

Fringe pig

Oi! Stop enjoying yourselves! It's

#5 2018

FREE!

**No Clowns in
New Town:
By Order!**

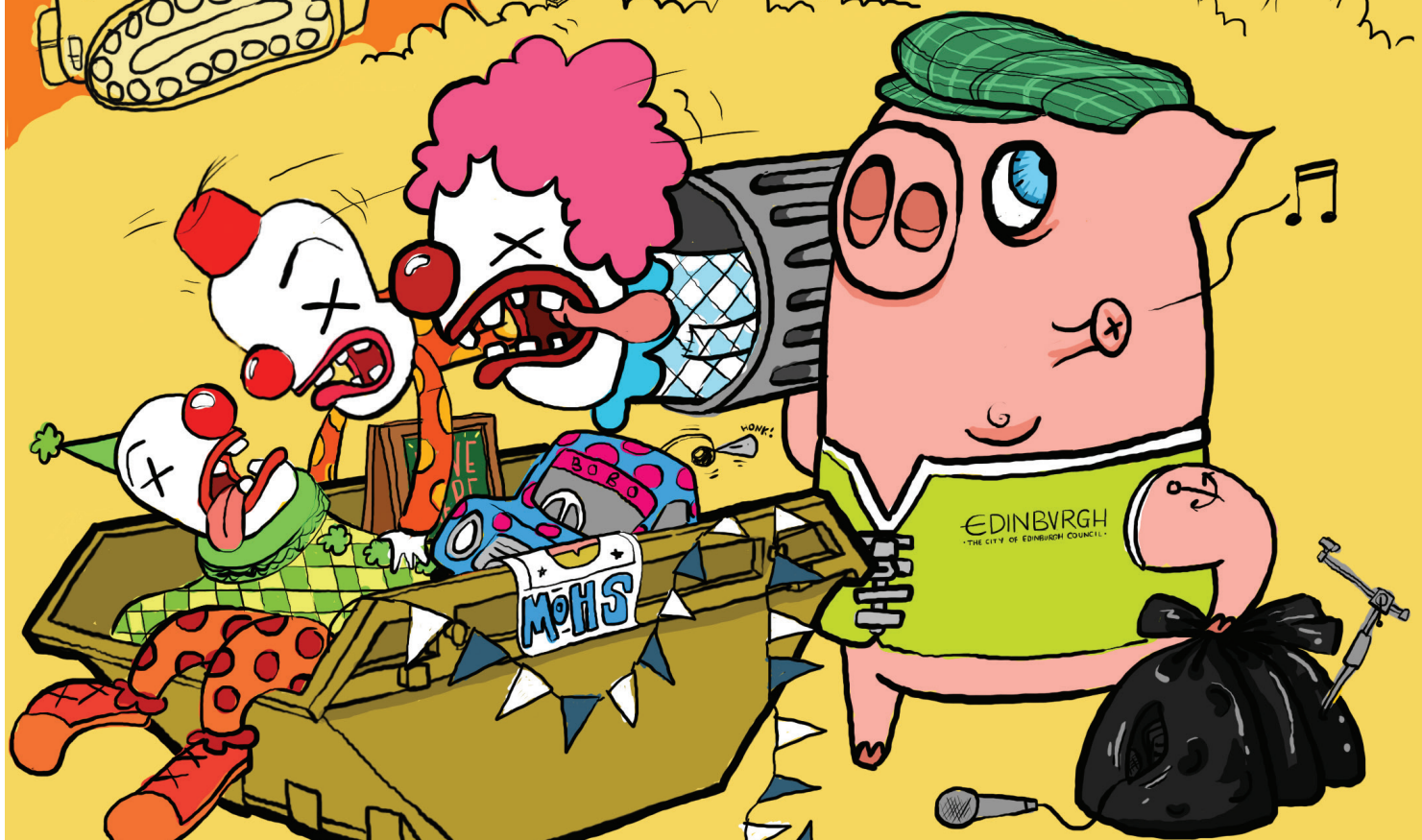
Hour by hour comedy listings

Felicity Ward

Luisa Omielan

Becky Fury

Eleanor Tiernan



44-PAGE GROOVY FEMINIST (sort of) ISSUE!

GetComedy

"UNSTABLE AND DELICIOUSLY UNEXPECTED"
THE TIMES
★★★★★
THE GUARDIAN
★★★★★
THE SCO
★★★★★

BRETT VINCENT FOR GETCOMEDY BY ARRANGEMENT
WITH DABSTER PRODUCTIONS
PROUDLY PRESENTS

TERRY ALDERTON

The Musical

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

BRETT VINCENT FOR GETCOMEDY PROUDLY PRESENTS

THE LAYMOND & MR. TIMPKINS

Revue

HAM

23 CASANCE DOME
8:30PM
1ST-27TH AUG (NOT 13TH)
RAYMONDANDMRTIMPKINS.CO.UK

★★★★ BRETT VINCENT FOR GETCOMEDY ★★★★★
PROUDLY PRESENTS

QUADRUPLE BAFTA AWARD WINNERS

DICK AND DOM IN

DICK AND DOM

THE KNOCKOUT GAMESHOW FOR 5-105 YEAR OLDS

@dickndom | 1PM (2PM)
underbellyedinburgh.co.uk | 1-12 AUGUST 2018
underbelly BRISTOL SQUARE

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

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

ANDREW MAXWELL

SHAKE A LEG

"ONE OF THE FUNNIEST MEN IN BRITAIN"
THE TELEGRAPH

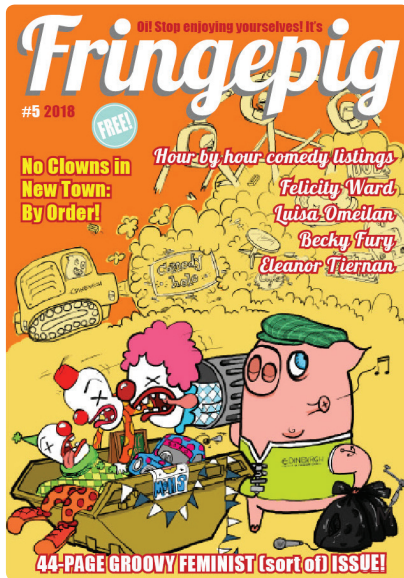
SCOTSMAN ★★★★★
HERALD ★★★★★
EVENING STANDARD ★★★★★
DAILY RECORD ★★★★★
THE TELEGRAPH ★★★★★
EDINBURGH EVENING NEWS ★★★★★
TIME OUT ★★★★★

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

KING

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

www.getcomedy.com



Publisher

MISTER KIPPER
KIPPER@FRINGEPIG.CO.UK

Managing Editor

LIAM MULLONE
EDITOR@FRINGEPIG.CO.UK

Edinburgh Editor

MARTIN WALKER
MARTIN@FRINGEPIG.CO.UK

Designers

ALEX MUSSON
BECKY WALKER

Writers

BILLY COCONUTS
CHRISTIAN TALBOT
DERWENT CYZINSKI
ED ACZEL
EDMUND RUMANIA
ELEANOR MORTON
ELEANOR TIERNAN
GLYPH MCCREATURE
KATE SMURTHWAITE
LEO KEARSE

Artists

DAMIAN CLARKE
DARREN WALSH
IAN HEWITT
JOSEPH CHAMPNISS
KEIRA HEWITT
MUSHYBEES
SAM NICORESTI

Ad Sales

WRIGLEY WORM
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Welcome to Fringepig

Hello!

You might remember last year (of course you don't) when we ran a piece on arts councils and the fact they fund everything but comedy. But Creative Scotland were keen to tell us that, even though they have never supported an individual, they throw lots of money at the Fringe itself.

Five months later Creative Scotland defunded the Fringe - along with the city's King's and Festival theatres and the quango that promotes the Book Festival. This is despite Creative Scotland having an extra £16 million to spend this year. CS director Janet Archer refuses to talk about it.

For shame! Our Festival Fringe Society can only run a modern Fringe if it can travel the world and drink Prosecco in a variety of World Prosecco cities. If we take away their ability to share Prosecco with other Prosecco-minded people in different five-star Prosecco environments then, believe me, we will all feel the hangover in next year's brochure entry prices. Give them their money back you bullies!

Anyway: This is our feminist issue, in which Luisa Omeilan rightly states that feminism is just normal and should be unremarked upon. SO... this is our very normal issue. Welcome.



A. K. Kipper
PUBLISHER

www.fringepig.co.uk
editor@fringepig.co.uk

FIND US AT THESE LOVELY VENUES:



C venues

THE STAND

DARREN'S EDINBURGH PUN MAP

ROYAL BOTANIC GARDENS

Slipped and fell into a purple shrubbery.
I'll have to be more careful in fuchsia.



JOHN KNOX HOUSE

John used to teach self-defence classes here.
He called it *The School Of Hard Knox*

CHARLOTTE SQUARE

Otherwise known as Charlotte².

PRINCES STREET GARDENS

The Street Garden formerly known as ♀

THE EDINBURGH DUNGEON

I was disappointed to discover this attraction was part of a bigger chain.

SCOTTISH NATIONAL GALLERY

I came out the gallery to find my van had been stolen.
Where did my Van Gogh?



THE HIVE

There's a genuine buzz about this place.

MUSEUM OF CHILDHOOD

I hope the Lego section is good, they've really built it up.

WHISKI ROOMS

Where single malts go to meet massive blenders.



GRASS MARKET

A turf crowd.



EDINBURGH VAULTS

This place isn't as safe as it sounds.

EDINBURGH CASTLE

I asked a man sitting in the moat what he was doing, but he was deep in fort.



BREWDOG BAR

On draft they have:
Stellabrador, Kronenbark, Asahisatian, St. Beernard, Barks, and Heinekenspaniel.

THE ELEPHANT HOUSE

Unless you've seen the Harry Potter films, this place is irrelephant.



GEORGE IV BRIDGE

King George IV was so fertile, they nicknamed him *George IVF*.

NATIONAL MUSEUM OF SCOTLAND

Went for a Knight at the Museum.
Found William Wallace.



EDINBURGH ZOO

They should have named this zoo *Atang*. Then they could answer the phone with "You rang Atang?"



MOSQUE KITCHEN

When the guy you pranked by making his curry too spicy, gets you back by making yours too mild.
That's korma.



Darren Walsh: Massive Punt is at the Grassmarket Centre (Just the Tonic) [27] at 18:00, Aug 2-16 (not 13)



Not right

My right-wing renaissance is being shat on, says LEO KEARSE



In the 1980s a leftist coup took charge of comedy. The alternative Left pushed back against the sexist, homophobic mainstream and has been in power ever since.

But as with any one-party system it has led to corruption and hypocrisy. Just lately, the spirit of equity has been clearly lacking. Spots have been hogged, with headliners paid vastly more than others, women creeped on and assaulted – from the Just for Laughs scandal to small ‘feminist’ comedy nights – and working-class comics ignored as usual by the Oxbridge elite.

About four years ago a small group of comedians rose up against their lefty overlords in comedy’s Arab Spring; rejecting the orthodoxy and daring to espouse mainstream opinions on stage.

Andrew Lawrence led the charge, was accused of mental illness (very PC) and banished. The more agreeable Geoff Norcott then came out as Tory, seizing huge swathes of territory on *Live At The Apollo*. Fin Taylor’s *Lefty Tightly, Righty Loosey* was the work of a defector from the Left, lobbying Molotov cocktails of hypocrisy back over the wall. I got

away with *I Can Make You Tory* in Scotland.

But just as the Arab Spring gave an opening to ISIS, so has the Right’s resurgence given rise to obnoxious reactionary shits claiming to be the antidote to political correctness. A welter of up-and-comers have hit comedy clubs and social media with racist, transphobic and wilfully unfunny material. Rape jokes as statements.

These comedians see themselves as bold and challenging, but many are small-minded dicks. It’s hard to say if they were encouraged by the creative surge of the right or the stultifying leftwing mindset.

I was on a panel at Southbank University recently, discussing politics in comedy. One panellist gave rape jokes as the clearest manifestation of right-wing comedy’s return.

I disagree that there’s any relationship. Let’s recall that #metoo most rocked Hollywood and the industries run by creative liberal elites. There’s no political monopoly on shittery.

Leo Kearse: Right-Wing Comedian is at Espionage [185] at 19:30, Aug 2-16 (not 14)

THE TRAVELLING MAN COMEDY SHOWCASE

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

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

BARNSTORMERS COMEDY PRESENTS A STAND-UP COMEDY SHOW BY

KEVIN PRECIOUS
UNHOLIER THAN THOU
THE NON-BELIEVING RELIGIOUS STUDIES TEACHER

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

FREE FESTIVAL

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

KEVINPRECIOUS.COM

It's grim up north...

Just two years ago, New Town was a brilliant, bustling Fringe hub. But thanks to vested interests and Council lunacy it's becoming the town that fun forgot.



By **Derwent Cyzinski** and the **Fringepig staff**

Remember February? The Hysteria from Siberia was about to bury us in snow. And then our City Fathers issued a proclamation far more chilling than any beastly weather: street-based festival events in August were to be cut to the quick.

Seven new rules were drawn up to ensure a “consistent approach” to events in public spaces, all variously dunderheaded. Of special note was number 6: “The spread of activities to spaces across a wider area of the city will be encouraged”. This, apparently, meant thinning the Fringe out from its nucleus in Old Town to less well-trodden areas, but the only idea mooted was to try and tempt the Spiegeltent to Fountainbridge. Which, if you're just visiting, is a part of the world's most beautiful city that's been modelled on post-war Coventry.

What we do know is that it's demonstrably b*lllocks. The Festival Fringe Society has applied to take possession of more of the Royal Mile down to Hunter Square, and the Square itself, which the Council – barring a last-second change of

heart – has granted. It has claimed this territory to put on street-based Festival events – you know, those things the Council was going to pare down before it got a whiff of fresh chequebook.

So the Old Town is Fringier than ever. They've made it clear they won't be touching anything in Festival Square by the Uni. There has so far been no specific prohibition, despite point 2 (The use of a space must support and reinforce the special quality of its surroundings) on erecting giant purple upside-down cows in any part of our Georgian loveliness. So triple huzzah! But what's happening north of Prince's Street?

