



Funny in Falkirk Comedy Festival

Friday 18 – Tuesday 29 July 2014

Various venues in Falkirk, Grangemouth,
Bo'ness, Stenhousemuir and Dunipace

PRESS RELEASE

Embargoed until 29/05/14

Funny in Falkirk comedy festival returns for a fabulous fifth year and promises an outstanding line-up, mixing sell-out comics, rising stars and Funny in Falkirk favourites.

36 Events | 12 Venues | 12 days

The headline shows at Funny in Falkirk 2014 take place at FTH starting on Saturday 26th July with the a man who requires no introduction, is a clown-extraordinaire and *Never Mind The Buzzcock's* veteran; **Phill Jupitus**. Hot on his heels is the free-thinking philosopher **Tom Stade** fresh from sell-out tours and headline TV appearances. Next to take to the FTH stage is **One Man Breaking Bad**; an American one man comedy show conjured up by LA actor Miles Allen who is fresh of the flight from Melbourne Comedy Festival, Australia, with sparkling 5 star reviews and over 1 million YouTube hits. One man, sixty episodes in sixty minutes! Closing the FTH bill is the in demand and 'comedy god' (*Mirror*) **Jason Byrne** with his infectious and rowdy energy. Tickets for Jason Byrne went on sale Friday 23 May and are selling extremely quickly!

But the festival's headline acts don't just stop at FTH. Grangemouth Town Hall welcomes comic, broadcaster, journalist and chef **Hardeep Singh Kohli**, who not only hosts and performs himself but introduces an eclectic band of comics to make up a stunning bill. **Michelle McManus** of Pop Idol fame also drops into Stenhousemuir with her new show Reality The Musical - a funny retrospective since winning the TV competition 10 years ago. A new host venue for the festival is The Westfield Lounge at Falkirk Football Stadium with Funny in Falkirk and radio broadcasting favourite **Des Clarke**.

As always Behind The Wall is the place to be every night of the festival. Previous sell-outs **Fred MacAulay, David Kay, Gary Little, Janey Godley, Mark Nelson, Vladimir McTavish** and

Keir McAllister are back with fresh comedy lyrics encountering the impending Referendum and beyond. Also on the BTW line-up is Liverpoolian comic **Silky**, Geordie comic **Gavin Webster** and Gaelic speaking Afro-Celt **Bruce Fummey** (performed in English!). Rising star **Susie McCabe** also drops by to perform her own sell-out solo show from Glasgow International Comedy Festival.

A brand-new show, **Comedy Cabaret Speakeasy**, also takes pride of place at BTW showcasing daring and imaginative performances as well as **Lee Ridley AKA The Lost Voice Guy**. Lee - recently seen on BBC news - can't use his voice and is the probably the first comic in the world to use communication devices to get his jokes across. An extremely funny show for those willing to both see and hear to find the funny.

Closing the BTW bill is top UK act **The Thinking Drinkers** who have sold-out in London and Edinburgh since 2011. A show for those who want to know more about the finest drinks and have a few samples! The finale show is **Andrew Lawrence** who stops by Falkirk before embarking the train to the Edinburgh Fringe and his fifth UK sell-out tour.

Another new host festival venue is One Princess Street, Falkirk which plays host to Fringe Previews from Scottish comics and those from further afield. Fife born **Derek Johnston** and Edinburgh's **Eleanor Morton** play here alongside Swedish comic **Tobias Persson**, Scottish/Spanish **Jellybean Martinez**, Manchester sketch trio **Geins Family Gift Shop** and southerners **Mark Dolan**, **Andrew Doyle** and **Tim FitzHigham**.

The Corbie Inn, Bo'ness, resumes the Friday night packed laughter sessions during the festival with mixed bills including **Diane Stewart**, **Gus Lymburn**, **Bruce Fummey**, **Susie McCabe**, **Chris Conroy**, **Jamie Dalgleish**, **Keir McAllister** and **Jay Lafferty**.

