

Birmingham COMEDY Festival 7-16 Oct 2011

bhamcomfest.co.uk

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Welcome to the **Birmingham Comedy Festival** as we celebrate our 10th anniversary with yet another storming line-up of big names, rising stars, new acts, and more than a few surprises....



FULL LISTINGS

[Updated 15 August 2011]

Tue 4 to Sat 15 Oct: **Legally Blonde: The Musical**
Multi-award winning West End and Broadway smash based on the hit movie. When college homecoming queen Elle is dumped by her boyfriend, she puts down the credit card and heads for Harvard Law School. Starring Faye Brookes, Neil Toon, Claire Sweeney and Dave Willetts.

New Alexandra Theatre, Station St, Bham B5 4DS. T: 0844 871 3011. £18.50-£59.50. 7.30pm.
www.newalexandratheatre.co.uk

Wed 21 Sep to Sun 13 Nov:

Nedko Solakov: All In Order, With Exceptions
First major UK show by the Bulgarian artist featuring drawings, paintings, video and sculptural pieces. A story-teller who roots his work in tragic-comic reflections on everyday life, Nedko revels in the absurdity of human existence.

Ikon Gallery, 1 Oozells Sq, Brindleyplace, Bham B1 2HS. T: 0121 248 0708. Free. Tue-Sun 11am-6pm.
www.ikon-gallery.co.uk

Thu 6 to Sun 9 Oct: **Immaculate**

You're single and haven't had sex for nearly a year, then one morning you wake up pregnant and the Angel Gabriel is on your doorstep claiming parentage. Fraction Theatre present an irreverent tale of girl meets boy with a difference...

Blue Orange Theatre, 118 Great Hampton St, Bham B18 6AD T: 0121 212 2643. £10 & £8.50. Thu-Sat 7.45pm, Sun 6pm. www.blueorangetheatre.co.uk

Thu 6 to Sat 8 Oct:

The Best In Live Stand-up Comedy

A sterling line-up of top comedic talent featuring Mike Wilmot, Mark Nelson, Matt Reed, Rob Rouse (Thu), Nick Helm (Sat), plus a very very special guest on Thu and Fri. We're not saying who, but it's a biggie...

The Glee Club, The Arcadian, Bham B5 4TD. T: 0871 472 0400. £6-£18.50. 7.15pm.
www.lee.co.uk/birmingham

Fri 7 Oct: **Bad Film Club**

The cult BFC return to lambast another cinematic crime with their unique in-person commentaries.

Electric Cinema 47-49 Station St, Bham B5 4DY. T: 0121 643 7879. £4.70-£12.40. Time TBC.
www.theelectric.co.uk

Fri 7 Oct: **Jo Enright: In Stitches**

When Jo's not giggling, she's knitting. Once, she did them both at the same time and made holes in her material. Now she has some new material. It's very warm. And a little bit itchy.

The Glee Club, The Arcadian, Bham B5 4TD. T: 0871 472 0400. £11, £5. 8pm. www.lee.co.uk

Fri 7 Oct: **Kill For A Seat**

Featuring the brilliant observation and energetic characterisations of Dan Nightingale (an excellent swimmer), the musical stylings of guitar playing stand up Duncan Oakley, and host Silky.

mac Birmingham, Cannon Hill Park, Bham B12 9QH. T: 0121 446 3232. £11-£8. 8pm. www.macarts.co.uk

Fri 7 Oct: **LouDeemY Soup**

A night of contemporary variety featuring a hearty blend of comedy, songs, verses, characters and

sketches.

The Church Inn, 22 Great Hampton St, Hockley, Bham B18 6AQ. T: 0751 546 0175. £3. 8pm.
www.louiseland.co.uk

Fri 7 Oct: Rosie's Pop Diary

Singer-songwriter and music writer turned comic Rosie Wilby explores the nature of nostalgia with tales of bizarre auditions, Bob Geldof, Jamie Cullum and walking barefoot along one of London's busiest roads just because it would make a good album cover.

