

BIRMINGHAM COMEDY FESTIVAL

FRI 02 - SUN 11 OCT 2009
WWW.BHAMCOMFEST.CO.UK



FULL FESTIVAL LISTINGS

[updated 23 August 2009]

Fri 25 Sept to Sat 17 Oct 2009: East Is East

Salford 1971: Chip shop owner George Khan is determined to raise his children in the traditional manner. But they have ideas of their own in writer Ayub Khan-Din's warm-hearted and hilarious story of two cultures clashing within one family.

Birmingham Repertory Theatre, Centenary Square, Broad St, Bham B1 2EP. Tel: 0121 236 4455; £10-£32; Mon-Sat 7.30pm; Sept 29 only, 7pm; matinees Oct 3, 8 & 15, 2pm.

www.birmingham-rep.co.uk

Fri 25 Sept to Wed 28 Oct 2009: Steve Lilly's Comedy Classics

Showcasing the detailed graphite work of fine artist Steve Lilly with original artwork and prints featuring such comedy stars as the cast of Dad's Army, Carry On, Steptoe And Son, Fawlty Towers, Only Fools And Horses and Little Britain.

Kitchen Garden Café, 17 York Road, Kings Heath, Bham B14 7SA. Tel: 0121 443 4725; Free; Mon-Wed 9.30am-5pm, Thu-Sat 9.30am-11pm, Sun 10am-3.30pm. www.kitchengardencafe.co.uk

Sat 26 Sept to Sun 8 Nov 2009: Abstract Cabinet Show

International contemporary art exhibition featuring work in the spirit of Russian constructivist El Lissitzky. With stand-up comedy from Grizedale Arts, galleries in galleries, 'Tijuana bibles' and a collaboration between Laureana Toledo and Duran Duran's John Taylor! *In conjunction with The Event (Nov 4-8).*

Eastside Projects, 86 Heath Mill Lane, Bham B9 4AR; Free; Thu noon-7pm, Fri-Sun noon-5pm.

www.eastsideprojects.org.

Festival Preview: Thur 1 Oct 2009: Who's Laughing Now?

With Dan Nightingale, one of the liveliest and most exciting acts on the comedy circuit today, plus hot North West comedy scene act Danny Deegan and Birmingham stand-up and radio favourite, James Cook.

Hare And Hounds, 106 High St, Kings Heath, Bham B14 7JZ. Tel: 0121 444 2081; £5; 8pm.

www.whoslaughingnow.org

Fri 2 Oct 2009: The AI Pitcher Picture Show

Every comic will tell you a 'funny thing happened on the way to the gig' but camera in hand award-winning, Kiwi stand-up AI has the pics to prove it. He'll be weaving the events of his day in Birmingham into a unique

one-off show. Al's mind is constantly twisting and distorting what he sees, igniting the mundane - see what he makes of it all.

The Glee Club Studio, The Arcadian, Bham B5 4TD. Tel: 0871 472 0400; £9, £8 online, £6 NUS; 7.30pm. www.glee.co.uk

Fri 2 Oct 2009: Andrew O'Neill: Occult Comedian

O'Neill is getting good at this comedy lark. His show last year got him nominated for awards and this one's better! He isn't your usual stand-up comedian, though. Yes, he tells jokes and makes you laugh, but he does it all with an innate sense of absurdism.

Old Joint Stock Pub and Theatre, 4 Temple Row West, Bham B2 5NY. Tel: 0121 200 0946 or 0121 303 2323; £9.50, £10; 8pm. www.oldjointstocktheatre.co.uk

Fri 2 Oct to Sat 3 Oct 2009: The Best In Live Stand-up Comedy

A class line-up of top comedic talent featuring Barry Castagnola, Paul Thorne, Jason Wood and Justin Moorhouse.

The Glee Club, The Arcadian, Bham B5 4TD. Tel: 0871 472 0400; Fri £14-£7.50; £17-£16.50; 7.45pm. www.glee.co.uk

Fri 2 Oct 2009: The Curate's Egg R'n'R Comedecine Show - John Cooper Clarke

A man of exquisite diction, John Cooper Clarke returns to air a rake of new genius verbalisms including Motorman, Attack Of The 50ft Woman and Beasley Boulevard, along with a few golden oldies, skewered amusement and his machine gun etiquette.