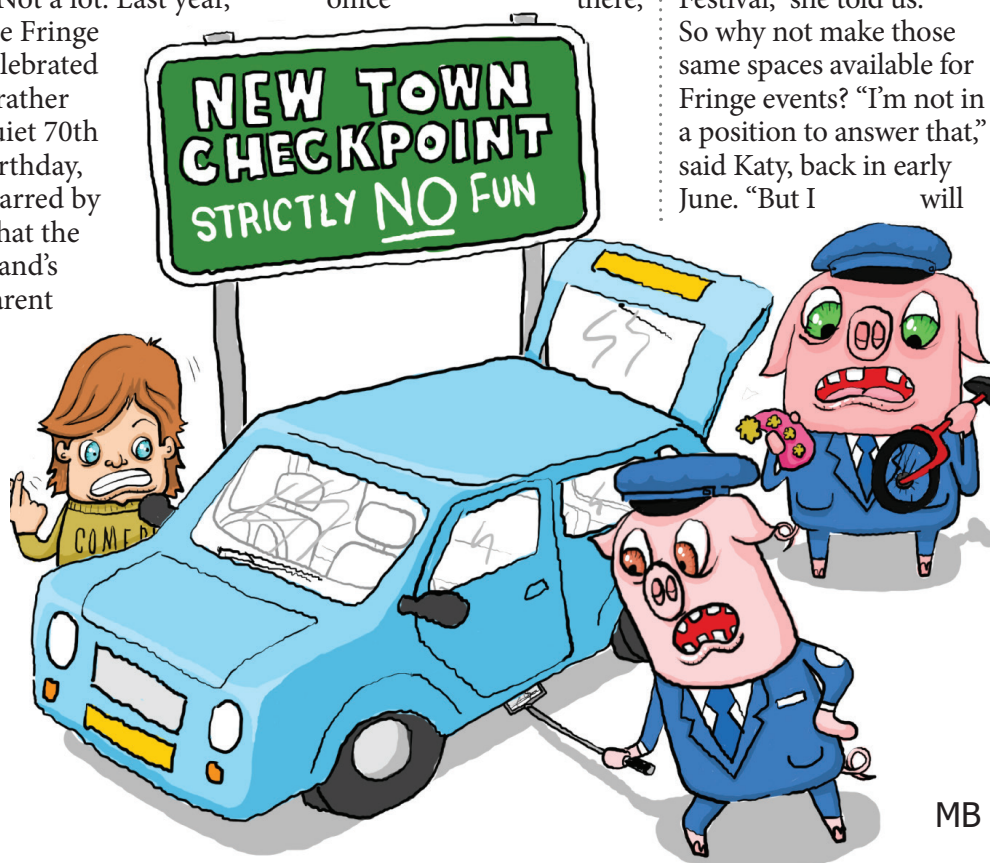
Not a lot. Last year, the Fringe celebrated a rather quiet 70th birthday, marred by what the Stand's parent

company Salt 'n' Sauce Promotions called a “bloody disgraceful takeover” of their tenure at St Andrew's Square, plus a fun moritorium on George Street. The Stand's long-fought campaign to make the New Town a second Fringe hub faltered, but we all hoped it was temporary.

The villain of the piece was **Standard Life**, which didn't want burger stands and beer in the front yard of its swanky new headquarters, and last year installed a thousand fluorescent tubes there instead, to remind passers-by that they might need epileptic seizure insurance. **Royal Bank of Scotland**, which also has its head office there,

backed the eviction – apparently anxious that it might appear, God forbid, to be an institution of some fleeting value to humanity.

Earlier this year, after a deafening silence, it became clear that the landowners were not going to reconsider and the Council was not going to help by allowing things to happen further down George Street – or indeed anywhere else – despite making huge territorial concessions to the Book Festival. **Katy Allison**, the Council's PR Officer for Festivals, makes a virtue of this. “Even though there's not as much Fringe activity in New Town, there's a lot more going on there for the Book Festival,” she told us. So why not make those same spaces available for Fringe events? “I'm not in a position to answer that,” said Katy, back in early June. “But I will



send you a statement right away.” Yay! Er.. how long is ‘right away’?

Jojo Sutherland, who until four years ago ran a comedy club on Rose Street, said: “It’s harder up here. People think that Rose Street, with its golden mile, is the heart of tourism in Edinburgh. It really isn’t. It’s dead after 6pm. I know that the Gilded Balloon’s new Rose Street Theatre has been struggling.

“I think it’s devastating what’s happening. When I started acting at the Fringe years ago the Festival was concentrated in the New Town. St Andrew’s Square used to be phenomenal. Café Royal was a real hub too; now nobody can even find it. The New Town Bar is gone. The Jekyll and Hide is just another bar. The Newsroom is facing a building site on a closed road. This feels more and more like a city of two halves.”

Clare Smith of the *Scotsman* believes the decline began years ago. “The worst thing the Council did was vandalise the Assembly Rooms,” she says. “They put shops in it and broke up the building’s integrity. They ruined that building, and they run it very badly for the rest of the year.

“It used to be a place where deals were done, where people would light cigars with burning tenners. But they painted it grey, they filled it with TV screens and they made it look like a dole office. They even talked about doing away with performance spaces and turning it into one giant

“ This feels like a city of two halves. ”

bar. I mean, why do they think people are there in the first place?”

“The Spiegeltent is gone. **David Bates**, who started it, was absolutely furious. He got fed up with being messed around and just doesn’t want to deal with the Council here anymore.”

Karen Koren of the Gilded Balloon is far more equivocal, saying that she’s excited about the prospects for the group’s Rose Street and Basement Theatres this August. But she concedes that the Council are less than helpful, especially by putting free extravaganzas into Prince’s Street Gardens.

“I’m annoyed that the Council lets DF Concerts and Events come here to put on free shows that pull 6,000 people out of the Festival. They could do this in June or July. But they go and put on Paloma Faith or whoever at taxpayer expense, just when the rest of us are trying to make a living. The BBC at Potterow too. Why do they allow it? It’s just ridiculous.”

The politics behind all this would fill a book. Rumour abounds that the City took the Assembly off **Bill Burdett-Coutts**, who more or less founded the modern Fringe, because he’d start each August with a rousing speech that villified Council silliness. There are plenty of theories too on why they then gave the building to Salt ‘n’ Sauce

just to leave them high and dry in 2015 – turning it into what The Stand’s manager **Kenny O’Brien** called “a digital wankfest for tweed tossers” that even the tossers avoided.

Stand venues suffered for two years with the tram project; now the St James redevelopment and its arcane traffic reroutes have put York Place in a bit of a backwater.

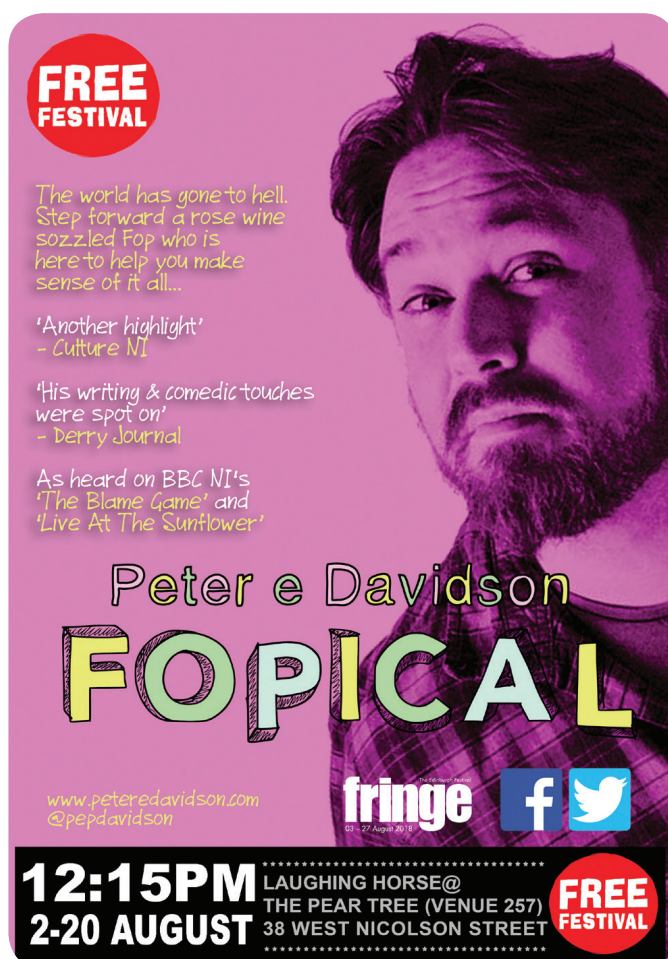
Of course, strong shows always create a destination, and the Stand is taking no chances this year with comedy big guns instead of music at New Town Theatre. Last year Kenny told *Essential Edinburgh* that, for a smaller outfit, the losses felt on George Street “would have been ruinous”.

It’s not the despair that

kills us, though. It’s the hope. The sheer fickleness of the Council is such that it might change its mind again. As Karen says, “The Council will move the goalposts every year, it’s just what they do. We had the ice rink at Prince’s Street Gardens for 12 years and they took that off us. But I don’t get discouraged.”

Yet Kenny has stated that Salt n’ Sauce cannot afford the risk of developing George Street again. And if not them, then who? Particularly when there’s nothing in it for the investor but pain and perfidy?

No doubt the Council’s plans for the New Town will be made bright and clear in that statement Katy’s going to send us. (We’re still waiting.)



FREE FESTIVAL

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

*'Another highlight'
- Culture NI*



*'His writing & comedic touches
were spot on'
- Derry Journal*

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

Peter e Davidson

FOPICAL

www.peteredavidson.com
@pepdavidson

fringe  

12:15PM
2-20 AUGUST

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

FREE FESTIVAL

7 Sensible Questions with Billy Coconuts



Felicity Ward

Felicity Ward is one of those comedians who makes it look really easy. But it's not easy on the bowels, apparently. We sent a stuffed monkey to talk turkey. And penguin.

1 So, you went and got married apparently.

What's that like? I know you're a feminist so did you make him pay a dowry or something? Does he have to make you salads?

I did get married. Don't worry, he's on a full salad scholarship.

2 That flight from Australia is really long.

What fun activities help you pass the time?

I used to watch movies and pretend that I was going to do work but actually just spent most of the 24 hours trying to find a position comfortable enough so that I don't want to hurt the person next to me. But now I just keep real still for the whole time after I had a "loud speaker incident". Apparently not everyone wants a live reading of *The DaVinci Code* in a Mancunian accent from Sydney to Dubai.

3 I would describe your act using words like

'natural', 'feisty' and "Agghh!". But is there a pre-gig ritual to get in



the zone? Is there animal sacrifice?

There is a sacrifice, but it's usually in the toilet. I'm saying I have Irritable Bowel Syndrome, and anxiety which exacerbates the fear of such an attack. I'm a real barrel of laffs.

4 What is the best banana you've ever eaten?

Paint me a picture.

I was hungry. It was... there. Every banana is a miracle.

5 Unlike baboons! Do you have baboons back in Australia? I hate baboons. What animal do you think is a dick?

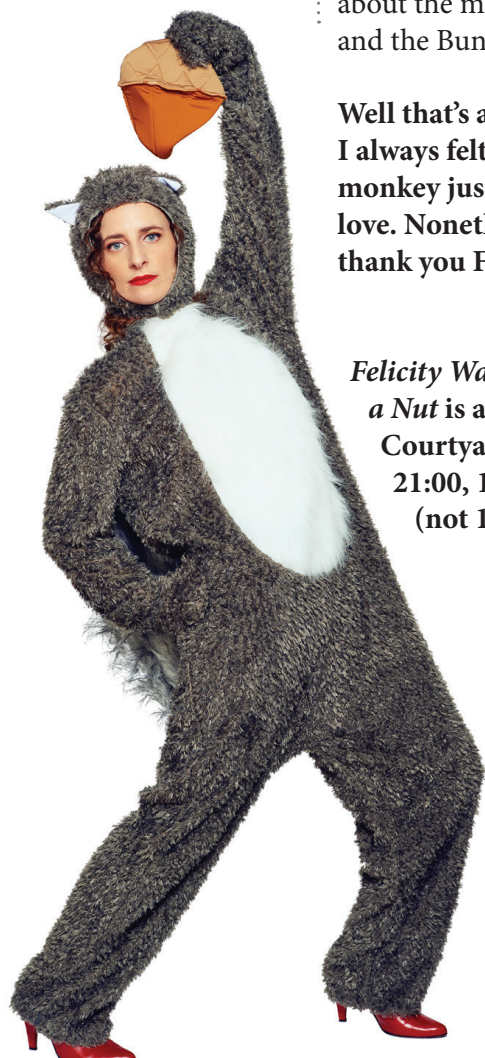
No baboons. Only in zoos. And you're right: baboons are real dicks, mate. Bad attitude and a hideous butt hole. Why do they show us all the time? It looks like a rooster's gobble. But on a butt. I think most animals are better than people but I've just found out that the margay "imitates the

sound of a baby monkey in distress" to attract its prey. That's dark, mate. Margays are going on the list.

6 That is truly appalling. I too will no-platform margays. Now, I know this question has been asked too many times, and it always makes people roll their eyes, but are male feminist comedians actually funny? Should there be more than one of them on each panel show?

Look, I think it's important for representation to have male feminists on, and because they haven't been around that long it's going to take time for them to be as funny as real feminists. But I think they're really brave giving it a go in such a female feminist-dominated industry. I'm sure they're getting exactly the same money as me so I'll never query that and just assume their experience is the same as mine.

7 We usually end on a shag, marry kill question. Obviously you'll have to pretend you're not already



married or polygamous or something. So: shag, marry, kill: an emperor penguin, that Nazi monkey out of *Raiders of the Lost Ark*, and Ian McCulloch from 80s band Echo and the Bunnymen? Show your working out.

I'd marry the emperor Penguin. Always impeccably dressed. Kill the Nazi monkey. Although it would break my heart to hurt a monkey, Nazis must be stopped. Especially Alt-Right monkeys. Shag...shag...I'm sorry, I'm going with my husband here. Even hypothetically, Ian is nearly 60 and I was neither here nor there about the music of Echo and the Bunnymen.

Well that's a shame. I always felt the Nazi monkey just needed love. Nonetheless, thank you Felicity!

Felicity Ward: Busting a Nut is at Pleasance Courtyard [33] at 21:00, 1-26 August (not 13)

Martin Mor is **BLOCKED**

on Twitter by Donald Trump, the NRA & the Creationist Museum. That's 3 good reasons to see this show.

"World Class"
The Scotsman



19:15

**CABARET
VOLTAIRE**

2nd - 26th August

**FREE
FESTIVAL**

IMWP und henningwehn.de präsentieren:

HENNING WEHN

Get On With It!



