

Mar/Apr

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MAN'S NOT OLD

JON RICHARDSON BRINGS HIS 'OLD MAN' TOUR
TO THIS YEAR'S BATH COMEDY FESTIVAL



WHAT'S ON | BATH COMEDY FESTIVAL PREVIEW
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AFTERNOON TEA FOCUS | ITALIAN CUISINE | MOTHER'S DAY
MUSIC | KIM WILDE | EASTER DAYS OUT
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InBath



Jon Richardson

favourite Viv Groskop and acclaimed Australian comedian Sarah Bennetto, not to mention the Finals of the New Act Competition.

The Ring O Bells hosts a concentrated programme of seriously top quality acts performing in the wonderful intimate space which has been a firm favourite for Bath Comedy shows for many years. This year's line-up includes some fantastic talent including Rachel Parris, Ashley Storrie, Janey Godley, Archie Maddocks, Markus Birdman, Diane Spencer, Matt Green and Sally-Anne Hayward.

AB FAB STAR TO HOST WINE TRAIL

Perennial flagship hit immersive show The Wine Arts Trail makes its bonkers boozy way around Bath's secret corners in the big red Routemaster bus on Sunday 8th April and rumours abound as to the wondrous delights in store this year – organisers promise a very special experience hosted by guest clippie Helen Lederer (subject to availability).

FESTIVAL ON TOUR!

Residents of Bradford on Avon and those up for a ten minute train ride won't miss out as Radio 4 favourite Mark Steel is appearing at St Margaret's Hall on Friday 13th April, and Frome people can look forward to a walking tour with a difference – Rare Species will be presenting "Frome – The Fecund Coming".

AFFORDABLE FUN!

Meanwhile, there's plenty of stuff for those of us with thin wallets, as the Affordable "Pay What You Feel" Festival returns to Bath Brew House with a plethora of free entry shows. You can guarantee a seat by purchasing a £5 ticket in advance instead – a wise choice given the way this venue fills up!

BRAND NEW APEX HOTEL HOSTS THE CLOSING COMEDY GALA

Arthur Smith will also be at the Festival's glittering Closing Gala Show at the brand spanking new Apex Hotel Conference Suite – surely the best new venue Bath has seen in many years. Lucky ticket holders will enjoy characters by The Fast Show's Simon Day, a visit from Donald Trump & Melania aka ace TV and Radio impressionists Lewis MacLeod and Ronni Ancona (TBC) and a famous headliner yet to be revealed! The inaugural Lovehoney Award will be presented on the night to reward the most innuendo-laden joke writer of the Festival.

YOU SAW IT HERE FIRST, FOLKS!

The New Act Competition is now so popular that the heats have been extended to a total of twelve, to be held in the Igloo underneath the Abbey Hotel, The Westgate pub and The Bath Brew House.

Our previous winners have all gone on to great things so it's all to play for, and the final should see another line-up of brand new stars in the making. The Winner will make off with the first ever Lovehoney Newcomer Award, akin to Edinburgh's famous "Perrier".

IN A VENUE NEAR YOU!

There is a whole host of other shows all over town in venues such as The Bell, The Assembly Inn, The Mission Theatre, St James Wine Vaults, Komedia and The Rondo Theatre boasts a full programme featuring such luminaries as Elf Lyons, David Mills, Tom Stade and John Otway.



Julian Dutton



Viv Groskop

FESTIVAL HIGHLIGHTS

JON RICHARDSON - THE OLD MAN

Date: Tuesday 27th March, 2018
Venue: Bath Forum
Doors: 7.00pm for 8.00pm show
Duration: 2hrs incl interval
Price: £20.50-£25.50
Bath Comedy Festival in association with Off The Kerb Productions

The British Comedy Award nominee and star of Live At The Apollo and 8 Out Of 10 Cats is embarking on a nationwide tour to complain about the state of the world and offer no solutions. Since his last show he has become a husband and father, seen the UK vote to leave the EU and watched the rise of Donald Trump, all of which leaves him asking one question, why does it seem that no one else alive can correctly load a dishwasher?

Come and see what Jon Richardson can do with words when he has more than thirty seconds to work with. Or should that be "with which to work"?

Best known as team captain on '8 Out Of 10 Cats Does Countdown', Jon has been massively in demand for television and radio appearances including: 'Have I Got News For You' (BBC ONE), 'Live At The Apollo' (BBC ONE), 'Channel 4's Comedy Gala Live At The 02' and most recently 'Taskmaster' (DAVE).