Hare And Hounds, High Street, Kings Heath, Bham B14 7JZ. Tel: 0121 444 2081; £12.50, £10; 8pm. www.myspace.com/thecuratesegg

Fri 2 Oct 2009: Josie Long's Electric Adventure Club

Josie loves Birmingham and Birmingham loves Josie. Oh yes, Miss Long is back with her third annual Electric Adventure Club, bringing some comedy friends with her and looking to entertain.

The Electric Cinema, 47-49 Station St, Bham B5 4DY. Tel: 0121 643 7879; £10; 6.30pm. www.theelectric.co.uk

Fri 2 Oct to Sun 11 Oct 2009: Monsters vs. Aliens 3D (cert PG)

The animated smash returns to the biggest screen in the Midlands in eye-popping 3D! A hilarious family movie from the directors of Shrek 2 and Shark Tale that's fun for grown-ups and kids of all ages. A loving homage to '50s sci-fi movies with the voices of Reese Witherspoon, Hugh Laurie and Kiefer Sutherland.

IMAX Cinema, Millennium Point, Curzon St, Bham B4 7XG. Tel: 0121 202 2222; £9 adults, £7.15 children and NUS; Contact venue for times. www.imax.ac

Fri 2 Oct 2009: Kyle Grooms & Felix Dexter

Preppy US star Grooms takes us on a unique trip into the world of a glasses-wearing, book-reading black man who is faced with hip-hop obsessed America. He's joined by UK stalwart Felix Dexter, with his distinctive blend of character and stand-up humour.

The Drum, 144 Potters Lane, Aston, Bham B6 4UU. Tel: 0121 333 2444; £15, £12 adv, £10 conc; 7pm. www.the-drum.org.uk

Fri 2 Oct to Sat 3 Oct 2009: Sean Collins

The city's biggest comedy club presents Collins, Kyle Grooms and Roger Monkhouse (Fri only).

Bar Risa/Jongleurs, Quayside Tower, 259-262 Broad St, Bham B1 2HF. Tel: 0121 632 4936; Fri £14, Sat £17; 7pm. www.jongleurs.com

Sat 3 Oct: Monty Python and The Holy Grail (15)

Made in 1975, the Pythons' first proper film pretty much rips up all the conventions of cinema and spits on the tattered pieces. Killer rabbits, the black beast of Aaaargghh! and Sir Not-Appearing-In-This-Film all feature (or don't feature) in a completely pointless (or utterly heroic) quest.

The Electric Cinema, 47-49 Station St, Bham B5 4DY. Tel: 0121 643 7879; £6, £4 conc, £12 sofa; 6.30pm. www.theelectric.co.uk

Sat 3 Oct 2009: Rob Brydon

Brydon's credits read like a compendium of modern British comedy - Marion And Geoff, I'm Alan Partridge, Black Books, Little Britain and most recently Gavin And Stacey. Now this multi award-winning writer, performer and chart-topper returns with an evening of stand-up comedy that might feature a bit of singing, but will definitely feature an impression of Ronnie Corbett.

Symphony Hall, Broad St, Bham B1 2EA. Tel: 0121 780 3333; £18.50; 7.30pm. www.thsh.co.uk

Sat 3 Oct 2009: Mark Allen's Quite Good Britain

Great Britain has always struggled with its identity - the monarchy is German, the country's motto is French and our national animal comes from Africa. Now, with the BNP voted into the European parliament, our identity crisis suddenly got more serious, and documentary comedian Allen is determined to sort it out!

Old Joint Stock Pub and Theatre, 4 Temple Row West, Bham B2 5NY. Tel: 0121 200 0946; £9.50, £10; 8pm. www.oldjointstocktheatre.co.uk

Sun 4 Oct 2009: Comedy at the Actress & Bishop

A fun-packed night of stand-up comedy featuring some of Birmingham's finest comics, including Gary Delaney, Andy White, Dan Smith and Tom Roche. Go on, give it a try.