Funny in Falkirk also heads back to The Songbird, Dunipace with award-winning Aussie lunatic and word manipulator **John Robertson** who presents the best bits of A Nifty History of Evil.

A plethora of free children's activity takes place at The Howgate Shopping Centre on Friday 18th July with **Uncle Billy**. Expect ventriloquism with Krafty Kat & Junior, circus workshops including comedy juggling, plate spinning & unicycle riding and magic - full of colourful props, comic jokes & audience participation.

Funny on Film also returns at The Hippdrome, Bo'ness and Cineworld, Falkirk. Listings will appear on the Falkirk in Falkirk website over the coming month although leading the film

programme is **Monty Python Live (Mostly)** at The Hippdrome on Sunday 20th and Saturday 26th July. A unique experience broadcasting live from their show at the O2 Arena in London which sees the comedy legends perform for the first time in three decades.

To complete the programme is the return of the **Comedy Workshops**. Locals can learn the craft of the stage from lead tutor Keir McAllister and guest comics across 4 weeks in July, culminating in a showcase performance for family and friends. If you ever thought that it looked easy, now is the chance to show-off and give it a go!

Festival tickets can be purchased via the festival website www.funnyinfalkirk.com or available from www.ticketSOUP.com 24 hours a day and via the ticketSOUP.com telephone hotline on 0844 481 8108 every day between 9am and 9pm. Tickets are also available from the Steeple box office on Falkirk High Street in person or by telephone on 01324 506850 (Monday – Saturday between 9.30am and 4.45pm).

Tommy Sheppard, Director, Scottish Comedy Agency, said: 'We are delighted to present the fabulous fifth Funny in Falkirk. This festival is now well and truly on the map and just keeps getting stronger.'

Alastair Mitchell, Manager, Falkirk Delivers, said: 'Our comedy festival has now become part of the Falkirk scene, and I'm sure that this year's fantastic programme will be another resounding success with local residents and visitors alike.'

Councillor Adrian Mahoney, Falkirk Council's portfolio holder for Culture, Leisure and Tourism said: "Central Scotland's comedy festival is back for another year, promising fantastic acts, wonderful entertainment and something to brighten up those summer nights. Falkirk Council and its partners are pleased to support this great initiative, bringing loads of laughs - and visitors - to the local area."

www.FunnyinFalkirk.com

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NOTES FOR EDITORS

Funny in Falkirk

- Funny in Falkirk 2014 runs from Friday 18th to Tuesday 29th July.
- The comedy festival was established in 2010.
- The event is supported by Falkirk Delivers – Business Improvement District.
- The festival is organised by the Scottish Comedy Agency, a sister company of Salt 'n' Sauce Promotions Ltd, which owns and operates the highly successful Stand Comedy Clubs in Edinburgh, Glasgow, Newcastle and AR Fringe during the months of August.
- Tickets can be purchased via the festival website www.funnyinfalkirk.com or at www.ticketSOUP.com 24 hours a day and via the ticketSOUP.com telephone hotline on 0844 481 8108 every day between 9am and 9pm. Tickets are also available from the Steeple box office on Falkirk High Street in person or by telephone on 01324 506850 (Monday – Saturday between 9.30am and 4.45pm).
- Comedy Cinema listings from Cineworld and The Hippodrome will be announced in June 2014 and will be available via the festival website. For more information about Funny in Falkirk go to www.FunnyinFalkirk.com.

Falkirk Delivers - Business Improvement District (BID)

- Falkirk Delivers (BID) was established in 2008 and has supported Funny in Falkirk since the festival started it started in 2010.
- A Business Improvement District (BID) is a geographical defined area of a town, city, or commercial district, where businesses come together and agree to invest collectively in local projects and services.
- For further information about the Falkirk BID (including their objectives for the area) go to <http://www.falkirkdelivers.com/>

CONTACTS

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