



**6TH ANNUAL BIG LAUGH COMEDY
FESTIVAL 2006**

March 28 – April 9

MEDIA KIT

Big Laugh Comedy Festival Publicity
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MEDIA RELEASE

It's A Class Act...Really! BIG LAUGH 2006

The sixth annual Big Laugh Comedy Festival will hit the deck running on March 28 and lies down exhausted on April 9. The Big Laugh is now firmly established as a leading event on the Sydney comedy calendar.

Spreading the laughs from its home base at **Riverside Theatres**, in 2006 the Big Laugh introduces the new **Laugh Garage Comedy Club** as its second Parramatta venue.

Festival attractions will also play the comedy-friendly **State Theatre** and there will be a special Big Laugh exclusive at **The Seymour Centre**.

Festival Director, John Pinder describes the Big Laugh 2006 as a class act with exclusive events. "Our 2006 festival is diverse and well rounded, bringing our audience something old, something new and some brilliant surprises."

Already announced, **The Aunty Jack Show ... and Tell** headlines the Big Laugh. Fans knew she'd be back...but it's taken 30 years! Aunty Jack is classic comedy from Australia's Great Originals, and this Big Laugh show is a brilliant, once-in-a-lifetime, must-see comedy experience featuring Grahame 'Aunty Jack' Bond and Rory 'Thin Arthur' O'Donoghue live on stage.

There's a watery world premiere on a Sydney Ferries' Rivercat cruising the Parramatta River with one of the great stalwarts of Australian comedy, **Rod Quantock**. Rod invites audiences aboard for an amphibious evening of maritime madness on **The Laugh Boat**. Rod has put his iconic BUS up on blocks and is taking to the Parramatta River like a chook to a Rivercat. The Laugh Boat will leave from the Parramatta Rivercat Terminal for two nights only. Saturday April 1 and Saturday April 8.

The stand up comedy coup of The Big Laugh is an exclusive appearance by the brilliant **Dylan Moran**. Dylan created and starred in the award- winning sitcom *Black Books* (ABCTV) and was the youngest person to win the prestigious Perrier Award in 1996 at Edinburgh Festival at the age of 24. Best known as the miserable, antisocial, drunken bookshop owner Bernard Black, Dylan completed a massive sell out national tour in the UK recently. He will appear exclusively at Riverside Theatre Parramatta and at The Seymour Centre.

Hugely talented stand up comic **Peter Rowsthorn** – better known as Kim's hapless husband on the hottest comedy series Australia has ever seen, *Kath & Kim* - headlines the program at the Laugh Garage. Pete is one of Australia's most talented performers and comedians, and is guaranteed to get the crowd roaring! This is a show not to be missed!

The Laughing Samoans, Eteuati Ete and Tofiga Fepuleai, are Samoan superstars and were the surprise hit of the Big Laugh 2005. Their shows were a sell out, positioning them as the undisputed kings of Samoan comedy! They're back – this time at Riverside's main theatre!

Big Laugh Comedy Festival regular **Ross Noble** is back with his brilliant new show **Randomist**, which has already proved a smash hit in the UK. Ross has been performing stand-up since he was smuggled in to his local comedy club at the age of 15. He has since become known as a truly exciting and genuinely original performer and has received huge critic acclaim.

In 2005 **Adam Hills** exploded on the Australia TV scene with the hit ABC series *Spicks and Specks*. Adam is one of Australia's most talented and widely respected comedians. His unique style of thoughtful, uplifting comedy and rampant spontaneity have won him rave reviews and a legion of fans worldwide. This is Adam's first Big Laugh show.

One of Australia's most respected, successful and in-demand comics, **Akmal** displays an incredible ability to deal with hot topics in a hilarious and non-offensive way, as he touches on issues such as religion, terrorism and modern day life in Australia.

The quiet achievers of Australian comedy the **Scared Weird Little Guys** have toured nationally and had smash hit seasons in Edinburgh. They are known as experienced multi-media performers as well as being consummate instrumentalists, singers, composers and arrangers.

This is **Arj Barker's** second Big Laugh show but his first on the main stage at Riverside Theatres. Arj is a brilliant stand-up comedian from California who co-wrote and performed in *The Marijuana-Logues*, an off-Broadway show which played a sell out season. With a resume most comedians would kill for, Arj Barker heads back to Oz with his cutting edge freestyling shtick.

From rave reviews and sell out performances at the Edinburgh Fringe, musical comedy act **Pluck** return with their brilliant new show. Pluck, an award-winning, classical music trio with a seriously silly side, will take to the stage with an eccentric mix of instrumental anarchy, mime and clowning.

Tommy Dean's hilarious and entertaining style has made him a crowd favourite. He is among the top echelon of stand-up comics working in Australia. At the Big Laugh, Tommy will get together with one of Australia's hottest rising star of comedy **Nick Sun**. Their show the **Comedy Double Header** will be one not to miss.

Best known as a comedian and getting her TV kick start as a regular *Good News Week* panellist, **Corinne Grant** has gone to be one of the most familiar faces on Australian television on shows such as *Rove Live* and *The Glass House*. Corrine will appear live onstage with her solo stand-up show, **Faking It**.

As always, Big Laugh 2006 is truly a festival with great comedy performances from Sydney, Australia and around the world as well as complementary events such as a **Cartoon and Caricature Exhibition** for budding primary and secondary student artists, the high school comedy competition **Kickstart Class Clowns**, and **No Laughing in the Library**, an hilarious annual literary and illiteracy reading where comedians read from their favourite funny authors.

