each of these comics a day to treasure before they lie on their death beds being eaten by rats and bailiffs

Wed 16th



Nick Doody: Interesting Times

PBH Free Fringe @ Liquid Room Annexe, 19:30

@NickDoody

A brilliant comedian and one I never miss. And he's free. You should be paying triple that for Nick; he's fantastic!

Thu 17th



Phil Ellis Has Been On Ice

Just the Tonic @ The Mash House, 19:40

@Thephilellis

You'll know Phil from Funz and Gamez but what you won't know is that Phil is also a comedian. And a really punctual one. I love him.

Fri 18th



Steve Gribbin: Shunted Again

The Stand 5&6, 15:45

@Steve_Gribbin

Steve is a proper funny, hard-working comic who just churns out great new material all the time. Plus, he really hates trains. That's why I like him.

Sat 19th



Carey Marx: The Afterwife

PBH Free Fringe at Liquid Room Annexe, 18:15

@CarexMarx

I really don't know what to say about Carey. I mean, he's always superb. He is NEVER shit. I can't imagine he's even done a shit. Oh, no actually I can.

Sun 20th



Don Biswas: Left Wing Conspiracy Theorist (With Dyspraxia)

Laughing Horse @ The Counting House, 21:30

@DonBiswascomedy

He's got jokes. And he's not too happy with the state of the world. Funny and angry, just like everyone I have ever truly loved.

Mon 21st



Trevor Lock's Community Circle

Bannerman's, 15:00

@TheTrevorLock

Describing this show in any way would ruin it. I'll just say this: it's one of the very best shows at the Fringe and you'll definitely see it again and again. It's free too!

Tue 22nd



Luke McQueen: The Boy with Tape on His Face

Heroes @ Monkey Barrel, 22:40

@MrLukeMcQueen

Utterly hilarious. A world-class piss-taker. Or is he? I'm never sure. I think he is. He's definitely hilarious. I'm sure of that. Yes.

Wed 23rd



Seymour Mace's Magical Shitcakes From Heaven

The Stand 3&4, 13:30

@seymourmace

The less of a f*ck he gives, the funnier he is. Say his name to anyone and chances are they'll say "best show I've seen this year". Every year.



Thu 24th



Ben Target's Orangeade

Heroes @ Dragonfly,
17:00

@BenTarget

The more I see of Ben Target the more I love him. He's not said how he feels about me yet. Ben and I could be the "will they/won't they" of this Fringe.

Sat 26th



Pat Cahill: The Fisherman

Heroes @ Monkey Barrel,
14:50

@patcanbefound

One of the shows I am most looking forward to so I'm saving it up for a treat at the end. Pat is absolutely stunning. You'll love him.

Michael Legge: Jerk
is at stand 2, 13:20,
until Aug 27

Fri 25th



Jessica Fostekew: The Silence of the Nans

Just the Tonic @ the Caves,
16:00

@jessicafostekew

Really engaging and constantly very funny. Jessica has a real confidence and wit about her that gets on my f*cking nerves because I don't have either.

Sun 27th



Richard Herring: Oh Frig, I'm 50

Pleasance Courtyard,
19:30

@Herring1967

Well this is the end. Unless do a show on the last Monday like a f*cking idiot. So please pity poor Richard; he'll still be here tomorrow. As if he hasn't got enough to worry about. See him today! While it's still actually the Fringe.

NATHAN CASSIDY

THE MAN IN THE ARENA

"The entire second row is pissed... and there are only two rows"
- Steve Bennett, Chortle

AUGUST 2017		AUGUST 2017	
3 THE FREE SISTERS 7.45pm	25 THE FREE SISTERS 7.45pm	8 SOLD OUT! AM ARENA	
4 THE FREE SISTERS 7.45pm	26 THE FREE SISTERS 7.45pm	9 SOLD OUT! AM ARENA	
5 THE FREE SISTERS 7.45pm	27 THE FREE SISTERS 7.45pm	10 SOLD OUT! AM ARENA	
6 THE FREE SISTERS 7.45pm		11 SOLD OUT! AM ARENA	
7 THE FREE SISTERS 7.45pm		12 SOLD OUT! AM ARENA	
8 THE FREE SISTERS 7.45pm		13 SOLD OUT! AM ARENA	
9 THE FREE SISTERS 7.45pm		14 SOLD OUT! AM ARENA	
10 THE FREE SISTERS 7.45pm		15 SOLD OUT! AM ARENA	
11 THE FREE SISTERS 7.45pm		16 SOLD OUT! AM ARENA	
12 THE FREE SISTERS 7.45pm		17 SOLD OUT! AM ARENA	
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14 SOLD OUT!		19 SOLD OUT! AM ARENA	
15 THE FREE SISTERS 7.45pm		20 SOLD OUT! AM ARENA	
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23 THE FREE SISTERS 7.45pm			
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Comedy about the origin of food, ideas & views

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★★★★★
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★★★★★
Sunbury Magazine

As seen on
BBC
itv
4

free festival

Laughing Horse At The Counting House (Attic)
3rd-27th August, 7pm
Free



'Ave a Day Off!

On the **21st** a lot of acts take a break and something one-off and quirky happens instead. **EDMUND RUMANIA** is checking these somethings out



A Young Man Dressed As A Gorilla Dressed As An Old Man Sits Rocking In A Rocking Chair For Fifty-Six Minutes And Then Leaves... 9

Voodoo Rooms • 18:10 • FREE

The Fringe-est show ever returns for its ninth year. This one will delight the purists: there is no Viking doing a crossword; it has gone right back to old school gorillaness. Although if this goes on much longer we will insist on the title *A Man Approaching Middle Age Dressed As a Gorilla...* Turn up early; it's always full.