Old Joint Stock Pub & Theatre, 4 Temple Row West, Bham B2 5NY. T: 0121 200 0946. £10. 8pm.
www.oldjointstocktheatre.co.uk

Fri 7 Oct: Andy Parsons: Gruntled

Andy once found some underpants in a jar of mayonnaise. He may talk about it. Or he may not. The Star of BBC's Mock The Week and Live At The Apollo returns with nothing but the whole truth, slightly embellished.

Town Hall, Victoria Square, Bham B3 3DQ. T: 0121 780 3333. £15. 8pm. www.thsh.co.uk

Fri 7 to Sat 8 Oct: Jongleurs Comedy Show

Four top-class comedians including Mandy Knight, Tom Deacon and Anthony King.

Jongleurs, Oceana, Hurst St, Bham B5 4AS. T: 08700 111 960. £12-£15. 7pm.
www.jongleurs.com/venue/Birmingham

Fri 7 to Sat 8 Oct: Comedy Live

Some of the freshest stand up comedy talent on the circuit, including Simon Clayton, Jimmy McGhie and Joe Bor.

Highlight, 259-262 Broad St, Bham, B1 2HF. T: 0844 844 0044/ 0121 632 4936. £14-£17. 7pm.
www.thehighlight.co.uk

Sat 8 Oct: The Charity Crawl

Amble through Kings Heath, stopping in the many charity shops, buying an item of clothing in each and then donning it for the rest of the crawl. Led by James Cook. Bring friends and money!

Meet in the Pound Stretcher car park, High St, Bham B14 7JG. Free (but bring £). 2pm.

Sat 8 Oct: Mad Cow's

Daytime Open Mic Comedy: Part 1

An afternoon of free stand up featuring acts from around the UK including William Lee, Jack Kirwan, Kishore Nayar, Aaron Smith, Donna Scot and Aaron Twitchen.

The Red Lion Pub, 95 Warstone Lane, Hockley, Bham

B18 6NG. T: 0121 233 9144. Free. 3pm.
www.theredlionbirmingham.com

Sat 8 Oct: Old Mosley Arms Comedy

Sterling line up of new up-and-coming UK acts inc. Freddie Farrell, Darren Harriot, Lucy Oldham, Mark Cram, Aaron Smith and Phillip McCullough.

The Old Mosley Arms, 53 Tindal St, Bham B12 9QU. T: 0121 440 1954. £2. 8.30pm

Sun 9 Oct: Jack Whitehall

Fast-rising British Comedy Award nominee Jack Whitehall presents his brand new solo show, Let's Not Speak of This Again.

The Glee Club, The Arcadian, Bham B5 4TD. T: 0871 472 0400. Sold out. www.lee.co.uk

Sun 9 Oct: Retort Cabaret Show

A special one-off return for the eclectic Retort with folk cabaret act The Dirty Old Folkers, magician/comedian Matt Pritchard, improv' troupe The Improlympians and comics Rachel Sambrooks and Rachel King.

Kitchen Garden Cafe, 17 York Rd, Kings Heath, Bham B14 7SA. T: 0121 443 4725. £8-£6. 7.30pm.
www.kitchengardencafe.co.uk

Sun 9 Oct: Half a Dog Comedy

Presents Funny Friends

A selection of the funniest people in the Half a Dog address book including Chris Purchase and Chris Stokes.

The Victoria, 48 John Bright St, Bham B1 1BN. T: 0121 633 9439. £3. 8pm. www.halfadogcomedy.co.uk

Sun 9 Oct: Henning Wehn: No Surrender!

Surely the official German Comedy Ambassador will never find a more subtle show title than last year's My Struggle? Well, he'll die trying. Expect exactly one hour of meticulously planned jolliness.

The Electric Cinema, 47-49 Station St, Bham B5 4DY. T: 0121 643 7879. Time/price tbc.
www.theelectric.co.uk

Sun 9 Oct: Yummie Brummies

Birmingham-based comics testing out brand-spankingly-new material just before they put it on the telly!