"Die endgültige
Teilung Europas -
das ist mein Auftrag"
Henning himself

"As subtle as
Schumacher
on Battiston"
Everybody else

**Just the
Tonic**
CAVES 88
01315565375

henningwehn.de

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

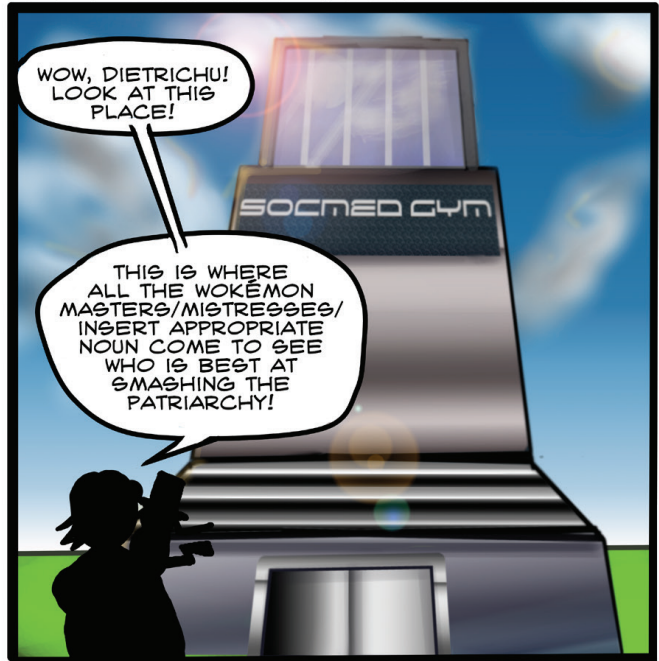
6pm

Wokemon

A feminist adventure!



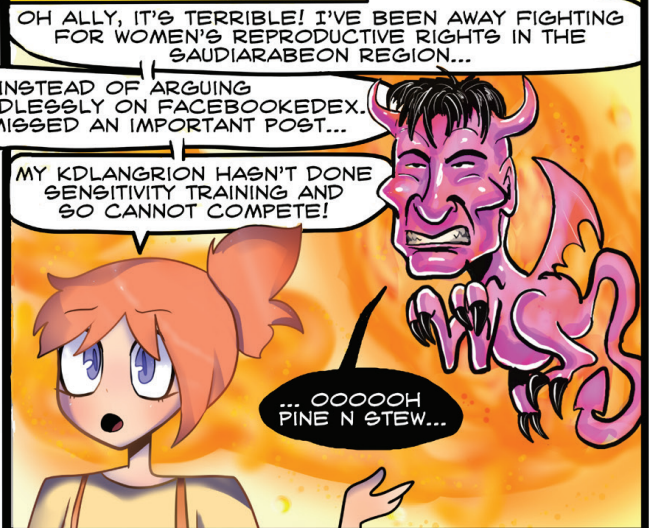
SCRIPT: GLYPH MCCREATURE
ART: IAN HEWETT & KEIRA HEWETT



ALLY AND DIETRICHU SOON MEET AN OLD PAL...



FEMISTY HAS A SAD TALE...

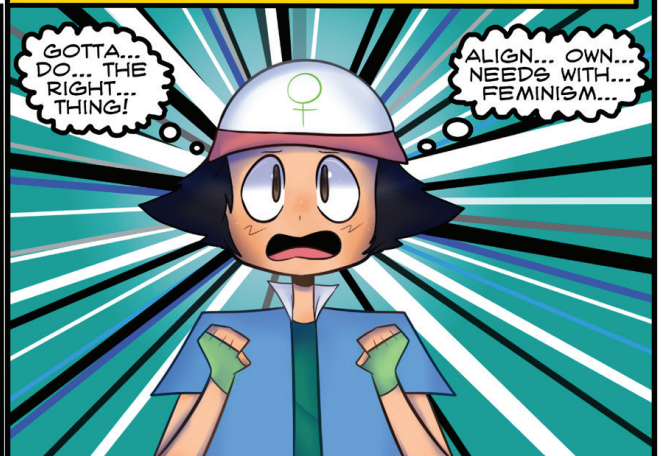


OH FEMISTY, THAT IS SUCH A SCHOOLREALPERSON ERROR! I WISH THAT, AS YOUR RESPECTFUL FEMINIST COMRADE, THERE WAS SOMETHING I COULD DO...

ACTUALLY, THERE IS! YOU COULD LEND ME ONE OF YOUR WOKEMON AND LET ME HAVE YOUR PLACE IN THE TOURNAMENT? IT WOULD MEAN SO MUCH TO ME!



ALLY KNOWS HE MUST MAKE A BIG DECISION. A DECISION IN WHICH FEMISTY MAKING IT VERY CLEAR THAT SHE IS NOT IN THE LEAST ATTRACTED TO ALLY ON 17 SEPARATE OCCASIONS WILL PLAY NO PART WHATSOEVER...



COURAGEOUSLY, ALLY REFUSES TO HELP...

SORRY FEMISTY, I SELFLESSLY HAVE TO DO WHAT'S BEST FOR FEMINISM. I'VE POSTED TOO MANY INSTAGRAM MEMES, CALLED OUT TOO MANY WOKE MISOGYNISTS, USED TOO MANY PHRASES LIKE 'GENDER PERFORMATIVITY' TO MISS THIS FIGHT...

... A FIGHT I'M FIGHTING FOR YOU, BY THE WAY, AND YOU'RE WELCOME...

BUT ALLY, I WAS THE ONLY WOMAN IN THE CONTEST! IF I DON'T ENTER, THERE WILL BE NO WOMEN REPRESENTED!

AW MAN (OR WOMAN OR WHATEVER), THAT SUCKS! I'VE ALWAYS SAID THE ONE-GIRL RULE IS WRONG. I WROTE A PIECE FOR 'INDEPENDENT VOICES'...

AFTER EXPLAINING REALLY CAREFULLY AND SLOWLY TO FEMISTY WHY HE'D MADE HIS DIFFICULT DECISION, ALLY JOINING THE TOURNAMENT. SOON HE IS FACING HIS FINAL BATTLE...

ALLY KETCHUP... IN THE FINAL MATCH, YOU WILL FACE OFF AGAINST... LOLI ACTIVIST!!

HOPE YOU BROUGHT YOUR A-GAME, ALLY!

DEITRICH-OOH!

THIS IS GONNA BE TOUGH!

THE TWO RIVALS SQUARE UP FOR THEIR SHOWDOWN. EACH HAS AN IMPRESSIVE RETINUE OF WOKEMON TO CHOOSE FROM. WHO WILL IT BE?

FREIDANCHU!

MACKINNON!

INTERSECTIONAL LORDEPU!

PANKHURSTRIA!

LOLI GOES FIRST...

STEINEMOUSE! I CHOOSE YOU!

HMMM... A SECOND-WAVE EGALITARIAN-TYPE WOKEMON. NEED TO COUNTER IT WITH SOMETHING UNCOMPROMISING AND NOW!

LAURIEPENGUIN! I CHOOSE YOU!

WOW! AN ANTILIBERAL ANTICAPITALIST HARD-LEFTIST TYPE WOKEMON! THIS WILL BE CLOSE!

"LOOK! LAURIEPENGUIN IS COUNTERING WITH HER EXPERIENCE OF BURLESQUE TO POINT OUT HOW CAPITALISM'S FEIGNED DESIRE FOR WOMEN TO 'EMPOWER' THEMSELVES THROUGH SEXUALISED DISPLAY SERVES ONLY TO MAKE THEM COMPLICIT IN THEIR OWN ABUSE!"

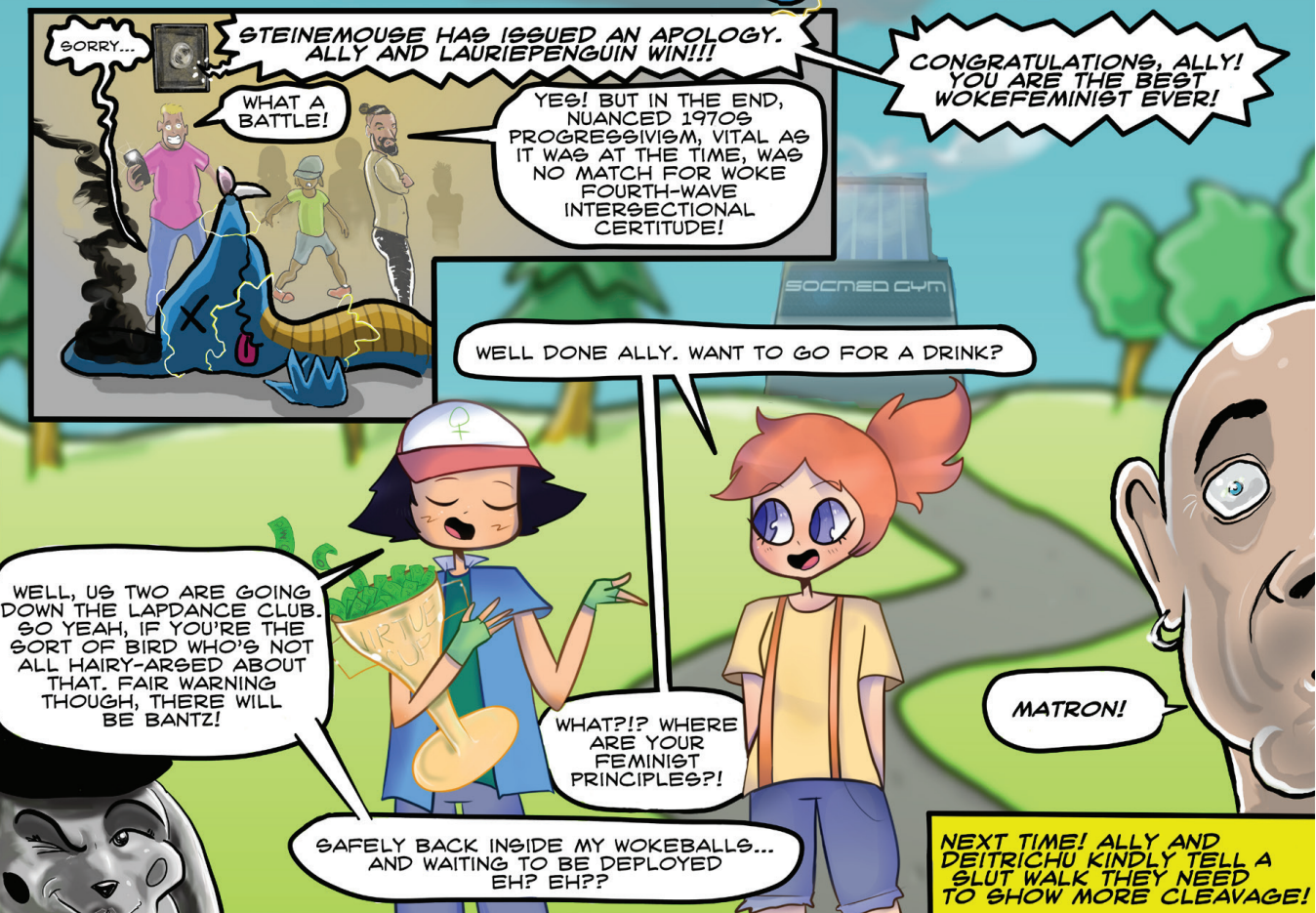
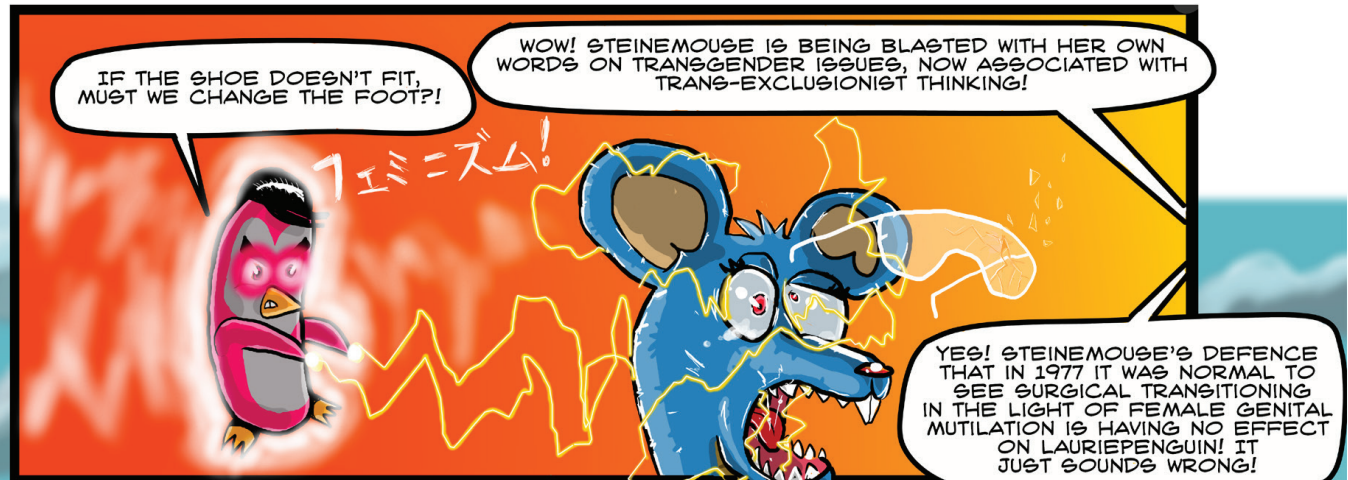
"THAT'S A POWERFUL ARGUMENT!"

"SURELY STEINEM'S STINT AS A PLAYBOY BUNNY WAS JUSTIFIED IN CONTEXT?"

"LAURIEPENGUIN'S RATIONALE IS POST-CONTEXTUAL! THOSE ARGUMENTS HAVE BEEN NEUTRALISED!"

"STEINEMOUSE IS USING ITS EXPOSE OF THE PLAYBOY CLUB AS BACKGROUND TO AN EVISCERATING ARGUMENT ON THE COMMODIFICATION OF WOMEN AND THE NORMALISATION OF THE PROSTITUTE/CLIENT DYNAMIC!"

LAURIEPENGUIN TAKES THE INITIATIVE...





Edinbro's doin' my 'ead in, bro

Is emotional distress impinging upon your Fringe-ing? This can be a difficult time. Let **AUNTIE ED** salve your mindbruises.

Dear Auntie Ed,

For years I have been living a lie. I pretend to be a groovy liberal who likes cats when secretly I am a Nazi Stormtrooper with spider appendages who leaves poisoned tuna in the street. It took a lot for me to admit this to myself, let alone my friends, and when I told them they were appalled. I really think friends should stand by each other, arachnid Nazi cat murderer or not. Am I being unreasonable?

- *Thelma Gracernote, Carlisle*

Nice. Understand, Thelma, that no-one ever really plans or wants to be a groovy liberal who likes cats. It just happens doesn't it? One day you're watching *Homes under the Hammer*, smoking some weed in your underpants; the next you're buying clothes at Superdry and consciously not-talking to people about flat whites. We've all been there. And I can't think of a single person who wouldn't want to invade Poland.