Billie Holiday - A Celebration in Song

Outhouse (Venue 99) •

18:00, 20:00 • £10/£8

Who DOESN'T like Billie Holliday? One man. His name is Lewis Perkins and he lives at 14 Factory Close, Lewisham. But just him, and the entire US Republican Party. It says here that Ali Affleck and Speakeasy Swing will give a performance "brimming with optimism before turning the tide, and the air is engulfed with shattered moods of absolute despair". Oh sh*t. Still, never mind. Get some chips and tins on the way home maybe?



Locker Room Talk

Traverse Theatre • 14:45,

19:00 • £9/£7

What is acceptable to say to your friends when discussing women? Are we as liberal as we think? Is there a Donald Trump lurking in every hetero man? Should press releases use rhetorical questions? Contains strong language, references to sexual violence and hardcore complaining about what men are like.



Dae Ye Have a Sick-Line, Ken?

New Town Theatre •

13:50 • £8/£6

This is just about the niche-est thing we could find for you: A lighthearted game-show style scientific talk by a Heriot-Watt boffin about the challenges and contradictions of using drugs in sport. Yes. Read that again if you don't believe me. And don't say we never spoil you.



Dani Sicari and The Easy Rollers: Speakeasy Jazz

The Jazz Bar • 16:00 • £8/£6

Well 4pm is a bit early to get pissed, unless you're a university lecturer or a British Airways pilot. But that's okay because this is proper jazz from the 1920s prohibition era. So spend an afternoon with some great sounds and nurse a Diet Coke and just imagine how much better the atmosphere would be if you could still smoke. You know, like we could before the current prohibition era.



Sustaining a Career on the Fringe

Fringe Central • 14:00 • FREE

This discussion with "leading industry figures" aims to get to the bottom of the question: is there a point to doing the Fringe if you're a mid-career entertainer? Can you still be a proper parent and pay the mortgage and do a 'proper' day job? The industry figures will say Oh bloody hell YES, you CAN do all of this, because if there was any let-up on the annual lemming migration up here the "leading industry figures" would be eating their shoes instead of quaffing Bollinger.



Comic Relief Live

Assembly Hall • 20:00 • £16.50

Well, if you're going to go to a comedy extravaganza you might as well go to this one. John Bishop MCs a gaggle of famous and famous-ish faces for a good cause. Just make sure you do penance by dropping into a free show on the Royal Mile afterwards because, seriously, this isn't why you're here, is it?



BBC: Round Britain Quiz

BBC (Venue 25)

14:00, 15:30 • FREE

(ticket lottery at bbc.co.uk/tickets)

Here at Fringepig we generally discourage people from going near the BBC, whose big-tent licence fee-funded showcases have had a deleterious effect on performers who are trying to make a living. But even we have a soft spot for the Round Britain Quiz which, like the Fringe, is 70 this year.

How Politics Works

Paul Savage



Aug 3rd to 27th
free festival 2017

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Top Five Pubs *to get away from it all*

Edinburgh Native **ELEANOR MORTON** tells us the best pubs and bars to escape the Fringe. And reality. And the voices in your head



5 THE ROSSLYN, CRAIGMILLAR

This charming little gem is only a stone's throw from the middle of town, yet feels a world away. The Rosslyn offers a selection of craft ales and ciders, as well as a charming pub garden (complete with gazebo for rainy summer days). It's just out of the way enough to dissuade Fringe goers but still walkable from town. A favourite of local Ronnie Corbett, the pub has cordoned off his chair and table, affectionately called 'Corbett's Corner'.

4 SHINTY'S, LAURISTON AVENUE

An Irish pub with a fun quirk of playing nothing but The Pogues at any given time. Over the years, Shinty's has been accused

of gentrifying (they now serve all food and drink out of miniature barrels) but it's original charm still lingers, overseen by the vast Gerry Adams painting hanging above the fireplace. Not family or protestant friendly. Petting zoo on Fridays.

3 DRINKS WITH RACHEL, DEAN BRIDGE

A classy Cocktail bar in the West End, Drinks with Rachel famously only serves versions of the Martini – 600 different versions, to be exact. Come for the cocktails and stay for their 'toilet maze' – the loos here are so difficult to locate that nearly half of all patrons have soiled themselves in the bar area out of desperation; hence the well-placed mops and buckets you'll

see cheerfully scattered about the place.

2 BLACK SLIP
The original BDSM hangout for locals, Black Slip can only be entered from behind (just off Walkers Street) and with a pre-booked ticket. Black Slip is as infamous for their slam poetry Thursdays as they are for their hardcore erotica and full-on torture based dubstep. Black Slip has a strict attire policies – no trainers, no tracksuits. Half price drinks on Tuesdays.

1 ICECAPADES, CORSTOPHINE

Scotland's only year-round ice bar is a must see on any trip to Edinburgh. Due to Edinburgh's mild and rainy weather, Icecapades

is only ever half built, and patrons are advised to bring raincoats. Don't be put off by the three feet of freezing water covering the floor at any given time, the drinks here are to die for, and all served in beautifully carved ice tumblers which admittedly turn to slush within five minutes. Their terrifying accident rate has significantly reduced in the past few years, although there is still a danger of slipping and cutting your head open on their impressive ice sculpture of Sir Chris Hoy. Don't order a hot drink unless you don't mind your hands suffering third-degree burns.

Eleanor Morton:
Angry Young Woman
is at Stand 4, 12 noon,
until Aug 27 (not 14, 21)

There's Been a Murder-

-ously good play written! Best known for his Glasgow cop drama, **Glenn Chandler** is recalling the humour, horror and homophobia of boarding school

Edinburgh-born Glenn Chandler is best known for creating and writing the long-running ITV series *Taggart*. The show aired from 1983 to 2010 and remains the longest-running crime drama in television history.