"Jon Richardson is developing into a quietly sophisticated comedian who is at turns hilarious and disturbing and under no circumstances should you miss" **** - The Mirror

"one of our most individual and interesting stand-ups" **** - The Times

"Sublimely brilliant, stunning..." - Time Out

Online booking:
bathforum.ticketline.co.uk/order/tickets/13330677

VIV GROSKOP - VIVALICIOUS

Date: Wednesday 28th March, 2018
Venue: Widcombe Social Club
Doors: 7.30pm for 8.00pm show
Duration: 1hr
Price: £10
A brand new show from Viv Groskop, star of BBC1's 'This Week' and BBC Radio 4's 'It's Just a Joke, Comrade'.

In this age of therapy and reinvention, Viv's latest work-in-progress is about being the very best version of yourself. And, really, when is it time to accept you're just never going to be that person?

"Fresh and original" - Sara Pascoe

"Viv is brilliant" - Jo Brand

"Completely compelling" - Chortle.

Online booking:
www.brownpapertickets.com/event/3328382

SARAH BENNETTO - ALL MY LIFE'S MISTAKES, CATALOGUED (VOLUME ONE)

Date: Wednesday 28th March, 2018
Venue: Widcombe Social Club
Doors: 9.15pm for 9.30pm show
Duration: 1hr
Price: £10

One dimwit comedian's every dumb decision. Presented in list form. 50 great mistakes guaranteed.

"A generous serving of sterling gags and astutely witty observations." - Steve Bennett, Chortle UK
"Superb. Devastating. Edges towards perfection." **** ThreeWeeks, UK

Online booking:
www.brownpapertickets.com/event/3337604

THE SCOTTISH FALSETTO SOCK PUPPET THEATRE - SUPERHEROES

Date: Thursday 29th March, 2018
Venue: Widcombe Social Club
Doors: 7.30pm for 8.00pm show
Duration: 2hrs incl interval
Price: £12 / £10 concs
Sock! Pow! Wham! Earth's funniest footwear are back with their 10th new show of songs, sketches, socks & violence.

This time they're real live Superheroes! You think you've seen heroes in tights before? This pair will run and run.
Age 12+

Space age comedy to knock your socks off" **** Daily Record

Online booking:
www.brownpapertickets.com/event/3341279

JULIAN DUTTON - DO YOU THINK THAT'S WISE? THE LIFE & TIMES OF JOHN LE MESURIER

Date: Saturday 31st March, 2018
Venue: Widcombe Social Club
Doors: 6.30pm for 7.00pm show
Duration: 55min
Price: £10 / £7.50 concs
Leading impressionist Julian Dutton brings to life one of Britain's best-loved comedy stars, revealing the man behind the wry smile and urbane English repartee that charmed millions and turned John Le Mesurier into a household name as Sergeant Wilson in Dad's Army.

Le Mesurier's life was not without tragedy - his broken marriage to Hattie Jacques, his betrayal by his best friend Tony Hancock - all these setbacks shook him, but his reputation as the quintessential English Gentleman never wavered.

"An impressionist tour de force" - Independent.

Online booking
www.brownpapertickets.com/event/3338541



BATH COMEDY FESTIVAL

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27 MARCH - 15 APRIL

Festival Director Nick Steel says "This year sees Bath Comedy Festival enter its tenth year, and what a line-up we've got to celebrate!

Opening night is 27th March and we're back at Bath's fabulous art deco Forum venue, this time with Jon Richardson giving us his first Bath gig in many years - I booked his last Bath outing many years ago at the old Widcombe Social Club and I'm over the moon to welcome him back at last!

MANUEL, BASIL AND SHE WHO MUST BE OBEYED BACK BY POPULAR DEMAND!

Other shows destined to sell out include a second visit of the fantastic Faulty Towers: The Dining Experience (Allium Brasserie at the Abbey Hotel, 3rd and 4th April) where the audience become the guests at possibly the worst hotel in the world, whilst, we might add, devouring a delicious three course meal.

Rachel Parris' show also sold out very quickly, the latest show to prove that this year you really need to secure your tickets in advance to avoid disappointment! But fear not - we've added an extra show at Widcombe Social Club - get in quick to secure a seat!

WONDERFUL WIDCOMBE, COMEDY CENTRE OF THE UNIVERSE

Nick goes on to report: "The 10th Anniversary has warranted an expansion of the Festival to a scale hitherto not seen. Widcombe remains the spiritual home of the Festival, with the programme at Widcombe Social Club boasting some very special shows! The Club is all set to become a social hub of the Festival, with its unique venue space and newly refurbished Waterside Arts Bar - truly the place to be seen!"