The Glee Club, The Arcadian, Bham B5 4TD. T: 0871 472 0400. £3. 8pm. www.lee.co.uk

Mon 10 Oct: Half Moon Comedy Club

The Crescent Theatre's semi-regular comedy night is back with headliner Andy Robinson. He's ably supported by Ben Davids, Tom Roche, Lovdev Barpaga

and Kerry Murdock, plus your host, Craig Deeley.
The Crescent Theatre, Sheepcote St, Bham B16 8AE.
T: 0121 643 5858. £5. 8.30pm.
www.crescent-theatre.co.uk

Mon 10 Oct: **Barbara Nice and Gals**
Local housewife Mrs Barbara Nice is celebrating World Mental Health Day in style! With some of the best of female comic talent in tow, Barbara will be making us all feel better by having a blooming good laugh!
The Glee Club, The Arcadian, Bham B5 4TD. T: 0871 472 0400. £12-£10. 7pm.
www.womenandtheatre.co.uk

Tue 11 Oct: **Sound And Vision Pub Quiz**
The Victoria's weekly film and music-based pub quiz marks the Festival with a distinctive comedic line of questions...
The Victoria, 48 John Bright St, Bham B1 1BN. T: 0121 633 9439. £1 entry. 8pm.
www.thevictoriabirmingham.co.uk

Tue 11 Oct: **Howard Marks Is Mr Nice**
Ex-drug baron and Britain's most wanted man, Howard was linked with MI6, the IRA and the Mafia, and spent 7 years in America's toughest penitentiary. It's fair to say he has one or two interesting tales to tell...
The Glee Club, The Arcadian, Bham B5 4TD. T: 0871 472 0400. £15. 7.30pm. www.glee.co.uk

Tue 11 Oct: **Mock The Ten Cats: Panel Show**
A live Comedy panel game show. Two teams of three comedians flex their comedy muscles as they discuss the weeks news ... and other things.
The Red Lion Pub, 95 Warstone Lane, Hockley, Birmingham B18 6NG. T: 0121 233 9144. Free. 8.30pm. www.theredlionbirmingham.com

Tue 11 Oct: **Patrick Monahan: Hug Me I Feel Good**
The Irish/Iranian/Geordie returns with a brand new one hour show all about doing the good things in life, being nice to others and giving someone a friendly touch every now and again...
Old Joint Stock Pub & Theatre, 4 Temple Row West, Bham B2 5NY. T: 0121 200 0946. £10. 7.45pm.
www.oldjointstocktheatre.co.uk

Wed 12 Oct: **An Evening with the Humour of Bob Newhart & Tom Lehrer**
Peter Gill and Andrew Meller perform the best sketches and songs from two of America's greatest satirists of the 50s-60s, including Introducing Tobacco to Civilisation, Poisoning Pigeons In The Park and The

Masochism Tango.
Old Joint Stock Pub & Theatre, 4 Temple Row West, Bham B2 5NY. T: 0121 200 0946. £12-£10. 8pm.
www.oldjointstocktheatre.co.uk

Wed 12 Oct: **Aaron Twitchen's Quarter Life Crisis**
Too young for a breakdown, too poor for therapy, Aaron is a 20-nothing having a quarter-life crisis. Over-qualified, over-confident and under-achieving, it's time to check his emotional baggage on a flight to Therapy-Street. Join him as he tackles his issues and diagnoses yours.
Kitchen Garden Cafe, 17 York Road, Kings Heath, Bham B14 7SA. T: 0121 443 4725. £4. 8.30pm.
www.kitchengardencafe.co.uk

Wed 12 Oct: **Box of Frogs**
High octane comedy nonsense from Birmingham's premiere impro' group.
The Lamp Tavern, 157 Barford St, Bham B5 6AH. T: 0121 688 1220. Free. 8pm.
www.boxoffrogsimpro.co.uk

Wed 12 Oct: **Rob Rouse**
As seen on Dave's One Night Stand, 8 Out of Ten Cats and BBC3's Comedy Shuffle; the co-host of The Friday Night Project. Plus support from visual comedian Steve Best.
The Comedy Junction, Station Pub, Station St, Sutton Coldfield, B73 6AT. £10. 8pm. TXT: 07985 006651.
www.comedyjunction.co.uk