Chandler's TV credits are extensive, but his first love has always been theatre. Drama, with a good dose of comedy.

"Comedy softens the blow," says Chandler. "If you introduce a mischievous tone to a scene; play it for fun and encourage the actors to use the audience's laughter then you can make the sometimes hard truth palatable. Accessible, maybe."

Chandler's first foray onto the Fringe was in 2008 with the play *The Boys of the Empire*. Set in a boy's public school, it featured a young, energetic cast of lads, larking about while quietly satirising class and colonialism.

His current show, *Lord Dismiss Us*, is adapted from the 1967



“ Gay activity was tolerated, but also used to blackmail ”

comic novel by Michael Campbell and tackles homophobia in public schools.

"It's a wickedly funny novel that rang so true to me. I couldn't believe that it hadn't been adapted for the stage before. Set at a time when homosexuality was illegal, yet seemingly every other pupil was doing it. In many schools, gay activity was quietly tolerated and never spoken about, though it would be used to intimidate and blackmail pupils and teachers. Suicide wasn't uncommon.

"The humour depicted in the book and the play reflects the atmosphere I remember at my all-boys public school here in Edinburgh. The comedy of the classroom and the

dorm is shown truthfully on the stage."

The drama unfolds as the school gets a new headteacher, Philip Crabtree. He and his pushy wife try to cleanse the school of all inappropriate behaviour. Interestingly, the head is homophobic and an atheist, while the Christian chaplain, the Rev Cyril Starr, is much more tolerant. Both are played by David Mullen.

"David is just amazing; a very versatile actor. He's brilliant at doing multiple roles. He plays comedy very well. Comedy and acting are about choices and a successful performance is about getting the choices right."

The play is performed in Edinburgh during the 50th anniversary of the decriminalisation of homosexuality in men of 21 years in England and Wales. "Yes, it was a conscious decision to bring the play to the Fringe in this year. It is intended as a celebration of how far we've come, but also as a warning. The election of Trump and his forbidding trans people to serve in the military reminds us how quickly things can go backwards if we don't remain vigilant." MW

Steve Bennett's New Job

Paul Savage



Lord Dismiss Us is at **The Space @ Surgeons Hall, 18:05, until Aug 26**

Interview Top Tens

These are the most popular of 400 comedian interviews at www.onthemic.co.uk, produced in association with FringePig.

on the
MIC

Top 10 Podcasts Fringe 2017



1. Simon Munnery ★

Straight in at number one, the brilliant Simon Munnery's 31st Fringe performance is discussed... a bit. A man who seemingly can't help but be hilarious.

2. Suzi Rufell ★

Recently-single Suzi reflects on the breakup with her girlfriend, the impact of a working-class background on comedy and relating to Brexit-supporting family and friends.

3. Pippa Evans ★

"What is going on?" asks Pippa. "America is being run by a stropky orange teenager, the polar bears are dying, there's a new war starting every day and the courgettes are running out." Thankfully Pippa is on hand to make us laugh.

4. Ed Byrne ★

Ed's Edinburgh show poster features the TV comic posing with a chainsaw. His show is less confrontational but just as sharp. He gives good interview too.

5. Jan Ravens ★

A great episode, where the Dead Ringers star demonstrates some of her latest impressions. The poor interviewer was snorting into the microphone and had to cut his audio. Her Theresa May is chillingly good.

6. Kate Smurthwaite ♀

The popular feminist is one of only two survivors from the last Fringe Top 10 chart - no doubt kept up by her appearances on TV and radio as a social commentator and advocate.

7. Jordan Brookes ★

This episode is hosted by the comedian Michael Legge for the #LetsSellThisGigOut series. Jordan talks about his new Edinburgh show, Body of Work. They also discuss the use of mime and Jordan's dog, Mr Tits.

8. Narin Oz ♀

Narin's show is called #DirtyWoman. It has mud in it. Nobody is quite sure what it's about and this will leave you none the wiser. However, FringePig has seen it and it's very good. She's on to something, we just don't know what.

9. Dane Baptiste ★

According to Dane, Christianity has become a dirty word for most people in the developed world - it's the new C-bomb. Our new GOD stands for Gold, Oil and Drugs. We find out more.

10. Jenny Bede ★

This episode features original comic tracks Emoji Song, Oi Tits and the campaigning tampon-tax anthem, Bad Blood. Jenny talks about her new show, Egg Time too.

Top 10 Scottish Comedian Podcasts

1. Rik Carranza ★

Rik is a massive Star Trek geek. His new show, I'm a Fan, is about fandom and the role Sci Fi has had on his life. So what happened when he met his hero, George Takei?

2. Ayesha Hazarika ★

A comedian-turned-political spokesperson-turned-comedian. How does the former special adviser to Ed Miliband and Harriet Harman feel about the rise of Jeremy Corbyn?

3. Ashley Storrie ♀

Like Rik, Ashley is a massive fan of Star Trek. It also turns out that William Shatner is a fan of Ashley Storrie. Her show, Ashley Storrie: Morning Glory is one of the biggest hits on the free Fringe this year.

4. Larry Dean ★

Larry is known as "the award winning Larry Dean" these days. He keeps winning things because he is bloody good. In the second of two interviews, recorded two years apart, we chart his success. Where next for the big fella?

5. Scott 'The Redman' Redmond ★

The Redman's new show, Departures, is the story of a poet forced to perform by Death. If he is liked he goes to Heaven, if not he ends up in Hell. This features live clips of his stand-up, comedy and poetry.