The Club will be host to some wide-appeal evening shows to tickle everyone's fancy, including a six-day run of the fantastic five star cabaret Mother's Ruin, tickets for which include a free gin and tonic. The World Famous Scottish Falsetto Sock Puppet Theatre will be there too, celebrating their status as the only act to have performed at every Bath Comedy Festival since its inception.

Other highlights include celebrated impressionist Julian Dutton with his show about the Life & Times of John Le Mesurier, Simon Evans, Arthur Smith & The Smithereens, German Comedy Ambassador Henning Wehn, as well as Bath



Henning Wehn

SIMON EVANS - GENIUS

Date: Saturday 31st March, 2018
Venue: Widcombe Social Club
Doors: 8.30pm for 9.00pm show
Duration: 1hr50min incl interval
Price: £14 / £12 concs

Ever since he was a small boy, all Evans really wanted was to be recognised by the world as a man of genius. He has, until now, remained thwarted.

The world seems increasingly indifferent to true genius of any kind, let alone Evans'. Endlessly distracted by the trivial, we allow the classical tools of grammar, logic and rhetoric to lie unregarded in the shed of consciousness, rusting to a picturesque hue that would actually look really great on Instagram. But which filter? Hmm...

"Please clap" Jeb Bush

"A masterclass in socio-political comedy...the show is called Genius. It comes very close"
***** The Scotsman

MOTHER'S RUIN A CABARET ABOUT GIN

Date: Sunday 1st April, 2018 - Fri 6th April
Venue: Widcombe Social Club
Doors: Various times
Duration: 1hr30 incl interval
Price: £14 / £10 concs
Equal parts historical and hysterical, lose yourself in the company of sailors, barmaids and bootleggers in this darkly comic cabaret.

"Not only vocally sublime but a stroke of comedy genius" (TheatrePress), its critically acclaimed stars Maeve Marsden and Libby Wood return to the U.K. after playing to sold out crowds in London, Bristol, Birmingham, Edinburgh and across Australia.

Mother's Ruin is a raucous journey through 18th Century London, a few New York speakeasies, the Australian bush and the jungles of Peru.

Online booking:
www.brownpapertickets.com/event/3341343



Rachel Parris

RACHEL PARRIS - KEYNOTE

Date: Friday 6th April, 2018
Venue: Widcombe Social Club
Doors: 7.00pm for 7.30pm show
Duration: 1hr15mins
Price: £10

Extra show due to phenomenal demand! Rachel has been invited to be a guest speaker at her old school, but what kind of a role model is she really? Through stand-up, character and musical comedy, she explores what messed up message she can possibly offer to impressionable young minds.

Online booking:
www.brownpapertickets.com/event/3320825

HENNING WEHN DAS NEUEN MATERIALEN NACHTEN

Date: Monday 9th April, 2018 & Tues 10th
Venue: Widcombe Social Club
Doors: 7.30pm for 8.00pm show
Duration: 2hrs approx incl interval
Price: **SOLD OUT**

Join the German Comedy Ambassador for Teutonic jolliness at its best. Expect some old favourites and plenty of new ideas.

"Forget the Euro, Henning hits the Mark" - Nottingham Post

ARTHUR SMITH & THE SMITHEREENS - PC SYD

Date: Thursday 12th April, 2018
Venue: Widcombe Social Club
Doors: 7.30pm for 8.00pm show
Duration: 2hrs incl interval
Price: TBC
Arthur Smith, with the ineffable Smithereens, tells the story of his father, with help from Ray Davies, Leonard Cohen, the London Metropolitan police and Nat King Cole.

The life of a copper in South London in the 50s, A POW before then. And eventually one of the progenitors of Arthur Smith.

Warning: this show contains 'work in progress'.

NEW ACT COMPETITION - SEMI-FINAL

Date: Friday 13th April, 2018
Venue: Widcombe Social Club
Doors: 5.30pm for 6.00pm show 1st Semi
Doors: 8.30pm for 9.00pm show 2nd Semi
Duration: 2hrs incl interval
Price: £6.50 each or both for £10

NEW ACT COMPETITION - GRAND FINAL

Date: Sunday 15th April, 2018
Venue: Widcombe Social Club
Doors: 6.45pm for 7.30pm show
Price: £10

ASHLEY STORRIE - ADULTING

Date: Tuesday 3rd April, 2018
Venue: Ring O Bells
Doors: 7.45pm for 8.00pm show
Duration: 1hr
Price: £9 / £7 concs
Scotland's favourite funny girl and viral internet sensation Ashley Storrie returns to Bath with a brand-new show about not growing up.