Dear Auntie Ed,

My son, who I have always been on good terms with, recently told me that I am adopted. It turns out I was unable to have children of my

own, and he and his sister took pity on me, bringing me up as their own dad. I don't know who I am anymore. Who am I? - *Dave Jobcentre, Cardiff*

Hey man... the universe is cosmic, mate. You can be what you want to be, as long as everything else in the universe stays the same and time is a constant. So I can really say to your question: 'whatever'.

Dear Auntie Ed,

My girlfriend recently asked me why don't I just f*ck off. I think the question deserves an answer. What is it?

- *Martin Cirencester, Leicester*

Martin, in this world there are 'questions' and also 'answers to questions'. You get to choose which category you want to fall into. Choose carefully because it makes a difference. You could choose "Am I just the question 'Why don't I just f*ck off?'" or you could be the answer to 'Why don't I just f*ck off?' The answer to which is 'OK then'. Personally I would just own it.

Dear Auntie Ed,

To spice up our evenings my boyfriend wants

to invite another guy round to watch us play Monopoly. The idea scares me but kind of intrigues and excites me too. Should I do it, and if so should I insist that we stick to box rules?

- *David Pangolin, Edinburgh*

I suppose, David, that it depends on what motivates your boyfriend. Let's be honest here about Monopoly: it can become a bit sado-masochistic, particularly at the end of the game when hotels are involved. Things can get pretty weird in terms of the whole power dynamic. In terms of the rules, just follow your instincts: Monopoly is a bit like big business: when it comes down to it there are no rules.



Edward Aczel has no show this year, as answering these questions required his undivided attention. Send your own summer-time crises to auntieed@fringeig.com

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

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FREE FESTIVAL

Venue map
on p20



What we're watching

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We have actually wet our pants with excitement about this

Stupid O'Clock

10:15 at **Summerhall** [26]
How to Keep Time: A Drum Solo for Dementia 1-26 (not 13, 20) Yep, you read that right. The Fringiest thing in the brochure, just to wake you up. Antosh Wojcik explores inherited Alzheimers with a Roland electronic drum kit. Come on, it's at least as much fun as getting old. **F**



11:20 at **The Caves (Just the Tonic)** [88] *Jacob Hatton: Ozymandias* 2-26 (not 15) A very silly and occasionally insightful show about stuff in life that is funny. This is as surreal as comedy gets. Probably.

Noon-12:30

12:00 at **Finnegan's Wake (Laughing Horse)** [101] *Christian Talbot: Desperately Seeking Approval* 2-26 (not 14) Such a lovely chap is Christian. And he's finding great success these days with his brilliant shark cartoons. He writes for *Fringepig* too, you know? So are we favouring him unfairly? Yes we are. But don't worry, there are loads of people here we *don't* actually like. **F**

12:15 at **The Pear Tree (Laughing Horse)** [257] *Fopical With Peter E Davidson* 2-20, If you watch TV comedy in Northern Ireland, you'll know Peter E Davidson's shtick. The rosé-drinking, bearded, indie-music-loving fop finds the funny. **F**

12:30-13:30

12:50 at **City Café (Laughing Horse)** [85] *Russell Hicks: A Fistful of Ideas* 2-26 >>See page 42 **F**

13:00-13:30

13:05 at **The Counting House** [170] *Njambi McGrath: African in New York - Almost Famous* 3-24 (not 13) Scotland's funniest Kenyan has been making waves on BBC R4 lately, so see her now while she's in a proper, intimate venue instead of a monstrous tent on Potterow talking to c*nts. **F**

13:10 at **The Counting House (Laughing Horse)** [170] *Nathaniel Metcalfe: Chameleon, Comedian, Corinthian and Caricature* 2-26 (not 14) There's no overall narrative to this delightfully silly storytelling show. Metcalfe focuses on individual tales and tells them well. Listeners of Josh Widdicombe's XFM radio show will be familiar with his patter. This show was directed by cool kids' favourite James Acaster. **F**

13:20 at **Stand 2** [5] *Mary Bourke: I Want an Irish Passport* 2-26 (not 13) Mary Bourke has the demeanor of an inquisitorial vulture in charge of a Magdalene Laundry, but it's that suffer-no-fools froideur that makes her funny. Here she claims that there are two types of people: those who are Irish and those who wish they were. Wrigley disagrees, but not to her face. **F**



13:30-14:00

13:35 at **City Café (Laughing Horse)** [85] *Eat, Sleep, Shit, Shag* 2-23 Abbie Murphy tells us of her journey from tomboy to showgirl, and

how this has coloured her experience of womanhood. It's wry, amusing and insightful. **F**

13:35 at **The Stand** [5] *Stu and Garry's Fringe Improv Show* 3-11 Stu Murphy and Garry Dobson are longtime masters of the improv art. The audience says things, they say funny things back. There's always lots of adlib at the Fringe but it's their sharp chemistry that sets them apart. Also (says Wrigley) Stu is really, really fit. Not gym fit; he appears possibly close to death - but still ridiculously handsome.



13:45 at **Monkey Barrel** [396] *Jen Brister - Meaningless* 2-26 (not 15) Jen Brister should be better known than she is. She's fiercely intelligent and utterly withering about the absurdities of modern life. Or, indeed, all life. Does it have ANY meaning? Well no. The clue's in the title. **F**

14:00-14:30

14:00 at **Gilded Balloon Teviot** [14] *Andrea Hubert: Holes of Joy* 1-26 (not 15) At this point in the day you

probably want some calm, well-enunciated, slow-burn comedy, for which up-and-comer Andrea Hubert is just the thing. How to describe her? She's sort of like one of your mum's funnier and more glamorous friends. Well, I say 'your' mum. YOUR mum's friends may have been frightful harriads. What would I know?

14:30-15:00



14:25 at **City Café** (Laughing Horse) [85] *Samatha Pressdee: Pulling it Together*, 2-10 The Black Country's own Free the Nipple advocate is best known for performing and campaigning topless. A sidekick and advocate of Russell Brand, her views and her comedy are free-thinking, hard-hitting and anarchic, but delivered with a twinkle in the eye. **F**

14:30 at **Spiegelyurt** (Heroes) [327] *Grace the Former Child: Bipolar Express*, 9-13 Grace's performances are by turns sad, wry and profound. Here she talks about being diagnosed as bipolar at 14... which wasn't very long ago. See Grace, she is wise beyond her years. **F**

14:30 at **Fireside** [75] *Britain, Let's Talk About*

the Golliwogs, 2-26 Okay, sometimes we just want to see a show to see how the effing flip the act is going to tackle it. And why? I mean, do we really NEED to talk about golliwogs? I knew a golliwog once and it really wasn't an issue because we stuffed toys have no history of colonialism, and we're all the same race: cuddly.

★ **14:40** at **Apex Grassmarket** (Sweet)

[18] *Aidan Goatley is the Vicar's Husband*, 3-26 (not 15) A storytelling show about how it feels when you're an atheist going through comedy hell and your wife starts communing with the divine – or, at least, training to become a vicar. A cosy little tale well told.

15:00-15:30

15:00 at **Bannerman's** (PBH) [357] *The Trevor Lock Experience* (4-26) Trevor was once best known for getting into scrapes with Russell Brand, but now that the world has forgotten about the big-mouthed fornicator perhaps Trevor can emerge from his career bushel. He is a fidgety, short-circuiting maelstrom of tics and tangents and he is tremendously funny. **F**



15:00 at **Espionage** (Laughing Horse) [185] *Stephen Carlin: The Opinionater*, 2-26 (not 14) >>See page 42 **F**

Dave Chawner: Mental

A show about mental health (not mental illness)

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15:00 at **The Counting House (Laughing Horse)** [170] *Stand-Up Philosophy* – Free, 2-26 At last, something worthy of our massive intellects here at *Fringe*ig. Stand-ups join academics and brainy types to discuss philosophical quandaries. You ought to go. Although, according to Laplacian determinism, you either will or won't anyway. **F**

15:20 at **The Stand** [5] *Simon Munnery: The Wreath*, 3-26 (not 13) Former League Against Tedium legend and creator/director of the FYLM School comes the 32nd Fringe show from Simon. Usually his titles have little or nothing to do with the content, but it's guaranteed to be hilarious. He's the guv'nor.

15:30-16:00

15:35 at **Stand3&4** [12] *Nick Revel: BrokenDreamCatcher* 2-26 (not 13) Years ago, the editor of this great organ was on stage when Nick Revell came into the venue, yelled "Get the f*ck off the stage you pr*ck" and then apologised, explaining that he had just given up smoking. So the Ed would like you to do the same thing to Nick this year. Actually don't. Just go and see the only comedian brave enough to explain Baudelaire to a Saturday night crowd at Jongleurs. Also, to be fair, the Editor IS a pr*ck.

15:35 at **The Counting House (Laughing Horse)** [170] *Charmian Hughes: Bra Trek*, 2-26 (not 13) Charmian started doing



comedy in 1987 and has played the Glastonbury Festival, the Houses of Parliament and HM Prison Wormwood Scrubs. She is a 34H. This is her Bra Trek. **F**

16:00-16:30

★ 16:00 at **Gilded Balloon Teviot** [14] *Lost Voice Guy: Inspiration Porn*, 1-26 For reasons that should be obvious to anyone with a telly, this is going to be massive and you'll need a ticket well in advance because he's in the Turret which is a tiny space to put a BGT winner. It's the same show as last year, but then you didn't see it last year did you? No. Seriously, what's the point of you?



16:00 at **Boteco (Heroes)** [516] *Phil Kay: Lighter Hour*, 2-12 Phil Kay is utter Fringe; somewhere between a Scottish John Cooper Clarke and a Scottish UK Subs; like both he has a punk situationist soul and seems to endure forever, through good times and bad. He is possibly the only person to be booed off stage in Auchtermuchty for

juggling with his own snot. Go! **F**

16:10 at **Underbelly Bristo Square** [302] **Viv Groskop:** *Vivacious*, 1-26 (not 13)

Viv Groskop is an accomplished feminist writer and journalist who turned to standup six years ago and fitted right in. This is her slant on self-help and therapy.

16:30-17:00

16:30 at **Free Sisters** (Laughing Horse) [272] **Kate Talbot** *Has Peaked Too Soon*, 2-11 Kate Talbot, daughter of comedian Christian, says that being alive is kinda rubbish, despite doing it successfully for 16 years. Since winning the Malcolm Hardee Cunning Stunt Award in 2014 she's been building up to this, her Fringe comedy debut. **F**

16:30 at **Stand 3&4** [12] **Phill Jupitus:** *Sassy Knack*, 2-26 (not 13) One of three shows Phill is bringing to Edinburgh this year, this is the one where he recalls funny true stories, although he 'will exaggerate wildly'. Hopefully there'll be some stuff about being Billy Bragg's roadie, and being in *Hairspray*.

16:45 at **The Counting House** (Laughing Horse) [170] **Show Up**, 2-26 (not 22) This was one of Wrigley's favourite shows here last year so he's glad it's back. Mr Marino presents an improv show good enough to be enjoyed by the improv-averse. What's it about? It really is up to the audience. You'll probably

go more than once. There's a kid's version here at noon and 15:00. **F**

17:00-17:30

17:00 at **The Hive** (Heroes) [313] **Luke McQueen:** *Monster*, 2-26 (not 15) McQueen is funny, and uniquely exciting, and hopefully this year he's stopped banging on about Joel Dommett. **F**

17:15 at **The Pear Tree** (Laughing Horse) [257] **Jimmy McGhie** 3-25 (not 6,13,20) >>See page 42 **F**

17:15 at **Whistlebinkies** (PBH) [158] **Carey Carey** *Quite Contrary*, 4-26 (not 14) >>See page 42 **F**



17:15 at **Gilded Balloon** **Teviot** [14] **Alison Spittle:** *Worrier Princess*, 1-27 Kipper very much enjoyed Alison Spittle *Discovers Hawaii* a couple of years ago. Alison is an Irish human-shaped collection of over-examined neuroses and gnawing self-doubts, all of which seem genuinely debilitating and most of which (thank goodness) also make her very funny.

17:30-18:00

17:30 at **Assembly George Square** [8] **John-Luke Roberts:** *All I Wanna Do Is* [FX: GUNSHOTS] *With a* [FX: GUN RELOADING] *and a* [FX: CASH

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2-13 AUG

REGISTER] and Perform Some Comedy!, 1-27 (not 15) One of ACMS's chief raspberry-blowers, JLR is building up his Fringe reputation for bonkers absurdism. It's new, it's brash, it's something you haven't seen before... but it's kind of in the tradition of Spike Milligan when he did utterly leftfield stuff like *There's A Lot Of It About*.



17:45 at Pleasance Courtyard [33] *Jacqueline Novak: How Embarrassing For Her*, 1-26 This looks like a real treat. Jacqueline is massive in the US where she has been on all the late night talk shows, but remains oddly unknown here. Her style is very warm, disarming and utterly obsessed with food and the way women eat it.

★ **17:45 at Gilded Balloon Teviot** [14] *Zoe Lyons: Entry Level Human*, 1-26 >>See page 42

18:00-18:30

★ **18:00 at Dragonfly (Heroes)** [414] *Twonkey's Night Train to Liechtenstein*, 3-26 (not 8,22) No doubt Twonkey will be doing his usual stuff. This will include singing heartfelt nonsensical torch songs to friends he's made from household objects and going on an adventure pulled from

the fever-dreams of Hieronymous Bosch. We wouldn't have it otherwise. **F**

18:00 at Riddle's Court (PQA Venues) [277] *Andrew White: Coming of Age*, 3-27 (not 21) Last year Andrew White made his Fringe debut at just 17 - and he was annoyingly good. Now the boy has become a man and *Coming of Age* is loosely based around that.

★ **18:00 at The Caves (Just the Tonic)** [88] *Henning Wehn: Get On With It* 2-26 (but not Mondays or Tuesdays) For the last couple of years Henning has been doing megashows at the Queen's Hall and wotnot, but now he's back in the relatively intimate setting of the Big Cave - so you'll need to buy a ticket NOW. Too late.

18:30-19:00

18:30 at La Belle Angele (Just the Tonic) [301] *Rob Rouse*, 2-12 >>See page 42 **F**

18:30 at The Stand [5] *David Kay*, 3-12 Oh bloody hell, we love David Kay. But how hard he is to describe. He's sort of like a very Scottish Giles and Mary off *Gogglebox* obsessing about everything and nothing forever. Except wonderful.

★ **18:40 at Underbelly Cowgate** [61] *Awkward Conversations With Animals I've F*cked*, 2-26 (not 13) This little shocker apparently lost its writer, Rob Hayes, quite a few friends - but audiences who came to be appalled stayed for the ultimately sympathetic, if

bestial, protagonist. This time the part so well played by Jack Holden in 2014 is performed by Linus Karp.