6. John Scott ★

He learned his trade at the Stand Comedy Club, but this left-wing comedian's career highlight was performing for the Conservative Party on election night. "Just a bit of fun". He chats about his Fringe show Delusions.

7. Susan Calman ♀

Susan cut her teeth on the Scottish comedy circuit and the Edinburgh Fringe. In an interview recorded in 2016, she talks about being a "Remain-supporting left-leaning lesbian" and how some of her "lovely Radio 4 audience" cope with it all.

8. Leo Kearse ★

The only 'out' Conservative voter on this list, Leo chats about right-wing politics and how he can turn you into a Tory too. Well maybe he can't, but he can make you laugh.

9. Janey Godley ♀

Janey runs the popular Janey Godley Podcast with her daughter, Ashley Storrie (see above). This extended interview was recorded in 2015.

10. Scott Agnew ♀

Recorded in 2016, this interview features Scott talking about his 'final chance' at the Fringe after suffering poor health. Of-course we know that things have gone very well for Scott since then.



Key

♂ Rising

♀ Falling

♂ Unchanged

★ New Entry



Eau No Not Again

It's about the winning,
not the taking part says
MARGO TERRACES

The tension is palpable as we pass the halfway point and everyone is talking about which shows are shaping up to win The Award.

It used to be the Perrier but everyone moaned about it 'cos Perrier was owned by Nestle so in the end Nestle said: "Fine, sod off and find someone else to polish your egos you utter shower of wankparrots" and now it's just an award everyone still calls the Perrier – so really Perrier still sponsors it, but for free. THAT award.

It has been won by such luminaries as... well obviously nobody can remember. It's always "Wotsisname... did he famously win it, or famously never win it?" Some of the best have never won it.

It doesn't matter. The very day after the Fringe is over, literally everything else – including Kate Middleton's shoes – is more important, unless you're a BBC producer. If you're a BBC producer then The Award is a

direct instruction from God to put the winner in an ill-conceived sitcom.

I only remember who won the debut-show award last year; it was that bloke who got arrested in July. Getting arrested is what the industry people call "good follow-up".

But enough humbug: Being the best of the handful of things a self-nominated coterie of random people have managed to see when they're not drinking gin in the Loft Bar is clearly EVERYTHING, so we will happily join the rest of the Fringe press in speculating wildly about the nominees for the Whatever The F*ck It Is Now Prize Award Gong Trophy Knighthood 2017:

Main Prize: That one who nearly won last time

Best Newcomer: Young wotsit with the haircut probably

Panel Prize: I'm just going to say monkey tits til this article goes away. Monkey tits, monkey tits, monkey tits, monkey tits, monkey tits, monkey tits, monkey tits,



Inheritance

A stand-up show about marrying your friend's mum for money
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'A class above most stand-ups, a great entertainer not to be missed!'
Dominion Post

Charmian Hughes

Soixante Mirth

Directed by John Gordillo

'Joyous and fun hour...'
★★★★★
Funny Women

'Like Josie Long's mum'
Chortle

'A joy!'
Kate Copstick, Scotsman

2-27 August | 2:25pm
£8/7 (Preview 2nd £7/6). Not 3rd and 14th

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Poo-Pooing the thesp

Where is that awful stench of not-proper comedy coming from? From a theatre near you, says **NATHAN CASSIDY**

What links Daniel Kitson, Mark Thomas and Nathan Cassidy? That's right, they're all awful. They all used to be very good of course, but now they're indisputably rubbish.

It's a well known fact that it takes about 10 years to be good as a comedian and then you have about 6 months being good and then you're sh*t again.

The trouble is, of course, it's incredibly difficult to write a joke. Just like a footballer whose knees give in, eventually the comedian's genius withers after being battered by ten years of indifference from a public that would rather see someone on YouTube firing ping pong balls into a goat's mouth.

The comedian starts to make excuses: "That just needs a punchline"... which would be like falling to your death from an aeroplane and trying to convince everyone around you that all you need is a parachute. So if you haven't got a parachute what do you do? Simple: you turn to theatre.

“Every joke in a theatre show gets eight times the reaction it would in a comedy show.”

.....

It's as easy as that. As long as you bill it in the theatre section of the Fringe programme you'll be fine. You'll be more than fine. Last year Mark Thomas won his third Fringe First award with his theatre show *The Red Shed*. Had that show been listed in the comedy section, it would have been pelted with excrement.

Every joke in a theatre show gets about eight times the reaction it would get in a comedy show. In short, theatre is easy. It's why ex-footballers all go into punditry: they're knackered, and it's easy. It's just talking out loud, the easiest thing in the world. Or just turn up, a la Phil Neville.

Put on a bad play



and the audience will sit through it without question. If they don't understand it, it'll be deemed 'high-brow'.

Theatre is so easy that there's an incredibly popular play called *The Play That Goes Wrong* which is about a rubbish play, but it's actually a rubbish play about a rubbish play.

A mate at school, Dan Goodchild, once did the world's worst drawing for his A-level – the perspective was all f*cked. At the last minute he changed the title to *Out of Perspective* and was awarded an A. Shocking.

By the way, that bit about Dan Goodchild is the only part of this piece that's true. So sorry if, like an increasingly vocal number of comedians, you

agreed with the idea that theatre is just a crap-out.

Clearly Kitson, Thomas and Cassidy are two of the greatest comedians ever to have lived, and theatre gives stand-ups total creative freedom. *The Red Shed* was brilliant; Kitson's *Mouse* at the Traverse last year was probably the best thing I've seen in 10 years of coming to the Fringe, and that includes seeing Geoffrey from Rainbow ending a show by revealing the fluffy corpses of Zippy, Bungle and George in a cupboard.