A unique photo exhibition featuring current stars when they were up-and-coming unknowns is also part of the Big Laugh. This amazing and personal collection was taken by **William Burdett-Coutts**, director of The Assembly Rooms, the famous six-theatre complex which has been the hallmark venue of The Edinburgh Festival for 25 years. Stars such as the *Ab Fab* girls, Lenny Henry, Circus Oz circa 1987, The Young Ones and Dario Fo are featured.

In The Best Student Revue of 2005....**The Nice Guys** from the University of NSW will stage their new one-hour sketch *You Say Potato, I Say Die!* The world's first five man, one horse revue takes slapstick, surrealism and straitjackets and puts them together because it's good alliteration.

Nightly music will be provided by The Big Laugh's favourite band **The Ticklers** in the courtyard at Riverside.

And at long last, the Big Laugh has a late-night watering hole! **The Laugh Garage** is open most nights, and free for those who flash Big Laugh tickets at the door.

Tickets to The Big Laugh Comedy Festival are available through the Riverside Theatres website online www.riversideparramatta.com.au or the box office on 8839 3399. For a full Big Laugh Comedy Festival program, go to www.biglaughcomedyfestival.com.au from Feb 24.

For further information including any media enquiries please contact:-

Niki White - The Lantern Group

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MEDIA RELEASE
30th November 2005

The Aunty Jack Show is back ... live on stage

The Aunty Jack Show is back – in a live ‘Tell All’ stage show with Grahame Bond and Rory O’Donoghue, premiering at the 2006 Big Laugh Comedy Festival then touring Australia.

The Aunty Jack Show ... and Tell will play at the Riverside Theatres in Parramatta on March 30 and 31, 2006, and the State Theatre Sydney on April 1, then tour to Melbourne, Brisbane, Canberra, Perth, Hobart and Adelaide.

The Aunty Jack Show burst on to Australian television screens in 1971. There had never been anything like Aunty Jack. Grahame Bond’s outrageous character, the bikie and self proclaimed “Queen of Wollongong”, was the antithesis of television presenters - a mustachioed hostess who threatened to jump out of viewer’s television sets and “Rip their bloody arms off.” Aunty Jack and her cast of characters, Thin Arthur, Narrator Neville and Flange Desire, brought a new sense of humour to our screens - irreverent, bizarre, and full of original music (a rarity for a comedy series) and uniquely Australian.

Now *The Aunty Jack Show* is back - with the DVD of the first series released on December 1, and in the live stage show. Grahame and Rory are Australian comedy legends. Together they wrote the incredibly popular music for the show – ‘Farewell Aunty Jack’ being one of Australia’s most loved songs.

In ***The Aunty Jack Show ... and Tell*** expect to hear death-defying tales - Thin Arthur’s suicidal stories of life in the sidecar, Aunty Jack’s near death experience with Colin the rogue elephant, the threats that came from Wollongong, the threats that came from the ABC and rude moments from Nude Radio.

And there are the answers to those nagging questions - What did Aunty Jack wear under her inflatable frock? Did Thin Arthur go on a dangerous fad diet? And who is Narrator Neville and Flange Desire’s love child?

Grahame and Rory are going to tell it all - the naked truth ... with their clothes on.

Grahame Bond has won numerous awards, including a Logie for Best Australian Comedy (*Aunty Jack*) and an Awgie Award from the Australian Writer’s Guild in Recognition for his Contribution to Australian Comedy.

Rory was awarded an AFI Award in 1981 for his and Grahame Bond’s music in the feature film *Fatty Finn* and in 1983, Rory composed the music for the documentary *Australia on the Breeze* which he also narrated.

For all media enquiries and images please contact Niki White at The Lantern Group Ph: 02 9383 4038 Mob: 0413 756 175 Email: niki@lanterngroup.com.au

BIG LAUGH COMEDY FESTIVAL

Venue: Riverside Theatre, Riverside Theatres

Address: Corner Church and Market Streets, Parramatta

Date: Thursday 30 March & Friday 31 March

Time: 7.30pm

Bookings: 8839 3399 or www.biglaughcomedyfestival.com.au

Ticket Prices: A Reserve \$69.00 B Reserve \$57.00

Venue: State Theatre, Sydney

Address: 49 Market St, Sydney

Date: Saturday 1 April

Time: 8.00pm

Bookings: 132 849 or www.ticketek.com

Ticket Prices: A Reserve \$69.00 B Reserve \$57.00

www.auntyjack.org



Media Release

Adam Hills – Characterful

"Hills delivers stand up so effortlessly brilliant you wonder why some comedians even get out of bed." The Guardian, London

Adam Hills - one of Australia's most talented and best-travelled comedians – will be in Sydney for the **Big Laugh Comedy Festival** with his new show, **"Characterful"**

In a world of reality television, double-speaking politicians, botox, and crimes against the English language, Adam is on a mission to inject a little bit of "character" back into the world. In an all-new hour of stand-up comedy, he'll play with the crowd, tell some stories, and engage in some tummy-drumming – all for the sake of fun.

Adam's solo shows have become must-see events at the Edinburgh Fringe, Adelaide Fringe and the Melbourne Comedy Festivals, receiving five-star reviews and sold-out houses. His 2001, 2002 & 2003 shows were all nominated for the prestigious Perrier Award in Edinburgh, and his 2004 show sold over 10,000 tickets.