Actress And Bishop, Ludgate Hill, Bham B3 1EH. Tel: 0121 236 7426; £6; 8.30pm. www.comedytom.com

Sun 4 Oct 2009: Frank Carson

A real comedy legend, Frank's CV includes nearly every light entertainment programme on TV, from The Comedians and Opportunity Knocks to Tiswas. A truly funny man, maybe it's cause of 'the way he tells em'. This promises to be an absolute cracker!

Town Hall, Victoria Sq, Bham B3 3DQ. Tel: 0121 780 3333; £15; 7pm. www.thsh.co.uk

Sun 4 Oct 2009: Jo Enright

At junior school, Jo was described by her teacher as 'creative yet rather chatty'. She still is, and she's funny with it. Despite a burgeoning comic acting career (Phoenix Nights, Britain's Got The Pop Factor, Lab Rats), she still manages to find the time to tread the boards as a stand-up comic.

The Electric Cinema, 47-49 Station St, Bham B5 4DY. Tel: 0121 643 7879; 7pm; £10, £7.50 conc. www.theelectric.co.uk

Sun 4 Oct 2009: Neil Innes: A People's Guide To World Domination

Chat and music from one of the great characters of British music and comedy. A member of '60s jazz/music hall/psych/rock combo The Bonzo Dog Doo-Dah Band, Innes worked closely with the Monty Python team on TV, in film and on stage, as well as creating such cult TV series as Innes Book Of Records.

Comedy Junction, Station Pub, Station St, Sutton Coldfield B73 6AT. Tel: 07985 006651; £9; 8pm. www.comedyjunction.co.uk

Sun 4 Oct 2009: The Retort Cabaret Show

An eclectic mix of comedy, music, poetry and cabaret in suburbia featuring Maureen Younger, Frank Sanazi, aka The Ubermeister of Lounge, and deluded American comedy magical super hero Thom Peterson.

Kitchen Garden Cafe, 17 York Rd, Kings Heath, Bham B14 7SA. Tel: 0121 443 4725; £7, £5 conc; 7pm.
www.kitchengardencafe.co.uk

Sun 4 Oct 2009: Rich Hall and Otis Lee Crenshaw

Another chance to see the deadpan comic genius as the Edinburgh Fringe Festival favourite as he returns for a double-headliner with his alter ego, redneck jailbird Otis Lee Crenshaw.

The Glee Club, The Arcadian, Bham B5 4TD. Tel: 0871 472 0400; £16.50, £16 online, £10 NUS; 7pm.
www.glee.co.uk

Mon 5 Oct 2009: Monty Python And The Life Of Brian (15)

The film that nearly brought down the entire Christian religion! It's the story of Brian, a witless nobody mistaken for the Messiah who spends the whole film trying to avoid the nutters and zealots who want to worship him. One of the funniest films ever made.

The Electric Cinema, 47-49 Station St, Bham B5 4DY; £6, £4 conc, £12 sofa; 6.30pm.
www.theelectric.co.uk

Mon 5 Oct 2009: Half-Moon Comedy Club

Comedy returns to The Crescent with another cracking line-up, headlined by Birmingham's own Jo Enright, aided by the oddball observations of East Midlander Jim Smallman, writer and comedian Louise Stokes (aka Nicola Goff the Goth) and Craig Deeley.

Crescent Theatre Bar, Sheepcote St, Brindleyplace, Bham B16 8AE. Tel: 0121 643 5858; £5; 7.30pm.
www.crescent-theatre.co.uk

Mon 5 Oct 2009: The Proposal

A father, a single daughter and a wealthy suitor – a recipe for domestic bliss? Maybe. There are certainly more than a few laughs as the father tries to broker a marriage deal, or is it really just a land deal? Sparks fly in Chekhov's classic one-act comedy from The Crescent Theatre Company.