Yes, it was a joke. But it's funny how some in the business take 'proper comedy' too seriously.

Nathan Cassidy:
Watch This. Love Me. It's Deep is at C Cubed until Aug 27, 13:45



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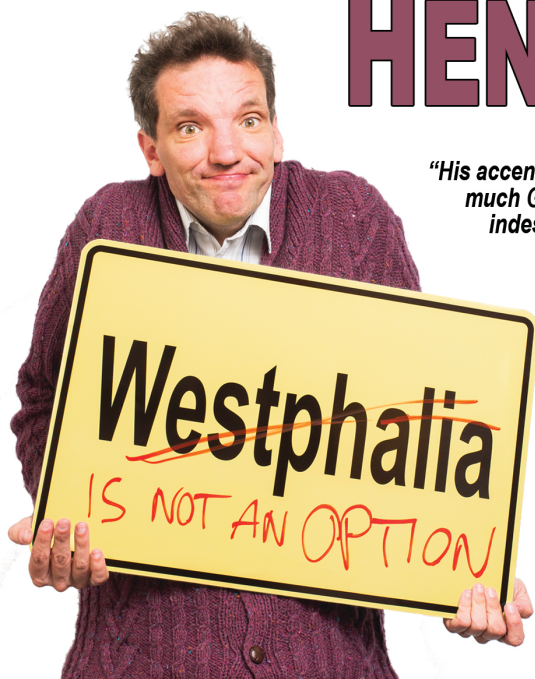
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**August
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7.30pm



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Where are you coming from?

Pillage and Pillions

Here's a brace of adventurers: **WILL SEAWARD** is looking for the fabled golden city of El Dorado. **DANNY O'BRIEN** is just looking for his dad. It couldn't hurt to put a fiver on them both turning up in the same place could it?

Will Seaward

"So where is El Dorado? Erm... my suspicion is Colombia. The Polish explorer Jacek Palkiewicz— the discoverer of the true source of the Amazon and therefore a VERY respected source — claims to have discovered El Dorado.

"He has revealed that it is ten days walk from Cuzco, under a lake, and the walls are paved with gold. However, none of this shows up on his blurry photos, which frankly could be pictures of anything.

"But there are 19th-century stories of electrum cutlery being found where

I want to look. Electrum is a combination of gold and silver, and you only bother making it if you've got so much of both that you can just play around.

"However, I couldn't promise anyone a share of the treasure. The last thing I want to do is

“ We'll be treading a path that's steeped in dishonour ”

carry all the gold out of there when we find it. But what we would get is this: the Kogi tribe, who are descended from the Tairona — the greatest

gold workers in South America — are very endangered; mostly from tourists.

"There's only about 11,000 of them left. They have amazing rituals; for example they pick their priests at birth and don't allow them to see daylight until they're 18! And if we find El Dorado in their

vicinity, where I reckon it is, then the government will put a national park and a reservation right there. They'll have some protection at last.

"Obviously that's not a very mercenary reward but it's more about participating.

"We'll be treading a path that's steeped in dishonour. Bartholome de las Casa's work *An Account of the Destruction of the Indies* recounts what the earliest conquistadors did. It's full of utterly harrowing and incomparable genocide. Our belief that the Indians

were mostly killed by European disease is just a convenient whitewash. It was actually a succession of brutal massacres and horribly creative methods of killing and torture.

"So the legend of El Dorado owes a lot to victims telling their captors that it was the next civilisation along they were looking for. That's partly why El Dorado has been cited in so many places, from Mexico to the Darien to Peru.

"If we find nothing we won't be the first British subjects to fail. Raleigh attempted two



expeditions but he thought it was somewhere up the Orinoco. Percy Fawcett [whose character inspired Charles F Muntz in the Disney Pixar film *Up*], was rejected from an expedition that entirely vanished while seeking a Lost City of Silver. Fawcett himself disappeared seeking the Lost City of Zed.

"I envisage a large expedition because historically these tend to fare better and have fewer deaths. But I'm working on the principle that many heads are better than one and I want volunteers at every level, from research into old records at the Imperial Archives in Madrid to the decision of where we actually look.

"At this stage I have no plan at all really. I am in love with the idea of chasing rumours. I hate the idea that everything in the universe is known, and it's now just a question of learning it. I like it when facts turn out not to be facts at all.

These days we tend to think that, if there was an El Dorado, we could find it on Google Earth. But for years Google Earth told us there was an island off Australia that didn't exist.

"And it's remarkable how little of a lost city will show up on a picture taken from space. You really have to go there."

Will Seaward Goes to El Dorado is at Heroes @ The Hive, 15:30, until Aug 27 (Not 16)



Danny O'Brien

"I inherited a motorbike from an uncle – a Honda 750 Nighthawk. His condition for giving it to me was that I had to actually use it, because nobody had ridden it for years and years.

So I promised him I would, but it's an absolute deathtrap. The choke is broken so you have to pull a wire and find a secret button to start it and even though it ought to be stealable, nobody can be bothered.

So I've been driving it all around, and it keeps breaking down – three times right in the middle of gypsy Ireland where I can't get any signal.

There's a bit of *Zen and the Art of Motorcycle*

Maintenance about the show I suppose, but the thing is I'm not a motorbikey person. I'm absolutely clueless. I ended up in Cork once with a broken clutch cable so I couldn't change gear. This mad farmer said he could fix it for me while I did my show, and sure enough when I was done he handed it back and said it was fixed. And I was like 'That's great, thanks!' Then he just added that he had fixed it by using the cable from the front brake so I had to go from Cork to Kerry like that.