Wed 12 Oct: **The World's Greatest Comedy Quiz**
The regular H&H quiz gives itself over to the world of comedy for a special themed event. Comedian James Cook sets the questions, awards the prizes and administers justice.
The Hare and Hounds, 106 High St, Kings Heath, Bham B14 7JZ. T: 0121 444 2081. £1 per team member (max 5 per team). 8pm.
www.hareandhoundskingsheath.co.uk

Wed 12 Oct:
The Awesomely Named Award for Laughter
A whopping 10 comedians compete to win Gigglebox's first ever Awesomely Named Award for Laughter! Audience decides the winner - make your vote.
Scruffy Murphys, 27 The Priory Queensway, Bham B4 7LL. T: 0121 236 2035. £3. 7pm.
www.facebook.com/gigglebox.comedy

Wed 12 Oct: **Mad Cow Comedy Gong Show**
Fifteen acts competing for £50 cash! Comics have to impress the judges by lasting a full five minutes on

stage. Who'll win the moo?

The Red Lion, 97 Warstone Lane, Hockley, Bham B18 6NG. T: 0121 233 9144. £5. 8pm.
www.urbanartbar.com

Wed 12 to Sat 15 Oct: **The Panto Girls**

Two actors are preparing to go onstage as Cinderella's Ugly Sisters. One enjoys the glamour of the theatre, wearing dresses and make up; the other prefers a few pints and footie with the lads. How will they stand sharing a dressing room for four weeks?

Blue Orange Theatre, 118 Great Hampton St, Bham B18 6AD. T: 0121 212 2643. £10-£8.50. 7.45pm.
blueorangetheatre.co.uk

Wed 12 Oct: **Juniper Cinema Comedy Film Night**
Celebrating the festival with a choice comedy film and free popcorn!

The Jekyll & Hyde, 28 Steelhouse Lane, Bham B4 6BJ. T: 0121 2360345. Free. 8pm.
www.thejekyllandhyde.co.uk

Thu 13 Oct: **Ivan Brackenbury and Ian D Montfort**

Two award-winning characters courtesy of Tom Binns: Ivan Brackenbury, the world's most inappropriate hospital radio DJ, and Ian D Montfort, spirit medium.

The Hare and Hounds, 106 High St, Kings Heath, Bham B14 7JZ. T: 0121 444 2081. £7-£5. 8.30pm.
www.hareandhoundskingsheath.co.uk

Thu 13 Oct: **Steve Day: Run, Deaf Boy Run**

At the age of 47 deaf comedian Steve decided to run The London Marathon. A heart-warming tale of his struggle to complete the course, and his battles against obstacles far greater than the distance to be run.

The Proverbial, 186-196 High St, Harborne, Bham B14 9PP. T: 0121 426 4256. £7-£5. 8.30pm.
www.stevedaycomedy.co.uk

Thu 13 Oct: **James Sherwood At The Piano**

One of the UK's foremost musical comedians with a beguiling evening of comic song and biting satire. Beautifully crafted fresh laughs from the TV and Edinburgh veteran.

Old Joint Stock Pub & Theatre, 4 Temple Row West, Bham B2 5NY. T: 0121 200 0946. £10. 8pm.
www.oldjointstocktheatre.co.uk

Thu 13 to Sat 15 Oct:

The Best In Live Stand Up Comedy

Another world-beating line-up featuring Lucy Porter and Phil Nichol, plus Chris Ramsey, Tony Jameson (Thu) and Elis James (Fri & Sat).

The Glee Club, The Arcadian, Bham B5 4TD. T: 0871 472 0400. £6-£18.50. 8pm. www.glee.co.uk

Thu 13 Oct: **The Boy With Tape On His Face**

The silent show that's creating a lot of talk. Mime with noise, stand-up with no talking, drama with no acting. You'll laugh, you'll scream and ultimately you'll end up like The Boy - lost for words. A 2010 fest' hit returns.