Adam has not done a solo live season in Australia since the 2004 Melbourne Comedy Festival, so to say that he is excited about this new show is an understatement.

"I really enjoy making Spicks and Specks, but I really love doing stand up comedy. I can't wait to get the stage to myself, and to be allowed to say some rude words occasionally."

Overachievement would appear to have been the theme for Adam's 2005. Not content with being one of the country's finest stand up comedians, he hosted the ABC's ridiculously successful music quiz show *Spicks & Specks*. Adam's quick wit and playful personality also came to the fore when he conducted the backstage interviews at last year's Logie Awards. By year's end, *Spicks And Specks* was drawing over one million viewers per week, and will be back bigger and better in 2006.

Adam also managed to fit in a visit to the Montreal Comedy Festival (for the third year in a row) and appeared at the Aspen Comedy Festival alongside such names as Eddie Izzard and Jim Carrey, before going on to perform sold out shows in London's West End.

Adam Hills is fast becoming one of the most in-demand comedians in the world.

For all media enquiries and images please contact Hannah Watkins at Token Events Ph: 02 9274 7222 Mob: 0411 362 727 Email: hannah@token.com.au

BIG LAUGH COMEDY FESTIVAL

Venue: Riverside Theatre, Riverside Theatres

Address: Corner Church and Market Streets, Parramatta

Date: Saturday 8 April

Time: 9.30pm

Bookings: Bookings 8839 3399 or www.biglaughcomedyfestival.com.au

Ticket Prices: \$29.90



Media Release

AKMAL SALEH – AKMAL

“His is a show definitely worth seeing” The Age

After the outstanding success of **Akmal Live**, **Akmal Saleh** returns to Parramatta's premier comedy event **The Big Laugh Comedy Festival** with *Akmal*, a show that fuses hilarious sketches with dynamic multimedia slides and video.

To put it quite simply *Akmal* at The Big Laugh Comedy Festival is Akmal as you've never seen him before.

One of Australia's most respected, successful and in demand comics Akmal displays an incredible ability to deal with hot topics in a hilarious and non-offensive way, as he touches on issues such as religion, terrorism and hysterical looks at modern day life in Australia.

Akmal will deliver his new topical stand up comedy tackling topics such as the Cronulla Race Riots, the new Pope Benedict XVI, Reality Shows and of course some of his classic routines which have made him a favourite regular on such TV shows as *Rove LIVE*, *The Glass House* and *In Siberia Tonight*.

Akmal will be joined by fellow comedian Joel Ozbourn who has toured extensively with him both nationally and internationally over the last two years. Together they have built a strong dynamic chemistry onstage which is evident in their improvised audience Q&A promising something different every night.

“No one wanted the show to stop.....” Lenny Ann Low - Sydney Morning Herald

For all media enquiries and images please contact Jane Intini at A-List Entertainment

Ph: 02 6290 2722 Mob: 0418 835768 Email: jane_i@bigpond.net.au

BIG LAUGH COMEDY FESTIVAL

Venue: Riverside Theatre, Riverside Theatres

Address: Corner Church and Market Streets, Parramatta

Date: Friday March 31

Time: 9.30pm

Bookings: Bookings 8839 3399 or www.biglaughcomedyfestival.com.au

Ticket Prices: \$29.50, \$24.50 concession



Media Release

ARJ BARKER – UNMITIGATED

When last in Sydney every show sold out so The Big Laugh Comedy Festival takes great delight in announcing one night only of legendary **Arj Barker's *Unmitigated***, at the Riverside Theatre.

'Genius.'and 'A cracking good time' Beat Magazine

'The grooviest of comedians. A kind of comic narcotic, making you giggle at dumb, silly things' Herald Sun

Don't miss out this time. **Arj Barker's *Ego No Amigo*** was one of the biggest selling shows at the 2005 Melbourne International Comedy Festival. So Book Early!! **Arj** will present ***Unmitigated*** at the Riverside Theatre on Friday 7 April, 2006.

Having signed up for his first open mike night at the age of 19, playing to a room full of sailors at San Francisco's legendary Holy City Zoo, **Arj** has gone on to become one of the most popular international comics working on the festival circuit.

To date he has performed stand-up comedy in over 10 countries including Canada, Ireland, Germany, Holland, Denmark, Sweden, Norway, Australia and even China.

On this visit to Australia he will be serving up some of his all-time vintage classic jokes as well as some sweet new freshies.

Renowned for his dynamic delivery, **Arj** has appeared on Letterman, Jay Leno, Conan O'Brien as well as Australia's own The Glasshouse and Rove Live. He also earned critical praise for his performance in the BBC's acclaimed drama series *Shooting the Past* and will soon be seen in the independent feature film *Car Babes*.

'Criminally talented' The Herald, Glasgow

For all media enquiries and images please contact Jane Intini at A-List Entertainment

Ph: 02 6290 2722 Mob: 0418 835768 Email: jane_i@bigpond.net.au

BIG LAUGH COMEDY FESTIVAL

Venue: Riverside Theatre, Riverside Theatres

Address: Corner Church and Market Streets, Parramatta

Date: Friday April 7

Time: 9.30pm

Bookings: Bookings 8839 3399 or www.biglaughcomedyfestival.com.au

Ticket Prices: \$34.50 concession \$29.50



Media Release

CORINNE GRANT – FAKING IT

You're a faker. Don't worry, we all are. From being polite to rude sales assistants to pretending to understand soccer, we all want to be liked. Corinne is out to reveal her fakery, and the fakery in all of us, in her long awaited return to stand up.