The Crescent Theatre, Sheepcote St, Brindleyplace, Bham B16 8AE. Tel: 0121 643 5858; £5; 7pm.
www.crescent-theatre.co.uk

Tue 6 Oct 2009: Graham Fellows Presents Southern Softies

Comic documentary film as Sheffield-based entertainer John Shuttleworth travels to the Channel Islands with camcorder-owning neighbour Ken Worthington to discover if it's 'soft down south'. Includes a Q&A session with Graham Fellows, the creator of Shuttleworth, Brian Appleton and Jilted John.

The Electric Cinema, 47-49 Station St, Bham B5 4DY. Tel: 0121 643 7879; £8.50; 6.30pm.
www.theelectric.co.uk

Tue 6 Oct 2009: Cheeky Monkey Comedy Club

The longest running pub-based comedy club in the Midlands continues with Bristolian Mark Olver, a much in-demand warm-up comic for such TV shows as Deal Or No Deal, Ready Steady Cook and 8 Out Of 10 Cats. Plus Paul Ricketts, Bobby Carroll, and AJ James.

The Cross Bar, 147 Alcester Rd, Moseley, Bham B13 8JP. Tel: 0121 449 4445; £5, £4 conc; 8pm.
www.cheekycomedy.co.uk

Tue 6 Oct 2009: Birmingham Comedy Festival Quiz 2009

Know your Partridge from your Peep Show? Your Hicks from your Hancock? Then you'd best make some space in your diary for this special comedy quiz, with the chance to win prizes galore!

The Victoria Pub, 48 John Bright St, Bham B1 1BN. Tel: 0121 633 9439; Free; 8pm.
www.thevictoriabirmingham.co.uk

Tue 6 Oct 2009: The Laughing Sole

The acclaimed comedy club, which runs under a cleaner and less offensive ethos, returns with special appearances from Jo Enright and compere Mrs Barbara Nice, plus Craig Deeley and Russ Bravo.

**The British Oak, 1364 Pershore Rd, Stirchley, Bham B30 2XS. Tel: 0121 458 1758; £6; 7.30pm.
www.thelaughingsole.org.uk**

Tue 6 Oct 2009: Polish Comedy Night

A night of top Eastern European larks and mischief, featuring some of the biggest names in Polish stand-up. Please note that the entire night will be in Polish!

The Glee Club, The Arcadian, Bham B5 4TD. Tel: 0871 472 0400; admission tbc; 7pm.

Tue 6 Oct 2009: Sheila M's Comedy Night

A delicious night of comedy featuring Nipper Thomas - one of the West Mids' best kept comedy secrets, with over 20 years experience - and hosted by Sheila M.

**The Place 2B, Chester Road, Sutton Coldfield B73 5BD. Tel: 0121 354 8228; £10-£4; 7pm.
www.sheila-m.com**

Wed 7 Oct 2009: Andy Parsons: Citizens!

Mock The Week's Parsons is back with a brand new, substantial, beautifully crafted (and very funny) show. This is political comedy without the leaflet, satire without the lecture, ridicule without the sanctimony - all brushed with a bit of showbiz glitter.

**The Glee Club, The Arcadian, Bham B5 4TD. Tel: 0871 472 0400; £16.50, £16 online, £10 NUS; 7.30pm.
www.glee.co.uk**

Wed 7 Oct 2009: An Audience With Mrs Barbara Nice

We couldn't really have a Festival without a headline show from one of the city's best loved comedy stars - Kings Heath housewife Mrs Barbara Nice. Straight off the No 50 bus, she might even stage dive. We love you, Barbara!

**The Electric Cinema, 47-49 Station St, Bham B5 4DY. Tel: 0121 643 7879; £10, £7.50 conc; 7pm.
www.theelectric.co.uk**

Wed 7 Oct 2009: Elis James: The Most Cautious Little Boy In Wales

The unsung star of Rhod Gilbert's radio show, occasional Radio One presenter and host of 2008's Comedy Zone makes his solo debut. 'I'm a stand-up comedian,' says Elis. 'This means that I get to sleep in, and everybody assumes I'm far more interesting I am. That can be quite embarrassing sometimes.'