The Glee Club (Studio), The Arcadian, Bham B5 4TD. T: 0871 472 0400. £10.50-£8. 8.15pm.
www.glee.co.uk/birmingham

Fri 14 Oct: **Boris Nicoli: KGB Mind Readings**

Soviet Cold War relic and ex-KGB mind reader Boris is joined by the Lovely Russianettes for an interactive show full of comedy, Russian friendship dancing, and mind blowing mind readings.

mac, Hexagon Theatre, Cannon Hill Park, Bham B12 9QH. T: 0121 446 3232. £8.75. 8pm.
www.Borisnicoli.co.uk

Fri 14 Oct: **Comedy & Curry**

A night of comedy and featuring Jo Enright, Ben Davids and Craig Deeley.

Edgbaston Priory, Club, Sir Harry's Rd, Edgbaston, Bham B15 2UZ. T: 0121 440 2492. £5-free. 8pm.
www.edgbastonpriory.com

Fri 14 Oct: **Lee Thompson**

Direct from Cirque Du Soleil, a sure-fire sharp-eyed show stealer whose trademark trickery has bamboozled punters from Jay Leno to Cameron Diaz. A fascinating fusion of physical comedy, misdirection, stylised sleight of hand magic, illusion and surprise.

Old Joint Stock Pub & Theatre, 4 Temple Row West, Bham B2 5NY. T: 0121 200 0946. £10. 8pm.
www.oldjointstocktheatre.co.uk

Fri 14 Oct: **The Sheila M Show**

A mix of comedy, music and lots of craic, including musical parodies and Sister Mary, who'll be making sure everyone is behaving themselves!

The Patrick Kavanagh, 142 Trafalgar Rd, Moseley B13 8BX. T: 0121 4492598. £5. 8.30pm.
www.sheila-m.com

Fri 14 Oct: **Hal Cruttenden**

Hailed as one of the UK's funniest comedians, Hal's credits include Comedy Rocks, Michael McIntyre's Comedy Roadshow and The Rob Brydon Show. He's even performed in front of the Queen!

The Glee Club (Studio), The Arcadian, Bham B5 4TD. T: 0871 472 0400. £12-£10. 8.15pm.
www.glee.co.uk/birmingham

Fri 14 to Sat 15 Oct: **Comedy Live**

Some of the freshest stand up comedy talent on the circuit, with Kevin McCarthy, Raymond Mearns, Andy Askins and (Fri) Phil Walker.

Highlight, 259-262 Broad St, Bham, B1 2HF. T: 0844 844 0044. £14-£17. 7pm.
www.thehighlight.co.uk/birmingham

Sat 15 Oct: **Mad Cow's**

Daytime Open Mic Comedy: Part 2

A second helping of free afternoon comedy with a string of new acts inc. Isaac Lee, Broady, Roger Swift, Heena Patel, Roger Rich and Masai Graham.

The Red Lion Pub, 95 Warstone Lane, Hockley, Bham B18 6NG. T: 0121 233 9144. Free. 3pm.
www.theredlionbirmingham.com

Sat 15 Oct: **Barnstormers Comedy**

Barnstormers pride themselves on finding the funniest, smartest and many silliest comedians out there. Expect strong adult content and humour.

Solihull Arts Complex, Homer Rd, Solihull B91 3RG. T: 0121 704 6962. £14-£12. 8pm.
www.solihull.gov.uk/artscomplex/

Sat 15 Oct: **Kent Valentine:**

Sex, Maths and Eric Clapton

Award-winning comedian Kent's a natural raconteur with winning stories full of mischief, optimism and warmth. He's not fond of Eric though...

Old Joint Stock Pub & Theatre, 4 Temple Row West, Bham B2 5NY. T: 0121 200 0946. £10. 8pm.
www.oldjointstocktheatre.co.uk

Sun 16 Oct: **Best of the Best Musical Comedians**

Mad Cow presents energised musical comedian Ashley Frieze, dark humoured Brummie Lee Grant and Victoria Wood for the Spotify generation, Jay Foreman.

The Red Lion Pub, 95 Warstone Lane, Hockley, Bham B18 6NG. T: 0121 233 9144. £5. 8pm.
www.theredlionbirmingham.com

Sun 16 Oct: **Fancy a Titter...**

Gigglebox introduces an evening of new and up-and-coming comedians including Harriet Dyer, Sparrow, Tom Young, Emma Morgan, Lovdev Barpaga, Ukes Not Dead and Jayne Edwards.