It has taken a while for Corinne to come back to the stage with a full length show. Her last solo show was in 2000 and this season of *Faking It* as a part of the Big Laugh Comedy Festival will be her first ever in Sydney.

Corinne started out as a stand up comedian in 1996. It didn't take long for TV to come knocking and she became a firm regular on *Good News Week*.

In 1999 she was a member of the core cast of Rove's late night series on Nine. When the show moved to Ten in 2000, Corinne followed and remained a cast member until she made the difficult decision to leave the show at the end of 2005.

That decision was driven by Corinne's desire to focus her energies on writing and acting. Her first project was to write a brand new hour of stand up, hence *Faking It*.

Corinne has continued her role as a core cast member on the ABC-TV's *The Glass House*. Starting out with Wil Anderson and Dave Hughes in 2001, *The Glass House* has grown from cult status to become part of the television landscape, capping it off with a 2005 AFI Award.

In addition to this, throw in her time on the sketch show *Skithouse*, her three years of weekly radio on the Austereo network and it is no wonder that it has been hard for Corinne to find the time to get up on stage. She is thrilled to be back doing stand-up and to bring her show to Sydney.

For all media enquiries and images please contact Hannah Watkins at Token Events

Ph: 02 9274 7222 Mob: 0411 362727 Email: Hannah@token.com.au

BIG LAUGH COMEDY FESTIVAL

Venue: Lennox Theatre, Riverside Theatres

Address: Corner Church and Market Streets, Parramatta

Date: Friday April 7 & Saturday April 8

Time: 7.30pm

Bookings: Bookings 8839 3399 or www.biglaughcomedyfestival.com.au

Ticket Prices: \$27.90

Media Release

DYLAN MORAN LIVE!

SEYMOUR CENTRE – EVEREST THEATRE – FRIDAY 7TH APRIL
RIVERSIDE THEATRE PARRAMATTA – SUNDAY 9TH APRIL

'About as perfect an evening as I can recall.' The Times (London)

DYLAN MORAN, creator and star of ABC TV's award-winning "**BLACK BOOKS**" and renowned stand up comedian, is coming to Sydney in April for a stand-up comedy show.

Born in Ireland in 1971, Dylan Moran left school without any qualifications when he was 16. He quickly became attracted to stand up comedy and debuted in 1992 at a comedy club in Dublin. A year later he won the Channel Four Newcomers' "**So You Think You're Funny Award**" at the Edinburgh Festival and began developing his comedy routines into a one man show for which he won the prestigious Perrier Comedy Award in 1996. His success at the Edinburgh Festival led him to performing at international stand up comedy festivals around the world.

In 2000 Channel Four commissioned Dylan for the sitcom **Black Books**. He wrote and starred in three series (six episodes in each) of this award winning television series, co-starring with popular British stand up Bill Bailey, who was also nominated for the Perrier Award the year Moran won. **Black Books** sees Moran play a character close to his stand up comedy persona; an unsociable misanthrope, reminiscent of the John Cleese character Basil Fawlty, that shares a great love of wine with one of razor sharp put downs of all things human. His character Bernard Black's often-surreal views on everyday things and on human behaviour are close to his stand up persona's view of the world.

Unpredictable, startling, bizarre, but above all brilliant and hilariously funny, **MORAN** is a master of comedy, combining his talents, as an actor, writer and performer to incredible effect. It's important not to be fooled by this gentle Irishman's unkempt appearance, benign expression and softly spoken brogue. Watching **MORAN** perform is an exhilaratingly unpredictable ride. At one moment an unexpectedly long silence has the audience in nervous suspense, then, suddenly they erupt into hysterical laughter. In the words of The London Observer; "**Dylan Moran makes you laugh so hard you have to put your head between your knees and gasp for air**".

MORAN has packed out audiences on both sides of the Atlantic. His recent UK tour preceded sell-out runs in New York and Los Angeles with a sensational appearance on **LETTERMAN** firmly sealing a place in the hearts of the American public.

DYLAN is a man whose career has meandered as much as his unfettered, whimsical monologues. Dylan starred alongside **SIMON PEGG** in the must-see blockbuster "**SHAUN OF THE DEAD**" and with **MICHAEL CAINE** and **MICHAEL GAMBON** in the film "**THE ACTORS**". He played **RUFUS** in "**NOTTING HILL**", achieved critical acclaim in **SIMON NYE'S** comedy drama "**HOW DO YOU WANT ME?**" and is about to hit the big screen as **DR SLOP** in the highly-anticipated **MICHAEL WINTERBOTTOM** movie "**A COCK AND BULL STORY**".

DYLAN MORAN is effortlessly comfortable in the medium of stand-up. In this guise he takes you on an unpredictable journey that shifts fluidly from surreal fantasy to acerbic observation via linguistic gymnastics and flashes of the sublime. The effect is overwhelmingly funny and unforgettable.