**The Old Joint Stock Pub and Theatre, 4 Temple Row West, Bham B2 5NY; £9.50, £10; 8pm.
www.oldjointstocktheatre.co.uk**

Wed 7 Oct to Fri 9 Oct 2009 (& Nov 13): Michael McIntyre

From releasing the fastest selling debut stand-up DVD of all time, to racking up impressive TV ratings for Michael McIntyre's Comedy Roadshow, McIntyre's stratospheric rise continues with a string of NIA arena shows. Michael's engaging delivery and audience rapport have led to him to be hailed as the best new stand-up to emerge in a decade.

The NIA, King Edwards Rd, Bham B1 2AA. Tel: 0844 338 8000; £30; 8pm. www.thenia.co.uk

Thur 8 Oct to Sat 10 Oct 2009: The Best In Live Stand-up Comedy

Another sterling Glee line-up featuring Charlie Baker, Andy Robinson, Joe Bor and guests.

The Glee Club, The Arcadian, Bham B5 4TD. Tel: 0871 472 0400; Thu £14.50-£6.50; Fri £14-£7.50; Sat £17-£16.50; 7.45pm. www.glee.co.uk

*Thur 8 Oct 2009: **Comedy Night***

Stand-up comedy in conjunction with the Abstract Cabinet Show exhibition.

Eastside Projects, 86 Heath Mill Lane, Bham B9 4AR; £tbc; 6.30pm. www.eastsideprojects.org.

*Thur 8 Oct 2009: **God Is A Comedian***

G.I.A.C presents a Birmingham Comedy Festival special in the heart of the city's historic and bustling Jewellery Quarter.

The Red Lion, 94-96 Warstone Lane, Hockley, Bham B18 6NG. Tel: 0121 233 9144; £3; 8pm. www.theredlionbirmingham.com

*Thur 8 Oct 2009: **Kent Valentine:***

How To Love Everyone (Even The A*holes)**

Dynamic Aussie comedian Kent explores how you share something you love with people you can't stand in a show that also contains traces of Star Wars, Nazis, pigeons, fights and London, all delivered with an infectious mix of irreverence and enthusiastic optimism.

The Old Joint Stock Pub and Theatre, 4 Temple Row West, Bham B2 5NY. Tel: 0121 200 0946 or 0121 303 2323; £9.50, £10; 8pm. www.oldjointstocktheatre.co.uk

*Thur 8 Oct 2009: **Matt Price: My Girlfriend Was Attacked By A Small-Time Wannabe Gangster And This Is What I Did About It***

Harnessing his unique storytelling skills, Matt recounts his dealings with Glaswegian gangsters, a night at Broadmoor maximum security hospital and a drug dealer who beat up his girlfriend after she asked him to turn the music down!

The Victoria Pub, 48 John Bright St, Bham B1 1BN. Tel: 0121 633 9439; £5; 8.15pm. www.thevictoriabirmingham.co.uk

*Thur 8 Oct 2009: **Robin Ince Vs The Moral Majority***

Noted intellectual Ince is back with more of his angry tirades, followed closely by some quiet musings. We can only imagine what will billow forth from his curious brain, but you can be assured of one thing - this is the kind of stand-up that will both inspire and entertain.

The Electric Cinema, 47-49 Station St, Bham B5 4DY. Tel: 0121 643 7879; £10, £7.50 conc; 7pm. www.theelectric.co.uk

*Thur 8 Oct to Sat 10 Oct 2009: **Alex Boardman***

Plus top acts Rudi Lickwood and Ricky Grover.

Bar Risa/Jongleurs, Quayside Tower, 259-262 Broad St, Bham B1 2HF. Tel: 0121 632 4936; Thur £9, Fri £14, Sat £17; 7pm. www.jongleurs.com

*Fri 9 & Sat 10 Oct 2009: **David O'Doherty: David O'Doh-Party!***

David O'Doherty, the Ryanair James Bond, the 1990 East Leinster under-14 triple jump bronze medalist, returns. There will be standing up, there will be sitting down, there will be a song where he tries to seduce the entire audience. Whimsical genius.