18:40 at The Blundabus (Heroes) [212] *Yuriko Kotani: Moreish*, 2-26 (not 15) Hailing from Japan, this winner of the BBC New Comedy Award 2015 brings a work-in-progress show to Bob's bus. Wrigley saw her at the Camden Head in London earlier this year and she was effing brilliant. **F**

18:45 at The Counting House (Laughing Horse) [170] *Strictly Carl Donnelly!*, 2-26 (not 13) >>See page 42

19:00-19:30

19:00 at Underbelly Bristo Square [302] *Nina Conti is Monkey*, 1-27 (not 13) If you've never seen Nina Conti communing with her egocentric monkey then it's about time you rectified this error. Especially now that monkey has entirely consumed his creator like a simian Skynet.

19:00 at The Free Sisters (Laughing Horse) [272] *Milo McCabe: 1001 Moments With Troy Hawke!*, 2-26 (not 13) Troy Hawke is a delight. From his #metoo reading of Mr Men books to his Shakespearean paean to the Wetherspoon's budget boozer chain, this foppish

anachronism elicits giggles from the toughest crowd. We'll enjoy seeing what he does with the punters in Maggie's Chamber, who can be, erm, 'spirited' at times. **F**

19:00 at Underbelly Cowgate [61] *Paul Foot: Image Conscious*, 2-26 (not 13) Members of Mr Foot's Guild of Connoisseurs will already have this at the top of their Fringe lists. Nobody does modern surrealist comedy better. When you're not laughing at the comedy you'll be chuckling at the horrified looks of the small number of punters that just don't get it. Unless, of course, that's you.

19:10 at The Stand New Town Theatre [7] *Limmy's Vines*, 3-12 There is nothing dafter than Limmy, and his vines are masterpieces of bite-sized absurdism. You could save yourself £16 by watching them on the internet, but then you wouldn't get the Q&A with the man himself. We will ask him why it costs £16.

19:15 at Pleasance Courtyard [33] *Angela Barnes: Rose-Tinted*, 1-16 (not 13) Kipper has known Angela since her days in the South London amateur dramatic scene, and she is just t'riffic. Am dram's loss has been comedy's gain. She has since been on all 'those' panel shows but we think her wise 'n' wobbly take on the world works much better onstage.

19:30-20:00

19:30 at Subway (PBH) [56] *Nick Doody: PG*, 4-25 (not



14,21) Since he interviewed a relatively-unknown Bill Hicks at Oxford many moons ago, Agent Smith of the *Matrix* look-alike Nick has been honing his comedic craft. He was one of the first 'proper' acts to embrace the free Fringe model and he's here again providing excellent stand-up for bucket money. Unjust. **F**



19:30 at **Monkey Barrel** [396] *Glenn Wool: Glen Wool's Gold II (The Iron Pirate)*, 2-25 (not 13) Glenn Wool is a rheumy-eyed, grizzled Canadian bundle of joy and wreckage, and we've never seen him be anything less than hysterical. Seeing him shuffle through 25 years of greatest hits (and maybe some comedy B-sides too) is going to be an utter and unalloyed delight. **F**

19:30 at **Assembly George Square** [8] *David O'Doherty: You Have to Laugh*, 1-27 (not 14) If you haven't seen

David O'Doherty yet then you've probably been living in the dungeon of a Trappist monastery. There's nothing we can tell you about his life-affirming Bontempi declamatories that you don't already know. So we won't.

19:35 at **theSpace on North Bridge** [12] *Filth*, 3-18 (not 12) You're in Edinburgh, so how about basking in the extreme dystopianism of Irvine Welsh? This monodrama with Harry Gibson explores the story of Welsh's deeply corrupt and disordered policeman from the novel of the same name. We assume. But maybe Irvine is f*cking with us.

19:40 at **Stand 3 & 4** [12] *Jo Caulfield: Killing Time*, 3-26 (not 13, 20) >>See page 42

19:40 at **The Hive (Heroes)** [313] *Phil Ellis is Ready for the Big Time*, 2-26 (not 15) Northern master of hubris Phil Ellis has had an excellent five years at the Fringe - from deliberate heroic failures to accidental successes with *Funz and Gamez*. So why he has sequestered himself in the back room of the sticky-floored Hive, we're not entirely sure. But we're sure as hell going to find out! **F**

martha mcbrier

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Venue map

Assembly Rooms George Street [20] EH2 2LR • **Assembly George Square Gardens** [3] EH8 9LH • **Assembly George Square Studios** [17] EH8 9LH • **Assembly George Square Theatre** [8] EH8 9LH • **Assembly Roxy** [139] EH8 9SU • **Banshee Labyrinth** (PBH) [156] EH1 1LG • **Bannermans** (PBH) [357] EH1 1NQ • **Bar 50** (LH) [151] EH1 1NE • **Bar Bados** (PBH) [32] EH1 1JW • **Black Medicine** (Heroes) [503] EH8 9DH • **Bob's Blundabus** (Heroes) [212] EH8 9AA • **Boteco** (Heroes) [516] EH1 1HB • **C Royale** [6] EH2 2PQ • **C Venues: C** [34] EH1 1HR • **Cabaret Voltaire** (LH) [338] EH1 1QR • **The Caves** (JTT) [88] EH1 1LG • **City Café** (LH) [85] EH1 1QR • **The Counting House** (LH) [170] EH8 9DD • **Dragonfly** (Heroes) [414] EH1 2LD • **Dropkick Murphy's** (LH) [289] EH1 2QD • **Espionage** (LH) [185] EH1 2EX • **Finnegan's Wake** (LH) [101] EH1 2HE • **Fireside** [75] EH8 8BE • **Free Sisters** (LH) [272] EH1 1JS • **Gilded Balloon at the Museum** [64] EH1 1HB • **Gilded Balloon Rose St Theatre** [76] EH2 4AZ • **Gilded Balloon Teviot** [14] EH8 9AJ • **Grassmarket Centre** (JTT)

[27] EH1 2QA • **Greenside Nicholson Square** [209] EH8 9BX • **Harry's Southside** (LH) [264] EH8 9LP • **The Hive** (Heroes) [313] EH1 1LG • **La Belle Angele** (JTT) [301] EH1

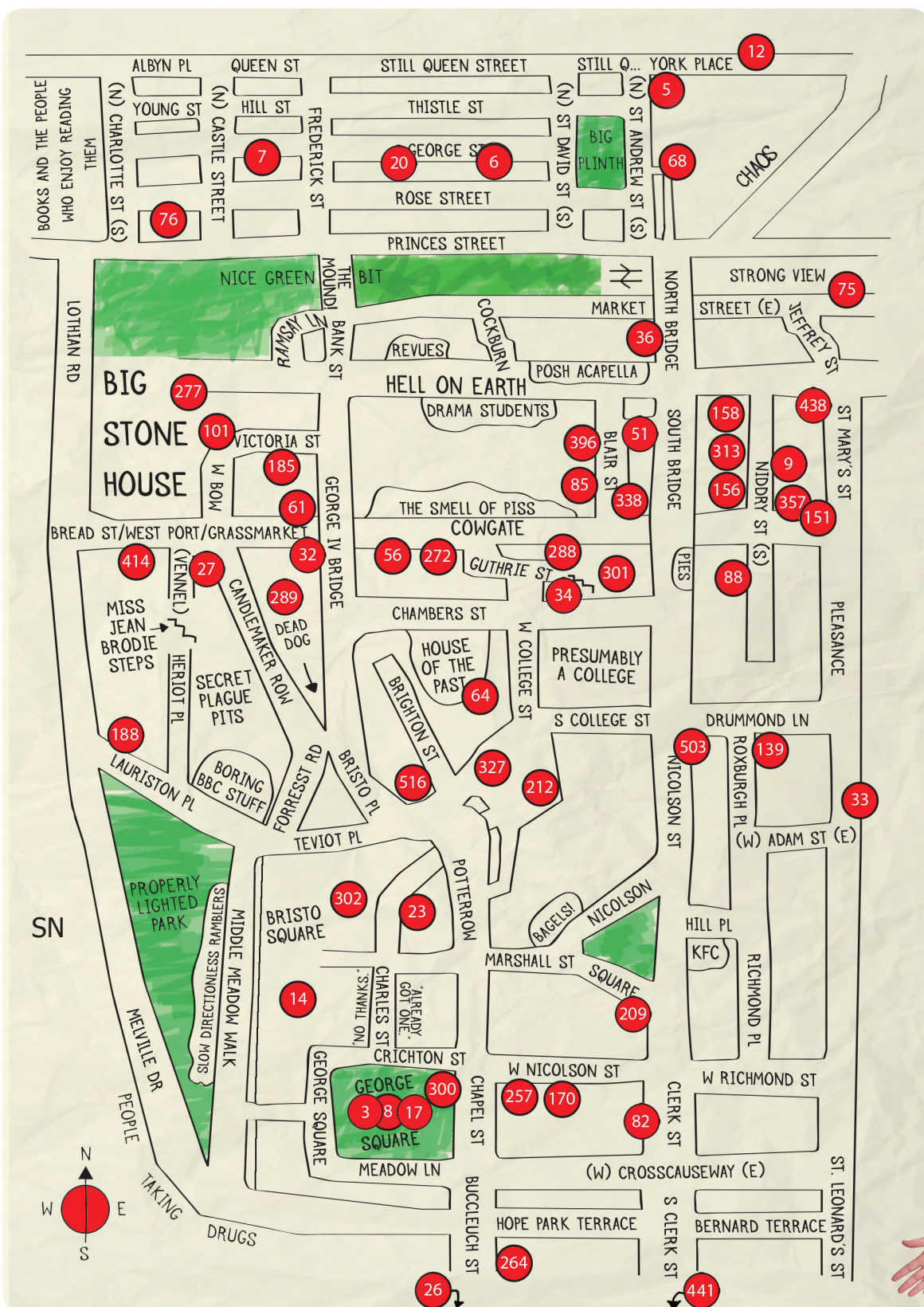
1HJ • **The Mash House** (JTT) [288] EH1 1JG • **Mockingbird** (LH) [441] EH9 1QN • **Monkey Barrel** [396] EH1 1QR • **Novotel** (Sweet) [188] EH3 9DE • **Pear Tree** (LH) [257] EH8 9DD

• **Pleasance Courtyard** [33] EH8 9JT • **Pleasance Dome** [23] EH8 9AL • **PQA Venues** [277] EH1 2PG • **The Space at Niddry Street** [9] EH1 1TH • **The Space on North Bridge**

[36] EH1 1SD • **Spiegelyurt** (Heroes) [327] EH8 9AA • **Stand 1 (The Stand) & Stand 2** [5] EH1 3EB • **The Stand 3&4** [12] EH1 3EP • **The Stand New Town Theatre** [7] EH2 3DH • **Subway** (PBH)

[56] EH1 1JW • **Summerhall** [26] EH9 1PL • **The Tron** (JTT) [51] EH1 1QW • **Underbelly Bristo Square** [302] EH8 9AG • **Underbelly Cowgate** [61] EH1 1JX • **Underbelly**

George Square [300] EH8 9LH • **Voodoo Rooms** (PBH) [68] EH2 2AA • **Waverley Bar** (PBH) [438] EH1 1TA • **Whistlebinkies** (PBH) [158] EH1 1LL • **Zoo Southside** [82] EH8 9ER



20:00-20:30

20:00 at **Monkey Barrel** [396] **Tim Renkow** Tries to **Punch Down**, 2-26 (not 8,15,22) Tim is without doubt Fringepig's favourite 'crippled redneck Mexican Jew'. Delivering a massive f*ck off to his own cerebral palsy and everyone else's pettier problems, Tim has more gallows humour than a drunken Saturday night at Tyburn. Gloriously cathartic. **F**

20:00 at **Pleasance Courtyard** [33] **Alex Edelman**: *Just For Us*, 1-26 We won't lie: Many comedians on the circuit have an 'Alex Edelman being a bit of a dick' story; he's an unboundaried New York American and that's all part of his frustrated genius. Since he won best newcomer in 2014 he's actually mellowed a lot. This will be good.



20:00 at **Boteco (Heroes)** [516] **Brendon Burns**: *Mansplainin'*, 3-26 If you want dependable, gruff Aussie standup for the incredible price of whatever, then look no further than Brendon Burns performing (for some reason) in a Brazilian BBQ restaurant. If you imagine Jim Jefferies with twice the anger and a genuine, yearning conscience, you'll be roughly in the Burnsy zone. Meaty. **F**

★ **20:10** at **Assembly George Square** [8] **Andrew Lawrence**: *Clean*, 1-26 >>See page 42

20:05 at **Assembly George Square** [8] **Demi Lardner**: *I love Skeleton* 1-26 (not 13) >> See page 42

20:30-21:00

20:30 at **Pleasance Dome** [23] **The Raymond and Mr Timpkins Revue**: *Ham*, 1-27 (not 13) A favourite with comedy bookers all over the land, this is Raymond and Timpkins' first foray onto the Fringe. This is an act that has honed its style in a billion bread-and-butter venues and will be as sharp – and as silly – as all buggery.

20:50 at **Assembly Roxy** [139] **Lolly Jones**: *Fifty Shades of May*, 1-24 (not 13)

We don't normally go near Burlesque, but we're intrigued by this satirical/political/girlie show mashup. And... for goodness sake... 'A suspender-clad Theresa May revels in fields of wheat'. What more do you need? Might eat before we see this.

21:00-21:30

21:00 at **Monkey Barrel** [396] **Phil Nichol**: *Your Wronger*, 2-26 From Corky and the Juice Pigs to full-frontal nudity, Phil Nichol has taken Fringe performance to its very extremes. Last year's *Your Wrong* was an altogether more thoughtful Phil exploring 'the modern day need to be right about everything', including grammar. This is part two. **F**

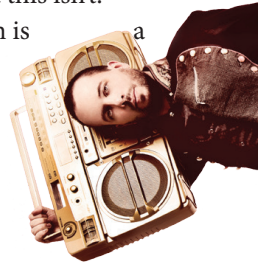
21:00 at **Gilded Balloon Teviot** [14] **Luisa Omielan**: *Politics For Bitches*, 2-26 (not 14, 23) >>See page 32

21:15 at **Gilded Balloon Rose St Theatre** [76] **Tom Stadel**: *I Swear To*, 1-26 (not 13) >>See page 42

★ **21:20** at **Pleasance Courtyard** [33] **Gary Delaney**: *Gagster's Paradise*, 2-11 >>See page 42

21:30-22:00

21:30 at **Underbelly George Square** [300] **Abandoman**: *Pirate Radio*, 1-27 (not 13,20) Hmmm, Kipper just wrote 'Irish improv mixmaster', which sounds terrible. But this isn't. Abandoman is a joyous, uplifting riff on everything in the room from aardvarks to zucchinis.