**For all media enquiries and images please contact Dianna O'Neill Publicity
Ph: 9337 2288 Mob: 0418 468148 Email: dioneill@ozemail.com.au**

BIG LAUGH COMEDY FESTIVAL

Venue: Seymour Centre Everest Theatre

Address: Corner of City Road and Cleveland Streets Chippendale

Date: Friday April 7

Time: 8.00pm

Bookings: Ticketek 132 849 www.ticketek.com.au / Seymour Box Office 9351 7940

Ticket Prices: \$43.50

Venue: Riverside Theatre, Riverside Theatres

Address: Corner Church and Market Streets, Parramatta

Date: Sunday April 9

Time: 7.30pm

Bookings: Bookings 8839 3399 or www.biglaughcomedyfestival.com.au

Ticket Prices: \$43.50



Media Release

THE NICE GUYS in “YOU SAY POTATO, I SAY DIE!”

THE SHOW – WHY BOTHER?

The Nice Guys' new show for the 2006 Sydney Big Laugh Comedy Festival, *You Say Potato, I Say Die!* is shaping up to be a relentless, exhausting hour of punk sketch comedy that will make you feel alive by threatening your safety.

Inaccurately referencing everything from Socrates to Bret Easton Ellis to the fried bread they used to have at Sizzler, launching multiple attacks on modern Australian cuisine, school debating and the Green Day song “Time of Your Life”, and generally ripping the English language to shreds, *You Say Potato, I Say Die!* will at the very least challenge people to take a raincoat in with them.

Never has slapstick been so cerebral. Never have literary jokes been so physical. Never has hyperbolley been so badly misspelt.

In *You Say Potato, I Say Die!*, the personal safety of the actors is thrown out the window so many times, even *it* gets hurt.

Testimonials:

“The Nice Guys are what would happen if the cast of *The Young Ones* was let loose on the set of *The League of Gentlemen* and told to shoot down a flock of huge jet-powered doves made of plexiglass.” *Dom Firth, The Chaser*

“Nice Guys Productions is a cruel and shallow money trench, a long plastic hallway where thieves and pimps run free and good men die like dogs. There’s also a negative side”. *Chris “Adam Gilchrist with Down Syndrome” Lillee*

“By the end of this intensive workshop, you will all walk on fire. Some of you will go on to achieve greatness. And some of you will die.” – *Rip Whitening, Nice Guys motivational guru*

You Say Potato, I Say Die! is a four-man, one-horse revue that takes slapstick, surrealism and straitjackets and puts them all in the one sentence for the purpose of alliteration.

Assume the brace position as the Nice Guys torment a caged gimp by being nice to it, wilfully mispronounce Friedrich Nietzsche's name to his face, and take motivational speaking back to its spiritual home of Waco, Texas.

With four shows in three years under their collective belt, the Guys find it hard to breathe and are allowed to sit down during PE. Nevertheless, they guarantee that "by the end of this intensive workshop, you will all walk on fire. Some of you will go on to achieve greatness. And some of you will die."

**For all media enquiries and images please contact Jeff Forrest
Ph: 0414 677997 Email: jeff@doctorcolossus.com**

BIG LAUGH COMEDY FESTIVAL

Venue: Rafferty's Theatre, Riverside Theatres

Address: Corner Church and Market Streets, Parramatta

Date: Friday 31 March to Sunday 2 April & Tuesday 4 April to Sunday 9 April

Time: 9.30pm except Sunday 7.00pm

Bookings: Bookings 8839 3399 or www.biglaughcomedyfestival.com.au

Ticket Prices: \$24.90 concession \$19.90



Media Release

pluck present their new show THE SPECIALISTS

Pluck, the award-winning, classical music trio with a seriously silly side return to Australia in 2006 with a completely new show. Winners of *The Adelaide Advertiser Award for Excellence* and the *Sunday Mail Fringe Sensation* in 2004 they will perform **THE SPECIALISTS** at the **Big Laugh Comedy Festival**.

...a mad mixture of very competent playing and sheer brilliant clowning... they are natural musicians, natural comics, and indecently gifted on both counts. *****

The [Adelaide] Advertiser

Following their highly successful season at the 2004 Adelaide Fringe, Pluck has teamed up with renowned comedy director Cal McCrystal (Cirque du Soleil, Spymonkey, Peepolykus), to produce **THE SPECIALISTS**.

Imagine the classical concert where a trio of earnest musicians go about their serious business of music making. Now imagine those three musicians being replaced by three bumbling idiots. Idiots who can play but whose idea of a concert is unconventional to say the least. Pluck is that trio of idiots and in the last three years they have turned the classical concert on its head. They compete, argue, ridicule and seduce their way through the world's finest classics.

"Highly-strung violinist Yarlberg has designs on the perfect concert and the ever-enthusiastic Mr Abanathie aims to please with a variety of instruments. Meanwhile, budget celebrity Kadifachi's passionate relationship with her cello threatens to hijack the entire performance..."

"...a pleasing mix of passion and irreverence...this threesome refresh jaded palates with their menu of melodic buffoonery...." *[London] Evening Standard*

Pluck was formed in 2002 when violinist **Adrian Garratt** met violist **Jon Regan** and cellist **Sian Kadifachi**. After an inaugural performance at the world famous Ronnie Scott's Jazz Bar in London they ventured further north to the Edinburgh Fringe in 2003. They stormed the festival, selling out two weeks of shows, and winning the prestigious **Tap Water Award**. 2004 and Pluck's show *Musical Arson* garnered rave reviews in Italy, and at the Adelaide and Sydney festivals and was awarded a **Spirit of the Fringe** award in Edinburgh. In Edinburgh 2005, Pluck performed their new show **THE SPECIALISTS**, again to sold-out houses, winning unanimous critical acclaim.