The thing that started it was that I found an old photograph of my dad, aged 17, on an almost identical bike. My dad has been missing for 20 years; the same amount of time

the bike was lying there unriden. So while I'm trying to get this bike to go where I want it to go I'm also trying to track down what happened to my dad and maybe solve the bike's mystery too.

Along the way I'm trying to find old family members but discovering they're dead too, so the trail is kind of disappearing as I follow it.

But if that sounds a bit bleak it's not. There's a growing emotional bond with the bike. It's mine for ever, and it's the closest thing I'll ever have to a child or a girlfriend."

Danny O'Brien: RaconTour is at Underbelly Cowgate, 22:20, until Aug 27 (Not 14)

WRITER FOR SARAH MILLICAN TV PROG.
S/10 CATS AND MOCK THE WEEK

JULIET MEYERS

This Flipping
RESCUE
DOG
has
RUINED
my
life

"Smart & very funny"
INDEPENDENT
★★★★
"DEVILISH social COMMENTARY"
SCOTSMAN
★★★★
"QUIRKY & original"
BROADWAY BABY

THRICE FEATURED IN
TOP 100 BEST JOKES AT
EDINBURGH FESTIVAL

free festival 2017

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

LAUGHING HORSE
@ SOUTHSIDE SOCIAL
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Fringe First

An ingenue's diary by Tim Hoth-Scoffman, Aged 19½

July 31st

Too excited, can't sleep. Tomorrow we set off for The Edinburgh Festival Fringe! I can still barely believe that our show, *Skexit: A Brexit Sketch Opera on Jiha-ha-hadist FUN-da-MENTAL-ism*, was one of the elite handful of acts accepted. They must have loved our blurb! Davy (brilliant director) is driving, Lucy (amazing – so, so talented) is supplying the mixtape, I'll be bringing the guitar, and Andrew Baxter will be coming as well.

Mark my words, by the end of next month, the world (London, parts of Manchester) will know the name of Tim Hoth-Scoffman: Sketch Comedian (and heir to the Hoth-Scoffman estate).

August 1st

The drive up was euphoric. Britain is beautiful. I've never seen Cumbria before. The Fringe starts in three days, but if it were to end right now I'd feel complete.



August 2nd

Davy is an amazing networker; he's already made inroads on The Royal Mile! We got talking to an Amateur Dramatic Troupe, and Davy successfully negotiated a Flyer-Swap! Apparently they're going to tell everyone in their year group to come. This is a great omen. We're definitely ready. Tonight, we're going to kick back, smoke some weed, and finish writing the show.

August 3rd

Today we're going to stay in, drink plenty of water, and finish writing the show.

August 4th

First day! Nerves are setting in. We restructured the entire show last night. The steampunk musical element is gone, and we've had to scale back the role of the time-travelling buccaneer (Andrew Baxter v. upset) because the theatre space can't have us amplified as it interferes with the darts. Show starts in 20 minutes – time to hand out some flyers!

August 5th

Yesterday was awful. Luckily we had a reviewer in from a prestigious university paper with its own branded hat. Very smart! He wrote his review on

an iPad on the front row, and hardly even looked up, presumably so he could give a pure reflection of the performance without being biased by what was going on in the room. Now that's what I call journalistic rigour!

August 10th

Andrew Baxter has a lanyard. Who does he think he is – Mr. Lanyard? It's pathetic. Where did he get one? Swanning around the Loft Bar, talking to the serving staff like he can afford the drinks.

August 11th

Still no sight of that review. Davy is convinced it's because a five-star needs to be ratified by the Mayor of Edinburgh, but Lucy (beautiful, so soothing) disagrees violently. Andrew Baxter is complaining about the hardness of the car seats, but frankly if he wanted to live in a house like a human he should have dipped into his trust fund like the rest of us did.

August 16th

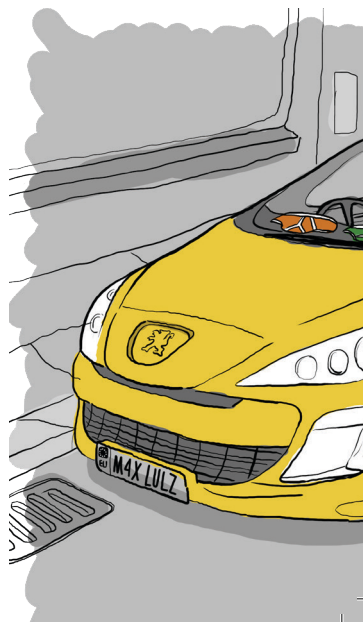
Lucy (manipulative, cold) has begun to sleep in the car. Apparently sharing a sofa-bed with me has become 'stifling'. I fail to see how sharing the back-seat of a Peugeot 308 with Andrew Baxter will be less so; the footwells swimming with his nasty horde of lanyards.

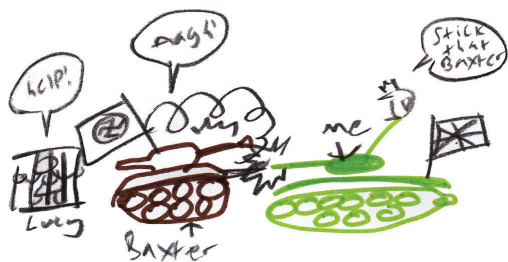
August 19th

I have now fashioned myself a lanyard out of the discarded flyers of our show. I found urinals, plus a bit of loose spaghetti. I am so ironic and in control! Still no sign of that quisling Year 10 Amateur Dramatic Troupe, even though we went to see their crappy jazz reinterpretation of *Salò* twice... 120 Days of Sodom? More like 120 minutes of Boredom. Tonight I'm going to hit the town, and everyone else can get to heck!