21:30 at **Monkey Barrel** [396] **Alfie Brown**: *Lunatic*,

Continued on Pg 24

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4:30pm Laughing Horse @Espionage (Bunker)

6:15pm Laughing Horse @Espionage (Pravda)

10:45pm Laughing Horse @Free Sisters (Maggie's Chamber)

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-Rip It Up, Adelaide Fringe



12:00noon Aug 2-26

Laughing Horse @ Fireside (The Last Arch Theatre)

2:00pm Aug 2-26

Laughing Horse @ Free Sisters (Maggie's Chamber)

FREE
ENTRY

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Aug 2-26th

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ENTRY



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Aug 2-26 (not 13) Son of comic actress Jan Ravens and *Spitting Image* puppet-basher Steve Brown, Alfie claims that he was 'genetically bred for comedy'. Much like Fluck and Law's political demolition, Brown goes to some dark places. He will spend an hour exploring taboos, walking elephants through the room and triggering your face off.

21:40 at **The Stand** [5] *Alun Cochrane: You. Me. Now.*
3-26 (not 13) >>See page 42

21:55 at **The Mash House**
(Just the Tonic) [288] *Dan Nightingale: Sex, Drugs and Nana's Bungalow*
2-25 (not 5,12,13, 19)
>>See page 42 **F**

22:00-22:30

22:00 at **Banshee**
Labyrinth (PBH) [156]
Lloyd Langford: Why the Big Face? 4-26 (not 10,11, 12)
>>See page 42 **F**

20:40 at **The Hive** (Heroes) [313] *Paul Currie: Hot Donkey*, 3-27 (not 8,15,22)
Anyone who enjoyed FFFFFFFMILK! two years ago is sure to enjoy *Hot Donkey*. *The Skinny* says that Currie sets 'a new standard in absurdism'. But then how do we police standards in absurdism? Should there be an Absurd Standards Bureau? Paul is certain not to tell us. **F**

22:30-23:00

22:30 at **Assembly George Square** [8] *Thrones! The Musical Parody*, 1-26 The sniffer Fringe rags may turn their noses up at this, especially those who think the HBO adaptations of

RR Martin's books are exploitative bollocks. Kipper loves it, and he'll be there hoping for nudity, incest and cock-severing. To music.

22:30 at **City Café**
(Laughing Horse) [85] *Aidan 'Taco' Jones: 52 Days*, 2-26 Over 52 Days this Aussie comedian made weekly journal entries on a deck of playing cards, spanning three continents, jail, fireworks and heartache. Every night the audience picks a card for him to reminisce about. **F**

22:45 at **Pleasance Courtyard** [33] *Richard Todd: We Need the Eggs*, 1-26 (not 15) This show - see pic below - has a bit in it that's Kipper's favourite premise EVER. Richard finds a prawn cocktail crisp in his bed. Neither he nor his girlfriend like prawn cocktail crisps. What is it doing there? So begins a spiral of mental recriminations and obsession, and a fun study of what we'll put up with for security.

Late

23:55 at **Monkey Barrel** [396] *Alternative Comedy Memorial Society*, 3-26 (not 8, 15, 22) Everyone loves ACMS, apart from *Scotsman* critic Kate Copstick, who walked out and called it 'smug' and 'middle-class' like that's a bad thing. This is sort of like a variety show meets uni rag week on acid. **F**



SIMON JABLONSKI

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'Drink bleach, bitch!'

...and other fan mail I've received. **KATE SMURTHWAITE** deals with the haters.

The rape and death threats are not the worst bit.

"If I ever see you, you will no longer have any teeth to smile with."

"I would deepthroat you so bad you wouldn't speak for ages!"

I don't like that stuff. But anyone who sees it thinks 'poor Kate'. Which is not necessary. I'm fine. Neither am I upset by being called ugly, Jewish, a lesbian, transgender; these are not bad things.

More of a problem are the thousands of downvotes on my

"I'd estimate that internet abusers destroy about half my career."

videos. They mean I can't monetise my YouTube channel and the hate videos about me come up ahead of my own work.

And then there are the comments about how I'm not funny, not funny, not funny - if I booked comedy clubs or spots on TV shows based on YouTube clips, I wouldn't book me either.

People tell me to block, report to Twitter/YouTube or the police; track down their employers and grass them up; form my supporters into an online counter-army. I've done all these things, as have other female comics who have suffered online hate. They take ages and make no tangible difference.

Blocked people just make new accounts that are more anonymous. The police are a useless bag of dicks. I'd estimate that internet abusers destroy about half my career.

I refuse to call them 'troll'. Trolls are adorable fairytale things that no-one over the age of eight needs to worry about. Internet abusers are not harmless. Elliott Rodger, Alek Minassian and the scores of domestic violence perpetrators who have had their crimes shrugged off by police are terrorists. The guy in Isis who sends the threats and the guy who lights the touch paper are, after all, both terrorists.

Why me? Well, none of the rape threats are about my vagina. None. They are all about my mouth and my throat. Because I speak.

Who are they? Well it's wrong to generalise but in general they're men.



They're angry. And it's a bloody long time since any of them got their dicks wet.

So why are they so angry? Well, partly because the media aggressively tells us that women are these beautiful semi-naked creatures whose sole aim in life is to please men. Now there's one on f*cking *Newsnight* acting like her opinion matters.

Kate Smurthwaite: *Clit Stirrer* is at Banshee Labyrinth [156] at 19.30, Aug 4-26 (not 14)

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03 - 27 August 2018

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WHOSE PROBLEMS
ARE ALL BECAUSE
OF SOCIETY AND
THAT.



FIRST DAY OF THE FRINGE...



Oh hey Bun!
Where's your show
this year?

I don't have
one. Why bother?
I'm a comedy omega.
I'm rubbish.

Er.. OK.
I'm sure a
year's break
will-



I've become
an **INVUNT**, **Croc**.
I'm **Involuntarily**
Untalented. I get no
crowds, no queues, no
love. That all goes to the
STEWARTS and the
BRIDGETS.

... Those are our words for
naturally funny bastards
who get all the sweet
comedy action and
leave us with
NOTHING!



Isn't that all up
to you, Bun? We **ALL** have
to work for it. Nobody is
born hilarious. I mean-

You're just a
NORMAN LOVETT
aren't you? A guy just
funny enough to get
by...

Whereas
I am literally
being
suffocated

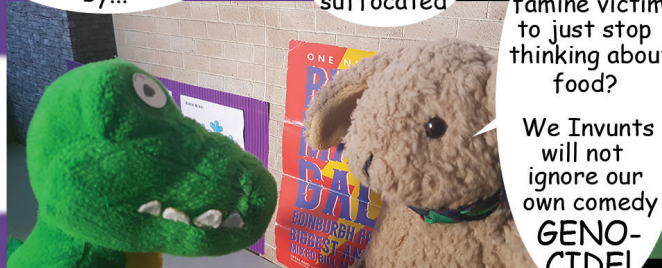
Why
don't you
go tell a
famine victim
to just stop
thinking about
food?

We Invunts
will not
ignore our
own comedy
**GENO-
CIDE!**



Ah come on Bun,
being a stand-up isn't
everything! Maybe try
theatre? .. Improv?

ugggh..



That's
just..
crazy..

Public attention is a
RIGHT! A right we are denied!
So all the talented shits
are gonna **PAY!**



PLEASE don't do
anything stupid, Bun.
Things'll get better!

BUN?!?

They have
brought this on
themselves! All
of them!!

...and that's why
I'd like to review for
you guys this year



The
more the
merrier.
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notepad

More rabbitry incel-ence in
the next issue!!!

Delphine Manley Presents

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For The Viciously Ambitious



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

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AUGUST 2ND-26TH
5:45PM Laughing Horse @ The Free Sisters (Venue 272)
139 Cowgate, EH1 1JS

Laughing Horse
THE FREE SISTERS
VENUE 272
139 COWGATE - 0131 222 0861

RON the PLUMBER



Counting House

The LOFT 1.30 pm

★★★★★



'Ave a day off!

On the **13th-16th** a lot of acts take a break and something one-off and quirky happens instead. **EDMUND RUMANIA** is checking these somethings out



Laughing for Palestine with Frankie Boyle

The Counting House (LH) [170] | 16:15 | Aug 13

A fundraiser for ICAHD UK's Buy-A-Brick campaign With Frankie Boyle, Craig Campbell, Jen Brister & surprise guests. The topic that gets Frankie into his hottest water is back again, and I won't say you'll need to kill for a ticket but you will certainly need to occupy and subdue someone. Note that, although it's in a Free Fest venue, this show costs £15.



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

Voodoo Rooms (PBH) [68] | 18:10 | Aug 13 **F**

What can we say about this that isn't already in the title? Nothing. It's all there. A Fringe cult favourite that sells out.



Barry Cryer and Ronnie Golden: Historical Objects

Gilded Balloon at the Museum [64] |

15:00 Aug 13 / 16:30 Aug 14

The timeless duo from our wireless yesterdays will time-travel to the primordial past of comedy. See Barry curate his earliest parrot jokes from the Jurassic era while Ronnie discusses the origins of igneous rock (and metamorphic roll). Will contain sparkling gems and intricate fossils from their joint 100-year careers. This is prehysterical sit-down-and-hope-you-don't-have-to-get-up-again-for-a-bit comedy.



Rory O'Keeffe: The Bucket Speech

The Voodoo Rooms (PBH) [68] | 18:15 |

Aug 14 **F**

If you've ever been to a free show at the Fringe you'll know that moment when the fun stops, the comedian tells you you've been great when you haven't really, and the power dynamic suddenly reverses as the comedian who has just been calling you a twat is now begging you to help sustain him/her. Well Rory O'Keeffe is going to keep that awkwardness going for an hour! It says 'bring cash'. So... you've been told.



Sean Hughes: A Tribute

Gilded Ballon Teviot [14] | 19:00 | Aug 14

Sean came to the UK in the mid-1980s and won The Perrier Award at just 24. He stayed on our stages and screens for the next 25 years. Here, comedian friends

including Carl Donnelly, Phill Jupitus and Joe Rowntree will remember him fondly and funnily, with proceeds going to the Hibernian Community Foundation.



Cammy Sinclair: Daddy & Robin Make Lego

Heroes@Spiegelyurt [327] | 14:30 | Aug 14 F

Cammy Sinclair is a wonderfully affable high-energy / low-friction musical comedian who will do no more, nor less, than

build things out of Lego with his 4-year-old son while you look on in contented awe. Have no doubt that you are at the Fringe. This is in fact the finale of four Lego sessions so they may be finalising that diorama of Edinburgh Castle / the Albert Memorial / the Calton Hill Follies. Or it may just be a pile of bricks, tears and unrealised dreams like the St James redevelopment.



Disgust for Dummies

Stand New Town Theatre [7] | 13:30 | Aug 15

What is disgust? Why do we feel it? How well does it protect us from rotten food and corrupt people? Well, for one thing IDG Books usually stamp all over Fringe shows

with 'For Dummies' in the title, which is in itself disgusting. This is part of the Cabaret of Dangerous Ideas 2018.



The French Comedy Hour

Bar-Bados (PBH) [65] | 19:30 | Aug 15 F

Do you speak French? Un petit peu? Well then go along to this, Hosted by Arielle Souma and featuring 'French comedy from all over the world'. So not

just France. Other places. Also it says "bring your wine and baguette and cheese" so at least they're not trading in lazy stereotypes. Haha! Je suis très sarcastique.



Barry Crimmins: A Celebration

Stand New Town Theatre [7] | 22:50 | Aug 16

Barry Crimmins was a survivor of child abuse and a tireless activist against its online proliferation. But he was also a

lovely guy and a brilliant comedian who ran the pioneering Ding Ho and Stitches Clubs in Boston. He made his Edinburgh Fringe debut only last year. Robin Ince leads a remembrance service that promises to be touching, funny and profound.



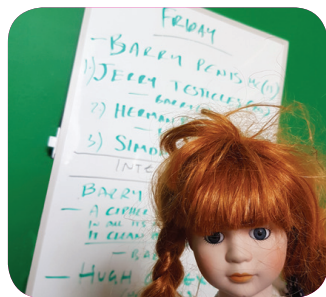


Rep-resentin'!

For women comedians, the Fringe affords a refreshing break from having to represent 49.6 per cent of the global population every night... says **ELEANOR TIERNAN**

When embarking upon the Edinburgh Fringe, female comics who have been pounding the UK and Irish comedy circuit for the past 11 months should prepare themselves for an unexpected curveball: the likelihood of crossing paths with comedians who also are women.

"There are others?" I hear the first-timers among you ask. Indeed there are. Just like you, they weave their magic in clubs across the country during the first slot after the break. So entrenched is this format I hear it's called "the lady spot", although there's a chance they could be talking about something else. Female comics who have never been to Edinburgh



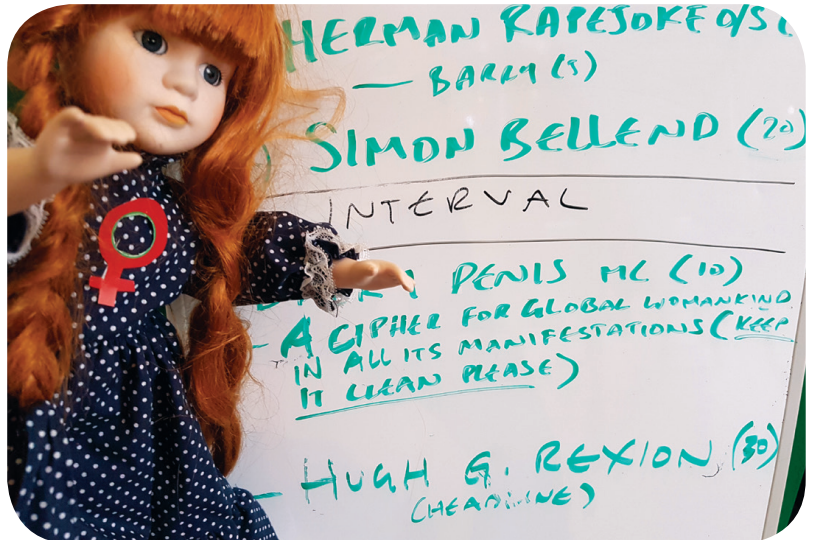
could be forgiven for thinking they stand alone, so rare is it to encounter another on a lineup. Outside of fringe time promoters

putting together comedy nights mostly book no more and sometimes less than one female comic.

Like fluoride, female comics are carefully administered to the public to maintain a healthy smile, but kept at a low dosage because of the tremendous damage we would inflict if left unchecked.

In Edinburgh there is a much wider variety of shows and genres. You'll have showcase shows that promise 200 comics in 55 minutes and, while I'd be suspicious of the quality of these, the odds of there being more than one woman increase dramatically.