"Gloriously Funny" *The Scotsman*

For more information about PLUCK visit www.pluck.me.uk

**For all media enquiries and images please contact Amanda Werner
Ph: 08 8272 6352 Mob: 0412 007273 Email: wernerpr@bigpond.net.au**

BIG LAUGH COMEDY FESTIVAL

Venue: Rafferty's Theatre, Riverside Theatres

Address: Corner Church and Market Streets, Parramatta

Date: Thursday 30 March, Friday 31 March, Saturday 1 April & Sunday 2 April

Time: 7.30pm except Sunday 5.00pm

Bookings: Bookings 8839 3399 or www.biglaughcomedyfestival.com.au

Ticket Prices: \$27.90 concession \$22.90



Media Release

Rod Quantock

'A master of effortless comedy' Sydney Morning Herald

'A living Melbourne treasure' The Melbourne Age

Since his days at Melbourne University more than twenty years ago, **Rod Quantock's** work as a comedy writer, producer and performer for television, stage and private & corporate clients has earned countless accolades.

Going to a Rod Quantock show is a little like going to church. You can pretty much predict the topic of the sermon, you know you'll be surrounded by people of the same creed, and you'll come away having had your world-view reaffirmed. The bonus is you get to laugh yourself silly at the same time.

Rod's interactive people skills range from inventive "busking" at major trade shows ("the best trade show ever") to hosting special events ("an outstanding contribution to the success of our conference") to after dinner speaking ("the best conference dinner anyone had ever attended") to just about any situation where people need a versatile, flexible performer. And he does bus trips.

Rod Quantock has performed at every **Big Laugh Comedy Festival**. In 2006 he is creating a new show on a Sydney Ferries Rivercat. Leaving from The Parramatta Terminal for two nights only, Rod expands his legendary bus show onto the water taking passengers into the wild waters of the Parramatta river for a couple of hours of maritime mayhem.

'Bizarre, fresh, theatrically dangerous and unpredictable' The Guardian

**For all media enquiries please contact the Lantern Group Niki White
Ph: 9383 4038 Mob: 0413 756175 Email: niki@lanterngroup.com.au**

BIG LAUGH COMEDY FESTIVAL

Venue: On a Sydney Ferries Rivercat

Address: Leave from Riverside Theatres Box Office

Date: Saturday 1 April and Saturday 8 April

Time: 6.45pm for 7.15pm

Bookings: Bookings 8839 3399 or www.biglaughcomedyfestival.com.au

Ticket Prices: \$55.00



Media Release

SCARED WEIRD LITTLE GUYS MINDLESS STUPIDITY FOR THE THINKING PERSON

Mindless Stupidity for the Thinking Person. It's the new show from the **Scared Weird Little Guys**. After sell out runs in 2005 the guys will perform for one night only at The Big Laugh. It's jam packed with what the Scaredies do best, combining hilarious songs, absurd musical challenges and corny puns, all performed with their trademark stunning harmonies and musicianship.

Having performing 3500 shows in 7 countries, winning many awards including an ARIA for best comedy release (2004), The Scaredies decided to assemble a collection of their work over the past 15 years. The resulting DVD, imaginatively titled "The First 15 Years", was released to critical acclaim!

The Scaredies are currently putting the finishing touches on a new album, coincidentally titled *Mindless Stupidity for the Thinking Person*. The Album combines live songs with studio produced sketches and is slated for release mid year.

Whether you're highbrow, lowbrow or thick bushy monobrow, the Scaredies will crassify the erudite and tutorise the idiotic.

"never seen an act as quick witted and entertaining...must see." *Rip It Up, Adelaide*

"impressively musical...great entertainers...screamingly funny..." *The Scotsman - Edinburgh*

"One of Australian Comedy's success stories" *Herald Sun*

"bizarre antics ...wild lyrics...had the audience wetting themselves" *Edmonton Sun*

"Comedy with music is a difficult medium. Names such as Victor Borge, Anna Russell and Danny Kaye stand out, but the list of great performers soon thins out. The Scared Weird Little Guys can stand tall in this celebrated company" *The Ballarat Courier*

For all media enquiries and images please contact Jane Intini at A-List Entertainment Ph: 02 6290 2722 Mob: 0418 835768 Email: jane_i@bigpond.net.au

BIG LAUGH COMEDY FESTIVAL

Venue: Riverside Theatre, Riverside Theatres

Address: Corner Church and Market Streets, Parramatta

Date: Friday April 7

Time: 7.30pm

Bookings: Bookings 8839 3399 or www.biglaughcomedyfestival.com.au

Ticket Prices: \$34.50, \$29.50 concession



Media Release

The Laughing Samoans

'The undisputed kings of Samoan stand up comedy!' Auckland Star

The Laughing Samoans were the run away smash hit of the 2005 **Big Laugh Comedy Festival**. Eteuati Ete and Tofiga Fepulea are Samoan superstars. They live in Auckland and they have their own comedy circuit around the Pacific.

Ete and Tofiga are accomplished and sought after performing artists and comedians in their own right. The Laughing Samoans aim to produce comedy the whole family can enjoy, based on stories, characters and situations close to (and sometimes actually IN the) home.