August 20th

Apparently there's a thing called The Newcomer Awards. Need to get Davy to find out how to apply, that sounds right up our alley. Today was hard. How does everyone know everyone else? It's like they all went to the same university. Bizarre!





August 23rd

I've been saying 'Aye' a lot, instead of 'Yes'. It feels good and right. Probably because my aunt owns property in the Hebrides. I wonder if they say 'Nay'. I'll try saying 'nay' to a local, see if it provokes a reaction.

August 25th

We actually had a good show today. I don't understand what happened. It was full. Everything went well. Even the Time-Travelling Buccaneer's Improv Rap got a laugh, and that is easily one of the worst things I have ever seen. Andrew Baxter is one of the worst human beings I have ever met.

August 27th

The Newcomer Award went to a one-woman show about marital abuse. Absolutely

livid we've been overlooked. It's not fair that some people have the advantage of gaining success from things I have no access to.

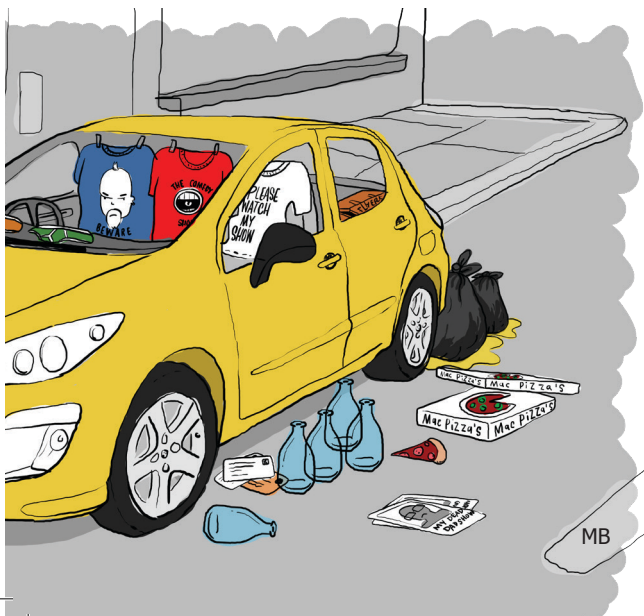
August 28th

We've been commissioned by Radio 4! Davy's dad knows the commissioner, and he wants us to contribute spec material to Radio 4's groundbreaking new comedy, called *Fishy Skits* or something.

December 21st

The student review came out! They gave us eight stars and said we 'rediscovered the short vignette format!' Buoyed by this, we're working on next year's show: a sketch show in which we all play ourselves, but one of us pretends to be a bit thicker than the others.

SN



★★★★★ BROADWAY BABY ★★★★★ SCOTSGAY ★★★★★ FESTIVAL JOURNAL ★★★★★ SPIKED ★★★★★ CHORTLE

'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]

fringe
sell-out show
2012

fringe
sell-out show
2010

fringe
sell-out show
2010

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(not 14)

I'M STILL HERE

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7 Sensible Questions with Billy Coconuts

Losers

These people explore transitory fame by being total dicks to each other on stage. A stuffed monkey probes them. Fnarrrr.



1 So, you're doing awful things to each other with a narrative... is it the Jim Rose Circus on a smaller scale? **Arthur:** Who said anything about us being 'smaller scale'? We've got a bucket of ice cubes, a £15 Argos smoke machine and an industrial staple gun - and we're not afraid to use them. **Rachel:** Our show's a satirical look at what actually constitutes as entertainment in the 21st century - and whether things have really moved on since the days of gladiatorial combat.

2 Is there any nudity? Please say yes. **Tommy:** I'll happily get my cock out if it means the audience votes for me. **Sophie:** When he's wearing his tight-white boxers, you can see everything anyway. I quite enjoy those shows.

3 To be honest I was interested because I misunderstood your PR and thought she said you ate dog poo. Would you consider eating dog poo? How about if I paid extra? **Arthur:** Give us our own double-page spread and I will literally do that for you right here, right now. **Sophie:** If you could promise me a regular-sized sturdy turd that's had time to cool, from a relatively young and healthy dog that I've met and like, then maybe.

4 I paid a monkey hooker with fake money once. What's the worst thing you've done? **Sophie:** I once unplugged my USB without safely removing it. **Arthur:** When I was eight, I hit a 14-year old on the head with a baseball bat as hard as I could. Then I hid behind the chip shop for 5 hours because I thought he was dead.

5 What do you think of baboons? They're dicks, right? **Rachel:** I admire them. They started showing off their swollen pink arses in public way before the Kardashians. **Sophie:** Rachel gets hers out quite frequently too.

6 What's the tallest tree you've ever climbed? **Arthur:** Who the f*ck's written these questions? **Tommy:** I stepped on a bonsai once.

7 I've written the questions. Jeez. It's like you're not taking this seriously. Right: A short explanatory sentence each please - shag, marry or kill the other three Losers? **Arthur:** Shag Tommy because he has a penis. Marry Sophie because her cleanliness does not upset my OCD too much. Kill Rachel because she is a f*cking self-obsessed moron. **Rachel:** Shag Tommy because we'd make beautiful babies. Marry Sophie because she'd be good at looking after them. Kill Arthur because he stinks of fake tan. **Sophie:** Shag Tommy because he is pretty (would wear sh*tloads of protection though because he's been around). Marry Arthur because he's financially stable and we'd be happy in a sexless marriage (we don't get any anyway). Kill Rachel by pelting her with plates. **Tommy:** Shag Rachel because she's fit. Marry Sophie because she can cook. Kill Arthur because he won't let me answer my own questions.