There's relief for female comics in this. Those affected will know that the one-per-bill policy brings the vague and impossible task of representing your gender. As a woman you may be just one comedian of four or five, but it is also the case that you are all the women on the roster. And because people seem



eager to decide female stand-ups are no good, everything you do and say in your set can be taken and said to apply to all of your gender. If you do some risqué material, for example, people who were there will be able to say that all of the females on the lineup talked about sex and it will be true.

A male comic can say whatever he likes and no such judgments about the male gender are made. But in Edinburgh there is less need for women to engage in what I call "idiot proofing", where you scan your material

and remove content that makes it easy for sexists to dismiss you.

On the comedy circuit, the area behind the curtains often doesn't provide for the fact that more than one gender shares a space. You can imagine that with just one woman each time it's hard to summon up the will to cater for these extra requirements.

I'm talking about the extra wardrobe/make up preparations a female comic might wish to do. A mirror, or even a private changing area. Without an ally, you

.....
 "Like fluoride, female comics are carefully administered to the public to maintain a healthy smile but kept at a low dosage because of the tremendous damage we would inflict if left unchecked."

mostly just make your way to the public loos to apply mascara side by side with the audience you are about to perform to.

In Edinburgh you can be backstage, run out of hairspray and find some in another performer's handbag, theoretically speaking of course.

When there are more women, people stop questioning your being there. There's less chance of someone asking which performer's girlfriend you are. Sometimes it's fun to pretend that's why you're there, to see their jaw drop when you go onstage.

Of course it's not all

“In Edinburgh, being female is no longer enough of a perspective”

good news. Realising you're not the only female comic on the bill has the potential to expose assumptions you've made in your set. If you open with a joke about being the only woman on the bill, that'll need to go. However, the creatively ambitious ones among us will recognise this as an opportunity to evolve; to refine and sharpen our viewpoints. To adapt and survive.

Being female is no

longer enough of a perspective by itself so we're forced to ask ourselves: What kind of woman am I? Follow that path for long enough and it eventually becomes possible that gender has little to do with stand-up; it might just be human beings connecting.

Promoters tell me just how much effort they put into finding good female comics and I believe them (I have to). But the scope and size of the Fringe is undeniably a more fertile ground for diversity.

I don't mean to suggest that Edinburgh is an idyllic feminist utopia. It has its

problems. But female comics here have more chance of catching the eye of another comrade in the trenches. Knowing you're not alone can make things tolerable and shared eye rolls, even with a stranger, are underrated.

Eleanor Tiernan:
Success Without a Sex Tape is at Banshee Labyrinth [156] at 13:40, 4-26 August (not 13)



show up

the hit improvised solo comedy about your shite life.

not about or written by
peter michael marino

counting house
38 w nicolson
16:45

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AAAAAAAAAAAAAAAAAAAAAAAAAAAAAAAAAND

IT IS TIME

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ROGER SWIFT'S

PUN-U-MATIC

THE 2ND LEG

The UK Pun Championships 2016 & 2017 Finalist

6:45PM

2-26 AUGUST (NOT 14)

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DROPKICK MURPHY'S
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FREE FESTIVAL

Where are you coming from?

Luisa Omielan

She's back, she's pissed off... and she's finding the funny despite a profound sense of loss

"My grandfather flew for the RAF in the Second World War, and was settled by the government in Bristol. My parents came over 40 years ago. Polish was my first language, and nobody here spoke it when I was born. So my first bit of comedy was making the neighbours' kids laugh, by being really clowny and physical. I love making foreigners laugh; where I have to reach them just with personality.

"I am a feminist, obviously, but why is it such a buzzword for people to hit bitches over the head with? I mean, we call out people who are feminist when, by now, that should be standard, right? Why aren't we calling out the people who aren't? Like, someone might want to identify as a bigoted old man, and that's fine. But I'm just normal. Having to say 'I'm a feminist' when you're just living your life is like non-murderers having to say 'I'm not a murderer' every day.

"People are always trying to box me, and find a good hook. But I don't want any labels to alienate men, because men love what I do. A man once asked me to be his gift for his wife at his wedding. She had mental health and body issues but he'd seen her properly throw her head back and laugh for the first time in ages at my show, so he booked me. And they had a great night of sex after it and he said

'Thanks for bringing back the woman I fell in love with'. That's what comedy should be; it should be life-changing and positive.

"I wrote *What Would Beyonce Do?* in a state of depression, and you can find the funny in that. But now, since my mum died, I'm grieving. That is a totally different kind of sadness and it changed everything.

"I was at my mum's bedside when I was offered *Live at the Apollo*, and I was like 'I'm not doing that, I'm staying with you'. But she told me to go. And she made me promise never to give up the comedy. And then I had to tour with *Am I Right, Ladies?* Well you can't break a promise to your dying mother, can you? So I did it, and it's done, but when you've seen your mother throwing up shit, who cares about thigh gaps and body image? I'm past that.

"I'm angry now; I'm really f*cking angry because I took her to A&E and they told her to go swimming; exercise more. And then when they found it, it was stage 4.

"They sent her home and, because of the tumour in her stomach, she couldn't eat. She basically starved to death. What really got to me was people saying 'she's at peace now'. They have no f*cking idea. I'm not religious, but I was praying. To women of the past, Mary Magdalene, my dead



“ Having to say 'I'm a feminist' when you're just living your life is like non-murderers having to say 'I'm not a murderer' every day. ”

.....

granny, Joan Rivers, Halley's Comet... everything but God.

"At my first show for *Am I Right, Ladies?* I couldn't talk. For the first time ever, I felt anxious. I went offstage for a bit and cuddled my dog, Bernie, who I'd bought after my mum had gone. When I came back I just explained what had happened with mum; how pissed off I was. It got a standing ovation, and afterwards a man whose son had been badly treated by the NHS said 'Thanks for giving us a voice'. After that I started finding the funny in it, and I love telling her story.

"What happened should

have happened in Victorian times, not in ours. It made me think: where are we with healthcare? Are we still swinging dead squirrels round our heads and doing voodoo rituals? Because that would have been as much use to my mother.

"Is it okay to say 'bitches' all the time? (Laughs)... I like how it makes people have this big debate. Let's just say if you're not black don't use the N word; if you're not a woman don't say 'bitches'. That works."

Luisa Omielan: *Politics for Bitches* is at Gilded Balloon Teviot [14], 21:00, Aug 1-16 (not 14, 23)

Becky Fury

If there's a funnier boy-girl ex-crusty libertarian hedonist insurrectionist at this year's Fringe, then... we haven't heard

"This year's show can't be any worse than last year's. The people from the Last Minute comedy awards turned up at the actual last minute due to a sudden venue change. It was almost tragic. But maybe that'll be my background sob story when I win *Britain's Got Talent*.

"I've always wanted to be a comedian, I was always funny at school but then I took a shit ton of drugs and I became funny in a different way; not necessarily comic. I lost all my sharpness. So I stopped that and started taking it seriously.

"Arthur Smith gave me a Smithy once, but I'm not that interested in getting awards and stuff. I don't want to be taken under anyone's wing. Obviously there's things you have to aim for, like being on telly and making lots of money, but I'm in it for love; to polish my turds and present them to an audience!

"I'm a libertarian, I'm a comic and I'm a woman who is politically aware, which I feel makes me a feminist. But it's complicated because I don't identify with my gender and I never have. When I was a kid I identified as a boy. My mum wanted to take me to ballet lessons wearing a frilly pink tutu; I just wanted to go to football, but keep the frilly pink tutu – so we came to a compromise and I went to ballet lessons in football boots. You

should have seen some of the tackles I pulled off! I was a reverse Billy Elliot.

"My feminism comes from the fact that I now identify biologically as a woman, so people SEE a woman and I experience all the prejudices that women do. Gender-wise I identify quite strongly with the masculine. And I really like men; I really like men as friends.

"It's difficult to have male friends as a woman though, isn't it? I've always had a lot of them and I assumed we were just having fun like lads together, but when I became an adult I realised I'd 'friend-zoned' them, to use the term for that terrible hinterland you put men in when they've tried to sleep with you and failed!

"I still get a kick if people mistake me for a boy, and that's my internalised misogyny I suppose. We should never conflate gender with biological sex, but I find aspects of the transgender movement concerning sometimes. As someone who used to identify as trans as a kid, I now feel glad that I didn't let myself get pushed into decisions that I may later have regretted. That huge pressure to be either male or female is a reinforcement of conservative values; I mean why do people need to tick one of two

boxes? My body is female, my gender is much more masculine – that's fine, I've just got to get on with it, and be weird, and exist in a world that is trying to make me conform to a binary. I'm fine in my own space.

"I've been a libertarian since I was 20, and that was about anarchy and autonomy and hedonism, but I got out of the ghetto – literally – when I realised I was having the same conversation with my libertarian squatter friends over and over again.

I wanted to talk to different people and re-engage with the world outside of squats.

"Much of that world is gone now anyway; the freedoms and the spaces we had to live and think in are gone. It was amazing to grow up like that, and I don't know what there is

now for young people. I don't know where they go to find their space.

"What's infuriating to me at the moment is the swing towards right-wing thinking. We need to understand what revolution really means, and it's a failing of the left that right-wing conservatism has started to look like the more exciting option. When I was a kid people used to rebel by going to Glastonbury, and now they rebel by joining the Alt Right. Well looking at the lineup for Glastonbury last year, I think maybe we shouldn't be surprised.

"Comedy is a bit of a boys' club, but I've always liked being in the boy's club – and turning it into a big old friend zone!"

Becky Fury: Lipsalve for the soul (Apocoloptimist) is at Waverley Bar [438] at 23:00, Aug 4-22 (not 13)



The Edinburgh Council joke page!

Limerick Corner

HAHAHAHAHAHAHAHAHAHA

Barry Loves You

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NOMINEE
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NEW ZEALAND FRINGE 2016

★★★★★
ADELAIDE FRINGE REVIEW

★★★★★
THE LATEST, BRIGHTON

★★★★★
THREE WEEKS, EDINBURGH

★★★★★
THE AGE, MELBOURNE

★★★★★
METRO, LONDON


AUG 3 - 26 @ 4.20 PM NO SHOW 8, 15
SWEET NOVOTEL @ LAURIE STON PLACE. VENUE 188

2-26 AUGUST (EXCLUDING 13)

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'VERY FUNNY'
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~ Lynn Ruth Miller (Stand-up comedian, entertainer)



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17:30PM
2-26 AUGUST

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

**FREE
FESTIVAL**

Every year thousands of attention-seeking wannabes with little talent descend upon Edinburgh to expound their misinformed observations in the hope of fame and fortune. And that's just the reviewers! Hahaha! Sorry. Right, so here is our...



Reviewer \wedge Roundup

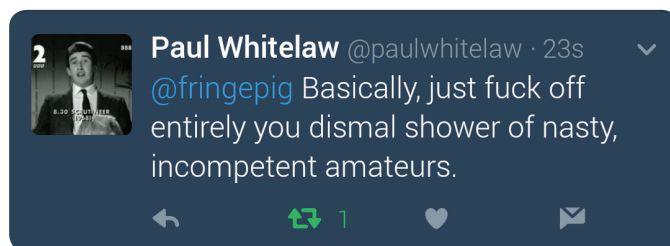
by our
Publisher
**MISTER
KIPPER**



Streisand effect

Our source at the [Scotsman](#) tell us that reviewers on that ancient tome have been told to abide by a strict new rule this year: if anyone criticises their reviews, on any medium, they are not to respond. This comes after the rumpus between Fringepig and [Scotsman](#) reviewer **Paul Whitelaw** in the closing days of last year's Fringe. Whitelaw had rubbished the efforts of a series of acts, mostly female comedians, in a tranche of single-paragraph, one-star reviews. They became such a part of Fringe lore that his victims even put together a special show for charity called *The Paul Whitelaw Experience*.

Fringepig publishes reviews of reviewers online, and our piece on Whitelaw expressed dismay at his pillory pieces. This so incensed Whitelaw that he fired a barrage of tweets calling us "incompetent, hateful, agenda-driven amateurs". As true as this may be, nothing quite fires public interest like a reviewer blowing up in public



about his own bad review. Our lonely website recorded more hits in the next few hours than it had seen in the previous four years.

Horses' mouths

A lot of people (us too) were knocking out pre-Fringe interviews this year. (Scandalously, [Broadway World](#) charges £10 a pop.) [Three Weeks](#) editor **Caro 'Holy' Moses** was first out the gate with a sprawling, 1900-word interview with... Caro Moses. Needless to say, she gave herself the full Paxman with tricky questions like "What is your role at *Three Weeks*?" and "How do you pick who to interview?" - the answer to which seems to be "Start with the person you most admire".

The self-reference cake, though, goes to **Steve Bennett** of [Chortle](#), who has quoted himself as an inside source on 48

Chortle stories in the past two years. You'd think Steve Bennett would be a fairly consistent spring for Steve Bennett news from, but it seems that Steve Bennett has gone flaky. In 2012 following a very trolly *Chortle* 'Correspondent's Piece' entitled *Women or Rape: Which is Less Funny?* by **Mike Sheer**, Steve Bennett told us that Steve Bennett was "surprised by the strength of the reaction" to this, adding "I would have thought it impossible to take the obscene opinions espoused seriously."

Last June though, Steve Bennett found that he had run out of patience with unserious rape jokes. "Comics joke about their colleagues being

raped", announced Steve's headline. His ire was focused upon a podcast by **Gavin Webster** that featured a phone-in with **Dave Longley**, who claimed, as a joke, that he was getting raped every time he left the house.

Dear reader, this is not my colour of humour, but the Devil's in the details. The jokes were meant as a pisstake of Steve Bennett's well-meaning 'comedian safety survey'. Steve Bennett's claim that they were laughing at the rape and murder of Australian comic Eurydice Dixon are, as they say in Scottish courts, Not Proven. If Steve Bennett disagrees with us he'll no doubt send Steve Bennett to ask Steve Bennett for a quote.

Crumbs!

[Fringe biscuit](#) is a reviews website that tweets its reviews. The deal is, you give them a free ticket and they will spend 20 seconds on their phone having an opinion about the show you've



worked all year on. Then they'll 'try' (their term) to give it a couple of paragraphs online. Five shows got written up last year; the previous year they managed 12. And the year before that they weren't here because their appeal for free accommodation went unheeded. There are extensive biographies of their eight stalwart journalists though, and a crop of exciting articles on 'the Biscuiteers', keeping us informed of the exciting things they are planning to do when they're less f*cking busy.

Demeanies

One of the sternest reviewer-reviewer backlashes we received was for an appraisal of a cub hack at [Edfringe Review](#). One of these brickbats was from one (and only) **Francis Monaghan** of Stirling, who wrote to accuse us of "shallow bullying and petty mockery of minor mistakes." He adds "Whoever wrote this must have a really pathetic life to try to demean a young girl trying to break into journalism." Well all this is true of course. Our lives are quite pathetic. But who is Francis Monaghan – this knight, this Prince Valliant?