The Glee Club Studio, The Arcadian, Bham B5 4TD. Tel: 0871 472 0400; £11.50, £11 online; 7.30pm. www.glee.co.uk

*Fri 9 Oct 2009: **The Curate's Egg Deadpan Comedecine Show***

Alternative comedy godfather Ted Chippington returns for more 'non-jokes' alongside Simon Munnery, the Spike Milligan-esque creator of Alan Parker: Urban Warrior and The League Against Tedium. Together they plough stubborn and unique furrows. Plus Nadeem Rangzeb.

The Hare And Hounds, High St, Kings Heath, Bham B14 7JZ. Tel: 0121 444 2081; £7 door, £5 adv; 8pm. www.myspace.com/thecuratesegg

*Fri 9 Oct 2009: **Stoolpigeon's Postcards On The Edge***

A two hour musical comedy trip featuring stand-up, satire and monologues reminiscent of a McGill saucy seaside postcard, all brought to life by the foot-tapping Stoolpigeon.

Old Joint Stock Pub and Theatre, Temple Row West, Bham B2 5NY. Tel: 0121 200 0946; £10, £9 conc; 7.30pm. www.bobgessey.co.uk

*Fri 9 Oct 2009: **Stewart Francis: Tour De Francis***

Great comedians come in cycles! Featuring deadpan Canadian comic and writer Stewart Francis, as seen on Mock The Week, Michael McIntyre's Comedy Roadshow, 8 Out Of 10 Cats and The Omid Djalili Show.

Comedy Junction, Station Pub, Station Street, Sutton Coldfield B73 6AT; £10; 8pm. www.comedyjunction.co.uk

*Sat 10 Oct 2009: **Dr Johnny Façade's Something About Nothing***

'Nothing' is notoriously hard to grasp. However, things are set to change as Dr Façade attempts to fill in the empty gaps in a fast paced interactive show that uniquely fuses magic, multimedia and stand-up. Hilarious 'clean comedy' that will appeal to a broad age range.

Old Joint Stock Pub and Theatre, 4 Temple Row West, Bham B2 5NY. Tel: 0121 200 0946; £8 (3pm); £10 (8pm). www.oldjointstocktheatre.co.uk

*Sat 10 Oct 2009: **Ticklish Allsorts: A Mixed Bag of Comedy Delights***

A pic'n'mix of sweet comedy treats, including characters, music, theatre and stand-up from the likes of Craig Deeley, Lee Dempsey and a bunch of other truly superb local acts. Headlining is award-winning Birmingham comic and writer Shazia Mirza.

The Crescent Theatre, Sheepcote St, Brindleyplace, Bham B16 8AE. Tel: 0121 643 5858; £12, £10 conc; 7pm. www.crescent-theatre.co.uk

*Sat 10 Oct 2009: **Gary Colman Is...Very Rarely Rong***

Colman is very rarely wrong. After 14 years as an army doctor he quit just before the last Gulf War (the secret of comedy? Timing) and now gets his 'buzz on' from diving, snowboarding and 'extreme neighbourhood watch'. Tonight the discontented genius considers the big issues: life, love and puppy semen!

Custard Factory Theatre, Gibb St, Gibb Square, Bham B9 4AA. Tel: 0121 200 0910; £8; 8pm. www.custardfactory.co.uk

*Sun 11 Oct 2009: **Pam Ayres***

The much-loved Radio 4 regular and bestselling writer of such verse as I Wish I'd Looked After Me Teeth and Do You Think Bruce Springsteen Would Fancy Me? presents poems both old and new.

Symphony Hall, Broad St, Bham B1 2EA. Tel: 0121 780 3333; £16.50; 3pm. www.thsh.co.uk

For the latest festival news, interviews, features and full listings, please see:

www.bhamcomfest.co.uk

Also see: www.myspace.com/bhamcomedyfest | twitter.com/bhamcomedyfest

... plus Facebook and YouTube.

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