Their clean and wholesome humour has facilitated their work in schools where their road safety is very popular. They have also been contracted by the Hutt Valley District Health Board to assist with a health promotion program in secondary schools.

The Laughing Samoans packed out the small theatre and this year we expect them to pack out the biggest theatre with their hilarious observations and sketches about Samoa and Samoan life and Auckland and Rugby League in Sydney! Their new show *Old School* is another step up for the Laughing Samoans with sell out shows in Auckland, Wellington and the Cook Islands already. As well as Australia, it will be touring the US and the Pacific this year.

Ete was born in Samoa and was 12 years old when his family migrated to NZ where his parents were called to serve as ministers of the Samoan EFKS church in Wellington. Tofiga is a young Samoan man, born and bred in Wellington, NZ, educated at Rongotai College. Though a fierce and talented rugby player, Tofiga hung up his boots to concentrate on his many other talents.

**For all media enquiries and images please contact the Lantern Group
Niki White Ph: 9383 4038 Mob: 0413 756175
Email: niki@lanterngroup.com.au**

BIG LAUGH COMEDY FESTIVAL

Venue: Riverside Theatre, Riverside Theatres

Address: Corner Church and Market Streets, Parramatta

Date: Saturday 8 April

Time: 5.00pm & 7.30pm

Bookings: Bookings 8839 3399 or www.biglaughcomedyfestival.com.au

Ticket Prices: \$25.50 Concession \$19.50 15 and under \$14.00



Media Release

TOMMY DEAN WITH NICK SUN COMEDY DOUBLE HEADER

For the first time ever in the history of laughter, comedian's **Tommy Dean** and **Nick Sun** will perform together, joking their way onto stage at the sixth annual **Big Laugh Comedy Festival** on Friday 7th April and Saturday 8th April at The Riverside Theatre, Parramatta.

Tommy Dean's hilarious and entertaining style has made him a crowd favourite, proving himself among the top echelon of stand-up comics in Australia. He will be joined by Nick Sun; one of Australia's hottest rising stars of comedy.

Tommy Dean calls Australia home, having moved here from Arizona, USA, some 15 years ago. His unique perspective on life and the world around us, his observational skills combined with his life experiences all contribute to him being respected by crowds as well as critics all around the world.

Winning awards at comedy festivals around the globe has cemented Nick Sun as a hot new talent. Having spent time honing his craft in London, New York, South East Asia, not to mention all across Australia – Nick is definitely already on the road to comic stardom.

Tommy Dean and Nick Sun will be sure to be bringing down the house, when they combine together on stage for the very first time for the Comedy Double Header. You'd have to be joking to miss this show!

For all media enquiries and images please contact Buxton Walker Publicity
Michelle Buxton Ph: 0419 134278
Email: michelle@buxtonwalker.com

BIG LAUGH COMEDY FESTIVAL

Venue: Lennox Theatre, Riverside Theatres

Address: Corner Church and Market Streets, Parramatta

Date: Friday 7th April & Saturday 8th April

Time: 9.30pm

Bookings: Bookings 8839 3399 or www.biglaughcomedyfestival.com.au

Ticket Prices: \$29.50 Concession \$24.50



Media Release

Ross Noble

"The supreme master of spontaneous stand-up and the most exciting comic in the country." Time Out, London

Although just 29 years old, Ross Noble, a "Geordie", has been performing stand-up since he was smuggled in to his local comedy club at the age of 15. Licensing laws meant that immediately after his slot he had to leave through the kitchen - but he has never looked back.

"The most brilliant stand-up of his generation." Sunday Telegraph

"Noble has rapidly emerged as a major force in British Comedy." The Sun

In the past years since, Ross has become known as a truly exciting and genuinely original performer and has received huge critical acclaim. He is a former **Perrier Award** nominee and a **Time Out** award winner for best live stand-up and has won a shed load of other prestigious awards and nominations.

Ross Noble returns to the **Big Laugh Comedy Festival** with his brilliant new show 'Randomist', which has already proved a smash hit in the UK.

**For all media enquiries and images please contact the Lantern Group
Niki White Ph: 9383 4038 Mob: 0413 756175
Email: niki@lanterngroup.com.au**

BIG LAUGH COMEDY FESTIVAL

Venue: Riverside Theatre, Riverside Theatres

Address: Corner Church and Market Streets, Parramatta

Date: Saturday 1 April

Time: 7.30pm

Bookings: Bookings 8839 3399 or www.biglaughcomedyfestival.com.au

Ticket Prices: \$40.00 concession \$35.00



Media Release

THE UMBILICAL BROTHERS

One Night Only

Back For One More Night

Hot on the heels of their multi-platinum selling DVD, Australia's sinewy sensations the Umbilical Brothers will give The Big Laugh Comedy Festival a right dorking and quite possibly the bang it deserves when they present **ONE NIGHT ONLY** at the Riverside Theatre on Tuesday 28th March, 2006. But that's it. Probably. Perhaps one more night on **ANOTHER NIGHT ONLY**, yet to be determined.

Shane and Dave Umbi spent an unforgettable year in New York performing their hit show 'Don't Explain', which had been remodeled and renamed 'Thwak!' so The Americans would get it, before touring to huge acclaim throughout the USA & Canada, with TV appearances on the Tonight Show with Jay Leno, The American Comedy Awards and Late Night with David Letterman. Then the whole thing went sour. Dave was kidnapped by several wildebeeste, and Shane returned to the air-conditioned corner of hell from whence he came.