It turns out the name belongs to a bloke who scarred a woman for life by throwing a bottle at her at a nightclub in Dundee, but escaped an assault charge because the judge accepted his defence that he was trying to hit someone else with it. I'm not saying GBH disqualifies you from criticising others: of course not. I'm just saying it slightly undermines an argument against bullying.

Everyone's got one

This year, an online review for Brooke's Bar from 2012 did the rounds on Facebook, having loitered unnoticed on the internet for years. Brooke's Bar is exclusive; you can only get in there if you're a comedian or if you know a comedian. Or a joke. Anyway six years ago [Fest](#) editor **Ben 'Tell It To The' Judge** brought a friend along to Brooke's. This friend reviewed all the comedians there, saying they seemed "like arseholes" to her. Finally, a *Fest* review (though proxy) written in plain English. But we hope the mag's current boss, **Evan 'Worse' Beswick**, has put an end to such moonlighting. You can either work for *Fest* OR you can have friends.



Julia S.
New York, United States
5 friends
277 reviews
258 photos

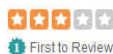
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I'd heard rumour of this bar from a friend of mine who used to work here and would mumble under his breath how the comedians who went there were pretentious and unpleasant to serve. And then suddenly, on a Thursday evening, I found myself being signed into this exclusive bar by the Editor of *Fest*. I mean, whoa. I've never been signed into any exclusive place in my life. I suddenly felt like I was part of a special club. Though, to be honest, the comedians who go there DO seem like arseholes.

BonQrZ

Written and Performed by
Narin Oz

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

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

"Exhilarating"
Marissa Burgess, The List

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

2:45PM
2-26 AUGUST

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

**FREE
FESTIVAL**

Olaf Falafel
THERE'S NO i IN IDIOT

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

AUGUST 2ND-26TH 14:45 PM*
*** 21ST-25TH 12:15 PM - NO SHOW ON 14TH**

**FREE
FESTIVAL**

on the **M/C** *Talking with pork*

FringePig carried out more than 250 comedian interviews this year to whet fringegeers' appetites. These are the most-read responses so far.



Top 10 Overall

1. Sameena Zehra

"Recently, a punter said 'That was great. It's like Alexei Sayle became an Indian woman.' That's a pretty good review. Alexei is one of my heroes. But it's also a terrible review for Alexei Sayle."

2. Aatif Nawaz "Before going on stage, I do 100 push ups, followed by three sets of squat thrusts and deadlifts and a rigorous combination

of leg raises and armbar curls. Or just eat a Crunchie and look at my set list. Whatever's easier."



3. Jo Caulfield "I saw my first porn film this year – which was SO ludicrous and unrealistic I've written my own real-life version which I'll be reading out during my show."

4. Hal Cruttenden

"My Edinburgh show is mainly about me and my family. It's called *Chubster* because I asked my kids what word came to mind when they thought of me. That's what the thoughtless sods said."

5. Andrew Maxwell "I've had my fair share of good reviews mediocre and bad, but I don't remember them. I'm very grateful for good ones that encourage me and the bad ones for the kick up the arse."

6. Njambi McGrath

"When a younger me graciously accepted an invitation to her new friend's house in rural America, I had no idea just how dangerous parts of America can be to a black person."

7. Maria Tea "I plan to read reviews and wipe my ass with them. You really shouldn't get attached to the fruits of your actions. My show is kinda slapstick and silly and rough. And it's not ready."

8. Julia Sutherland "I was on Radio Scotland

doing a feature on a stand-up comedy competition for new acts. I flippantly said I wished I could do stand-up, and by the time I got back to the office after the show, the producer had signed me up."

9. Robyn Perkins "No subject is off-limits in comedy. You just need to ask, 'who is the victim of the joke?' As long as the humour comes from a good place, everything is fair game. Comedy equals tragedy plus time, right?"

10. Eleanor Morton

"I've decided to become 200% sexier and more confident because that's what the industry wants. It's going really well."

Top 10 Comedians Performing Free Shows

1. Njambi McGrath [<see here](#)

2. Maria Tea [<see here](#)

3. Stuart Goldsmith "It's my 25th year in a row performing comedy at Edinburgh, and I'm doing a 250-seater at 2.50pm, which is actually a coincidence..."

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★★★★★ Google Reviews "Friendly, intimate kitsch little gem... Unabashed fun."

★★★★★ TripAdvisor "Brilliant"

www.poodleclub.co.uk



4. Ivor Dembina

"The review I liked best was in the Jerusalem Post, 'Almost too true to be funny'. If I was reviewing myself I'd describe myself as 'The Jew the yids love to hate'."

5. Kate Smurthwaite

"My show is about my reputation as some sort of outrageous public figure when actually I'm a nice quiet homely sort."

6. Martha McBrier

"For me, reviewers are like abusive parents. You do everything you can to please them and earn their approval. And it really hurts when you receive a slap."

7. Narin Oz

"Bonqz is a theatre comedy show about how making disastrous life choices lead me to wanting to become a budgerigar. I try to

convince a budgie why I will be a great addition to her flock."

8. Olaf Falafel

"My show has got some great jokes, some bad jokes and some that probably aren't even jokes. There's a strong anti-racism undercurrent and an even stronger dolphin-related overcurrent."

9. Peter Michael Marino

"My best review was from a 12-year old kid who saw *Show Up* and said, 'If that guy with social anxiety can do a show, I can do anything.' Sadly he wasn't a reviewer, but it was truly the best review."

10. Naomi McDonald

"I do an impression of Rihanna singing about pooing herself and when I performed it to a room of OAPs in a golf club in Seaford I did feel I may have gone too far."



Kate Smurthwaite
Clit Stirrer

"fun, energetic and full of ideas"
JOHN CLEESE

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

PBN's FREE FRINGE 2018

★★★★★
Guardian
★★★★★
Scotsman
★★★★★
Chortle
★★★★★
Scotsgay
★★★★★
Broadway Baby
★★★★★
Time Out
★★★★★
List
★★★★★
Times
★★★★★
Sunday Times
★★★★★
Independent
★★★★★
Telegraph

the trouble with
SCOTT CAPURRO

'COMIC EQUATION:
LARRY GRAYSON x (LENNY BRUCE + CHRIS ROCK) = SCOTT CAPURRO'
Guardian

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NOMINATED PERRIER COMEDY AWARD
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9.20PM 2 - 26 August (not 14 or 21)
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£7 in advance edfringe.com to guarantee seat or PWYW at Venue

HEROES @ BOTECA

photo by Steve Bart

Bad Shakespeare

★★★★★

- BroadwayBaby

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13:45

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comic-comic

@Damian Clark

I saw 7 Fringe shows today

Impressive! Any faves?

They were all good

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



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- Writing a complaint to the Information Commissioner's Office (ICO)
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- Alex Zane's "Comedy Mailing Lists Do The Funniest Things" Tutorial

Our course has helped many performers like Rhod Gilbert, Greg Davies and Josh Widdicombe to unsubscribe from our mailing list. Even Andrew Lawrence, but we don't mention him in our publicity anymore.

All course participants will receive a free Alex Zane DVD.

*Applications from young male comics with 'star quality' only please. Other courses are available. Maybe just ask Logan Murray?



Burghwatching

There are half a million people in Edinburgh, and some of them are even Scottish. Sadly, these shy natives suffer massive habitat destruction in August and tend to go to ground. Edinburgh native **ELEANOR MORTON** will help you spot them



1

Princes Mall

Similar to Princes Street, but better when it rains, the mall provides ample foraging for the typical local and, most crucially, has a sit-in Greggs. One of the few central locations where a sighting is almost a certainty. A word of caution if you choose to approach; do not talk about the festival, your show, or how you've climbed Arthurs Seat unless you want to be beaten to death with a Body Shop gift bag.

2

The Hive, Niddry Street (after 11pm)

The once-plentiful Edinburgh teenager is scarce during the Fringe. It is however possible to see a few roaming about flyering for comedians. These flyerers, particularly the females, have an air of tiredness which comes of being hit on by both punters and comedians 24 hours a day, but to enjoy them in their natural environment head to the Hive after 23:00. Here you can watch them

enjoy blue drinks and each other's saliva as part of their mating ritual. Note that Edinburgh teens are very accommodating and will almost certainly get into a fight with you if you ask.

3

Gold Sea Chippie, Ferry Road, Leith

The greater lesser spotted Edinburgher will feed from any time between 7am and 7pm. Follow any nearby droppings and they will inevitably lead you to the nearest Chippie. The Edinburgher diet consists of potatoes, chips and / or crisps and many of them can be found scavenging here. In order to blend in well with the species, make sure you know how they communicate. If asked "Salt n sauce?" you should always reply "Yes my good fellow, certainly not vinegar, eurgh, what do I look like, a Govan docker? Eurgh! Eurgh!"

4

Hillend Ski Slope.

This practise slope is a popular sporting spot and if you're willing to hide in

the gorse bushes with some binoculars it's a great place to see some natives. Here you can observe younger locals of all classes scraping the skin off their faces as they fall head first onto the stiff white astroturf whilst the rain drizzles relentlessly down and their parents sit in the car. One of Edinburgh's best days out.

5

Lothian Road/ Pubic Triangle.

If you're interested in witnessing male group activity, head to Lothian Road. An ample

selection of strip clubs, saunas and bars means you're guaranteed to spot at least one coked-up estate agent called Ian. Named after Sir Murdo Pubic, the Triangle is ideal if you want to spot the sort of local who wants to see nudity in a place named after serial killers. Bring a flask and a warm jacket, you may be there all night.

Eleanor Morton can be spotted in *Eleanor Morton: Great Title, Glamorous Photo* at Stand 3&4 [12] at 12:05, Aug 1-25 (not 2, 13, 20)

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

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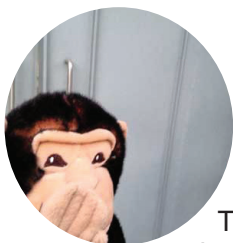
Vin Arthey, *The Scotsman*



11-40 P.M. (1 hr)
AUG 2-26 (NOT 13)

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Monkey solids!

These days almost every comedian has a gimmick or a message. But what about those who just throw their RICH, FECUND FUNNY at your face for 55 minutes? Like these...

Compiled by **BILLY COCONUTS**

ALUN COCHRAN (p24)

Alun Cochran's whimsical take on life is belied somewhat by his rather stern, Yorkshireman demeanor. He suffers no fool gladly. I was at a gig with him once where he told the entire student audience that their parents had failed in their basic duty of raising civilised children. Go, and flippin' well behave.

ANDREW LAWRENCE (p21)

OMG what's he doing in the Fringepig Feminist edition?! Come on now, it's years since Andrew said that women aren't funny. He's got married and had a daughter. He's probably changed. A bit. And he's doing 'no politics, no religion, no smut, no swearing'. To be fair, Andrew could find the dark side of trigonometry.

CAREY MARX (p17)

Carey gets away, somehow, with some of the darkest standup we've ever heard. Always grouchy, always deliciously nasty, Carey will not fail to make you laugh, although you might be cross with yourself afterwards.

CARL DONNELLY (p18)

It seems like only yesterday that Carl was the up-and-com-

ing enfant terrible of the haircut and trouser set. But now he's lost his hair and he occasionally talks to dead people on Bob's Blundabus. Comedy will do that to you.

DAN NIGHTINGALE (p24)

Why is Dan not bigger? It's a mystery. Dan is consistently funny; he switches effortlessly between geezerish bonhomie and thoughtful insight. You should have heard of him. Well you have now. Go!

DEMI LARDNER (p21)

If you enjoy understated - and at times quite lovely - absurdism then Demi will light you up. Since winning So You Think You're Funny in 2013 Demi has stuffed her cabinet with awards. Her first full show at the Fringe, *Birds With Human Lips*, got plaudits from everyone who saw it. Apart, perhaps, from Marissa Burgess in the *List*, who gave it three stars and said 'one to watch'. Burgess doesn't deserve nice things.

GARY DELANEY (p21)

There's all sorts of puns on offer this year, but few end up in places quite as dark as this. Gary is a hailstorm of one-liners that will occasionally leave you trying to work out the last arch gag while the rest of the audience is falling about over the next one.



JO CAULFIELD (p19)

Some comedians are as hard as nails. Jo Caulfield is as hard as a special type of nail that has been developed by nail scientists for getting out nails driven into nails by Jimmy Nail. Steely funny.

JIMMY MCGHIE (p17)

Way back in 2010 Jimmy McGhie did a show called *The All-Powerful Warrior Who With His Endurance And Inflexible Will To Win Goes From Conquest To Conquest Leaving Fire In His Wake*, but this one is just called Jimmy McGhie, which even the Fringe brochure editors shouldn't mess up. McGhie is white, middle-class, articulate, attractive, from a privileged background and several other things reviewers hate. The miserable f*ckers invariably point all this out and then give him four stars anyway.

LLOYD LANGFORD (p24)

Lloyd was once the protege of Rhod Gilbert and has a similar charm, though Lloyd is cheekier and less gruff. He has the best routine about auto-erotic asphyxiation we've ever heard. In fact, if my house was on fire and I could only pack one Welsh comedian, Lloyd's the one I'd stuff in a holdall.

ROB ROUSE (p18)

Rob appeared as Bottom in BBC2's *Upstart Crow*. But don't hold that against him! (Joke.) Truth is, his own stuff is funnier than anything Ben Elton is going to write for him. An old routine of his about his libidinous dog replays in my mind years later.

RUSSEL HICKS (p14)

You can probably see either this show OR *Love Song For the Viciously Ambitious*

(17:45 at the Free Sisters) and be treated to the same free-flow of banterous riffery. Is he making it all up on the spot? Probably not. But it's good to see the audience being central to the performance. Well, the audience IS the performance.

STEPHEN CARLIN (p16)

It's little wonder that Carlin has supported Stewart Lee on tour. While Lee is dry,



Carlin is like a cactus drinking a very tart sauvignon blanc whilst reading a book on accountancy in the Atacama. Why is he performing for free in this frozen basement that smells of loo cleaner? Well he did a show that addressed his gambling addiction a few years ago. Maybe he's broke.

TOM STADE (p21)

Poised, precise, deeply cynical and with great stories - delivered in a warm Canadian burr from a face that is a bit too good-looking for comedy. Smooth.

ZOE LYONS (p18)

One of the funniest women in Britain and a Myra Hindley lookalike (Zoe said that, not us), we've seen her knock the rowdiest rooms into line. Zoe has great lines and talks about the exasperations of everyday life with a great comedic physicality.



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