Losers is at Underbelly Cowgate, 23:20, until Aug 27 (not 14),



GIG MISSION



Tasting Menu

Why see 5 funny people a day when you could see 25? **BECKY WALKER'S PANDA** has a feast of compilations

Start with a cheap and cheerful curry brunch from **Mosque Kitchen** at 33 Nicholson Square. It opens at 11.30 most days and is on the way to the **Pleasance Courtyard**, which is where we're going to blow off the cobwebs with gales of laughter. Probs.

Nobody knows what Mervyn Stutter does with his life apart from organising **Mervyn Stutter's Pick of the Fringe**, which starts us off at **12:30**, but he's been doing this for 26 years so we assume he's happy with it. At **14:00** you'll be discharged, blinking, into the street.

There isn't any more compilation action for a bit (I know, someone should complain) so your best bet is **City Café** on Blair Street, there to have a cool pint. Downstairs at **15:00** is **Stephen Carlin: The Rise of the Autistic**.

Stephen's dour deadpanner will be a good antidote to all the "What's your name/cheer if you're from somewhere" vacuity you'll be ingesting today. But leave sharpish at **16:00** and gallop across Blair Street to **Cabaret Voltaire** for the **Laughing Horse Pick of the Fringe**.



Afterwards, saunter to Candlemaker Row and **The Community Project** for the **Big Value Comedy Show (early)** at **19:20**; this will carry you through to **21:20** when you MIGHT get a table at the **Mussel and Steak house** on Grassmarket. Unless you're a vegetarian, in which case: sorry. Hey, I only eat bamboo shoots and fizzy Wham bars. If the encroaching night has put you in the mood for gratuitous nudity and an atmosphere boozier than Peter O'Toole's stag do, walk down Cowgate to the **Underbelly**, where **Spank!** Begins at midnight and runs for a full three hours of happy carnage. If you're a bit old for all that, take a cab to the New Town and see **Best of the Fest** at **Assembly George Street**. The names will be bigger, the seats slightly comfier and the clientele less likely to blow their groceries on them.

LAUGH OR CRY presents...

FIONA SAGAR // SAGAR MEGA DRIVE

16.30 - LAUGHING HORSE @
THE FREE SISTERS (VENUE 272)

2016 FUNNY WOMEN AWARD
NOMINEE FOR BEST SHOW

ELLEN WADDELL //

IT'S BETTER TO LIE THAN TO TELL
THE TRUTH AND END UP ALONE IN A
DITCH CRYING

19.30 - LAUGHING HORSE @
THE CELLAR MONKEY (VENUE 293)

CREATOR OF 2015 HIT
"JEAN LUC PICARD AND ME"

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THE
RED EMERALD
A FARCE FOR THE COLOURBLIND

14 - 19. AUG
12.10PM

TWO THIEVES.
ONE EMERALD.
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21 - 26. AUG
5.50PM

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Can't Stand Still

Mr Kipper sorts through this year's press releases from the diverse world of Dance

Spunk

The Pleasance

Motorway, 14:20

"Three women seek to escape the world of men, who are bad. This disturbing combination of trip-hop and rumba will leave you writhing in the sensual gutter with self-loathing. Involves an attractive woman being tossed around in the air by men, because reasons."

Nastiness

The Assembly Dissembling

Chamber, 21:15.

Four women are running away from people. Are they traffickers? Murderers? Illusions?



What's certain is that they are men; men who need a culture slap delivered through the power of people moving and then it going dark and then people reappearing somewhere else. Also the men must carry an attractive woman around using their arms. Why? Because.

Shock Splat 9

Z Venues, 23:00

Described in the press as 'powerfully moving', 'movingly powerful', 'a powerful punch of adrenal dance power' and 'nice', Shock Splat 9 explores the visceral need of a boy human to turn into a girl unicorn.

An attractive woman escapes the patriarchy by flying. Well, she's carried by men you can't see because of the lighting. GOOD. WE DON'T WANT TO SEE THEM.

Vulture Pussy Vulture

The Solid Object, Niggly Street, 15:20

On a planet in an alternative universe, women are farmed as food for giant carnivorous penises. It's a world that is a horrific twisted fantasy and yet exactly the same as here. Gasp as the veil is lifted and you finally realise how stupid you've been. Just before the end, a very attractive woman is chucked into the air and caught. By men. Dares to ask the question: Is there any getting away from these dicks?

Men are Scum

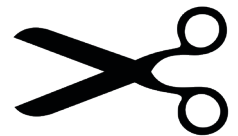
The Monkey Hospital, 14:00

The all-woman dance sensation that finally asks: Who are men? What are they? Why do we need them? Includes a sequence in which attractive women are hoisted into the air by harnesses. Attached to cranes. OK so men are operating the cranes. Why? Why are there not more women crane operators? Why are there so many questions? Does anyone know what's going on without reading the flyer? Is all dance unhappy and rhetorical? Will anyone notice if I go to the toilet? There's a queue for the toilet? This is typical. No. Yes. What? Dance.



Cut Out 'n' Stick Stars!

Performers! Paste these to your flyers/posters. They're our gift to you.



"Only racist in a couple of places.
Well done."

★★★★★
Fringepig

"This was definitely 55 minutes of
stuff by anyone's standard"

★★★★★
Fringepig

"If this doesn't get nominated, then
someone's a c*nt"

★★★★★
Fringepig

"Loved it apart from the senseless
animal cruelty in the middle"

★★★★★
Fringepig

"I wept for joy when it was over"

★★★★★
Fringepig

After Edinburgh, where
can you get exclusive
recordings of your
favorite acts? Ask, erm...
Fringesheep?



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