Actress and Bishop, 5 Ludgate Hill, Bham B3 1EH. T: 0121 2367426. £3. 7pm.
www.facebook.com/gigglebox.comedy

Sun 16 Oct: **An Audience With Mrs Barbara Nice**

Mother of five Barbara's worried that we are living in a world of ever-diminishing friendliness, where we

increasingly keep ourselves to ourselves, but she wants us all to proudly declare: Hello! Because if we can't do that, what's the point?

Old Joint Stock Pub & Theatre, 4 Temple Row West, Bham B2 5NY. T: 0121 200 0946. £10. 2pm.
www.oldjointstocktheatre.co.uk

Sun 16 Oct: **Half a Dog Comedy: 2 Half an Hours**

Jon Pearson and Rob Jones bring us their newest sets and a great insight into their lives so far.

The Victoria, 48 John Bright St, Bham B1 1BN. T: 0121 633 9439. £3. 8.30pm. www.halfadogcomedy.co.uk

Sun 16 Oct: **Russell Kane: Manscaping**

Join Fosters Comedy Award Winner and star of loads of stuff on telly, Russell Kane, as he mercilessly explores the ridiculous state of masculinity in the modern world. He shaves his chest fur; you watch and laugh.

New Alexandra Theatre, Station St, Bham B5 4DS. T: 0844 8713011. £18.50. 8pm.
www.newalexandratheatre.co.uk

FESTIVAL FRINGE EVENTS

You want more comedy?

Well here it is...

Thu 6 Oct: **Laurel and Hardy Film Night**

A social evening of fun celebrating the 20th century's most iconic double act: Stan Laurel and Oliver Hardy. With films, memorabilia and prizes.

The Forget-Me-Not Club, 1069 Tyburn Rd, Erdington, Bham B24 OTH. T: 0121 373 2050. £1.50-£2. 7.30pm.
www.sotd.org

Thu 6 Oct: **Adam Hills: Mess Around**

A purveyor of uplifting comedy, Hills aims to showcase his penchant for spontaneity by basing almost the entire show around the audience!

The Glee Club (Studio), The Arcadian, Bham B5 4TD. T: 0871 472 0400. £12. 8.15pm.
www.glee.co.uk/birmingham

Thu 6 Oct: **Paddy McGuinness:**

Saturday Night Live!

After a succession of sold out tours and a two-year break, the star of ITV1's dating show Take Me Out is back.

The NIA Academy, Birmingham. T: 0844 338 0338. £25. 7.30pm. www.theticketfactory.com

Mon 17 to Tue 18 Oct: **Stephen Merchant**

The co-creator of BBC's The Office and Extras embarks

on his first ever stand-up comedy tour. Known for his acclaimed collaborative work with Ricky Gervais, now's your chance to see his considerable talents, live.

Symphony Hall, Broad St, Bham B1 2EA. T: 0121 780 3333. £25. 7.30pm. www.thsh.co.uk

As one of the UK's leading ticket agents **The Ticket Factory** sells tickets for comedy events, concerts, sporting events, exhibitions, theatre performances, visitor attractions and much more across the UK.

For more information and to book your tickets:

theticketfactory.com
Telephone: 0844 338 8000

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Advance tickets available directly from venues or their nominated ticket agencies.

For the latest festival news, details of extra shows and full listings for the entire festival, see our website: **www.bhamcomfest.co.uk**

Contact: **bhamcomfest@yahoo.co.uk**

Follow us on Twitter: **@BhamComFest**

All listings correct at time of publication. Subject to change.

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Warwickshire-based **Purity Brewing Co.** is a company dedicated to making a difference. We are passionate about music, art, food and the community. We only use natural ingredients for our award-winning range of

beers: Pure Gold, Mad Goose and Pure UBU.

Look out for tasting events throughout the Birmingham Comedy Festival.

For more details: **www.puritybrewing.com**

Follow us on Twitter and join **UBU** on **Facebook**

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The Ticket Factory is proud to support the Birmingham Comedy Festival.