BIG LAUGH audiences will get the chance to find out why Greenwich Village has never been the same since (Dave's bike is still chained up at 10th & Bleeker), and to catch the show that saw the Umbilical Brothers named one of Entertainment Weekly's '100 Most Creative People in Entertainment', and getting a Drama Desk nomination for 'Unique Theatrical Entertainment' (apparently there was a unique show that year).

ONE NIGHT ONLY is an evening of classic Umbilical material, arranged so that The Americans could understand it, and now re-arranged so the Umbies can do whatever the hell they please because they're back home.

Action Guy, The Bruce, Sound Man and Move Boy, The Klapp, The Nipplefondler and Mr Fluffy will all take to the Riverside's stage in "an irresistible conspiracy to commit comedy" that is "wildly creative, wildly funny" (The New York Times). It's "pure theatre, pure fun" (Time Magazine). Or is it just a couple of boys poncing about with old shit?

For all media enquiries and images please contact Jane Intini at A-List Entertainment Ph: 02 6290 2722 Mob: 0418 835768 Email: jane_i@bigpond.net.au

BIG LAUGH COMEDY FESTIVAL

Venue: Riverside Theatre, Riverside Theatres Parramatta

Address: Corner Church and Market Streets, Parramatta

Date: Tuesday March 28

Time: 8.30pm

Bookings: Bookings 8839 3399 or www.biglaughcomedyfestival.com.au

Ticket Prices: \$34.50, \$29.50 concession



Big Laugh Comedy Festival shows at the Laugh Garage Comedy Club

Friday 31st March

12.30—2.30pm **COMEDY SPORTS LUNCH**

Travis Winks (WSFM), Darren Sanders (Comedian), Ian Healy (Cricketer/Ch9), Darryl Brohman (League/2GB), Jason Ball (Swans) and more!

\$35 (incl lunch)

7.30pm **SYDNEY UNDERGROUND COMEDY**

Straight from the DVD, see Sydney's Underground Comics LIVE!

\$12

9.30pm **MICK MEREDITH—Cuddly, Naughty, Wrinkly, Forty**

With over a dozen appearances on national TV including the footy show, mornings with Kerri Anne and the channel 9 New Years Eve spectacular, Mick Meredith has certainly made his mark or indentation on the comedy world. He'll have you laughing from start to finish with a bit of head banging and toe tapping in between.

\$25

11pm **COMEDY JAM**

\$10 or free with any Big Laugh Show Ticket

Sat 1st April

7.30pm **SYDNEY UNDERGROUND COMEDY**

Straight from the DVD, see Sydney's Underground Comics LIVE!

\$12

9.30pm **STEADY EDDY—Return of the Steadi**

In the tradition of trilogy, he's back for a third time!

\$25

11pm **COMEDY JAM**

\$10 or free with any Big Laugh Show Ticket

Sunday 2nd April

8.30pm **COMEDY JAM**

\$10 or free with any Big Laugh Show Ticket

Monday 3rd April

8.30pm WORKSHOP GRADUATION SHOWCASE

After 5 weeks of intense training, these guys are ready to show the world what they're made of. The question is... Are you ready?

\$12 [Comedy Workshop](#)

Wednesday 5th April

7.30pm RAW COMEDY HEAT

\$12

Thursday 6th April

8.30pm COMEDY JAM

\$10 or free with any Big Laugh Show Ticket

Friday 7th April

12.30—2.30pm COMEDY SPORTS LUNCH

Simon Carey (WSFM), Darren Sanders (Comedian), Matthew Nicks (Swans) and more TBA Soon!

\$35 (incl lunch)

7.30pm DOLPHIN JUICE LIVE

As heard on Triple M, so now why not reach out and touch a Dolphin.

\$20

9.30pm PETER ROWSTHORN

A star of stage, screen and television, Peter Rowsthorn is one of Australia's most talented performers and comedians. If you need someone to get the crowd going, then Peter's your man! Peter Rowsthorn first became a household name performing in the popular television show, 'Comedy Company'. From there, he moved onto features in 'Let the Blood Run Free', 'Col'n Carpenter' and 'The Big Gig'. Peter has also performed stand-up on many TV shows including 'Hey Hey it's Saturday', 'In Melbourne Tonight', 'The Big Gig', 'Midday with Ray Martin', and many more.

\$25

11pm COMEDY JAM

\$10 or free with any Big Laugh Show Ticket

Saturday 8th April

7.30pm DOLPHIN JUICE LIVE

As heard on Triple M, so now why not reach out and touch a Dolphin.

\$20

9.30pm PETER ROWSTHORN

As seen as Brett on Kath & Kim, catch one of Australia's high energy comedic acts live. (see above)

\$25

11pm COMEDY JAM

\$10 or free with any Big Laugh Show Ticket

Sunday 9th April

8.30pm **COMEDY JAM**

\$10 or free with any Big Laugh Show Ticket

**For all media enquiries and images please contact Niki White at Lantern Group
Ph: 02 9383 4038 Mob: 0413 756 175 Email: niki@lanterngroup.com.au**

THE LAUGH GARAGE COMEDY CLUB

Venue: The Laugh Garage Comedy Club

Address: Level 1, 302 Church Street, Parramatta

Bookings: Bookings 8883 1111 or www.thelaughgarage.com