"A total revelation" - Dawn French

Online booking:
www.brownpapertickets.com/event/3337614

JANEY GODLEY - GODLEY'S CREAM 20 YEARS AND COUNTING

Date: Tuesday 3rd April, 2018
Venue: Ring O Bells
Doors: 9.15pm for 9.30pm show
Duration: 1hr
Price: £10
20 years of fringe shows, 20 years of touring and so many stories. From LA to New York to Newcastle and Glasgow. The Godmother of Scottish Comedy, chief Trump annoyer and all round Glasgow mouth piece brings her show to Bath. Lots of old stories and plenty of new material to keep the punters gripped in their seats.

"The queen of Scottish comedy" - Edinburgh Evening News

Online booking:
www.brownpapertickets.com/event/3337634



Sally-Anne Hayward

JOEY PAGE - PERHAPS UNDER STARS THAT WOULD STRETCH FOREVER

Date: Wednesday 4th April, 2018
Venue: Ring O Bells
Doors: 6.15pm for 6.30pm show
Duration: 1hr
Price: £8

An idiot tries to make sense of the universe in under an hour. What is the point of all this? (Life) Are there parallel universes and if so what are they like? Want to learn everything you ever need to know about the universe through the medium of an idiot? (Yes) Is the world ending? (Probably) Is Jupiter a bell-end? (Definitely!)

"Spaced out magical humour" ***** Three Weeks

"A head like a fantasy Hand grenade" - Noel Fielding

Stop press: Nominated for Best Comedy at Perth Fringe 2018

Online booking:
www.brownpapertickets.com/event/3345001

SALLY-ANNE HAYWARD - UM...I WAS TALKING ABOUT YOU NOT TO YOU

Date: Wednesday 4th April, 2018
Venue: Ring O Bells
Doors: 7.30pm for 8.00pm show
Duration: 1hr
Price: £9 / £7 concs
Sally's had a gut full of fabricated food allergies.

Her irritated bowel's not down to wheat intolerance - it turns out she's just intolerant.

A liberating diagnosis, as she can now legitimately embrace her bitchier side; so watch out fussy eaters, over-sharers, and definitely that busy-body of a neighbour who's not returned a single one of her home produced surveys on local off street parking.

Warm and very funny" - Sarah Millican

"Extremely funny" - The Independent

Online booking:
www.brownpapertickets.com/event/3335637

CHRISTOPHER MACARTHUR-BOYD HOME SWEET HOME

Date: Wednesday 4th April, 2018
Venue: Ring O Bells
Doors: 9.15pm for 9.30pm show
Duration: 1hr
Price: £8

The debut hour from the next big thing in Scottish comedy. As heard on BBC Radio 1 and BBC Radio 4extra.

"Following in the footsteps of Kevin Bridges" - ITV

Online booking:
www.brownpapertickets.com/event/3344974

RACHEL PARRIS - KEYNOTE

Date: Friday 5th April, 2018
Venue: Widcombe Social Club
Doors: 6.15pm for 6.30pm show
Duration: 1hr
Price: **SOLD OUT**
Extra show due to phenomenal demand! Rachel has been invited to be a guest speaker at her old school, but what kind of a role model is she really? Through stand-up, character and musical comedy, she explores what messed up message she can possibly offer to impressionable young minds.

Rachel is an award-winning musical comic whose songs have been played on BBC Radio 4, BBC 6 Music and who was listed in the BBC's Hot Talent List 2017. She has appeared in Murder in Successville, Plebs, The IT Crowd and most recently, satirical BBC show The Mash Report. She's also a founder member of smash hit improv show Austentatious

MARKUS BIRDMAN - GRIMM REALITIES

Date: Thursday 5th April, 2018
Venue: Ring O Bells
Doors: 7.45pm for 8.00pm show
Duration: 1hr
Price: £10

Growing up, my preacherman father made me draw Bible stories. I don't remember the stories, but I draw great.



Archie Maddocks



Christopher MacArthur-Boyd

The 5 Star Edinburgh Fringe sell-out show, nominated for Amused Moose Best Show Award, from the NZ Comedy Guild Best international Comedian Award Nominee.

A modern day comedic and visual take on those Grimm's classics, Cinderella and Little Red Riding Hood. A reality tale for the 21st century. A children's fable for adults.

My previous shows had short jokes, and tall stories. I thought it was high time to combine these with my drawings. Especially since Rolf Harris left a gap in the market.

"Meditative but not mournful, he makes us feel part of his story. Hugely enjoyable and lots of ruddy good gags." ***** Scotsman

Online booking:
www.brownpapertickets.com/event/3336454

DIANE SPENCER - 2018 COLLECTION

Date: Thursday 5th April, 2018
Venue: Ring O Bells
Doors: 9.15pm for 9.30pm show
Duration: 1hr
Price: £10

Brand new stand-up comedy hour from delightfully engaging stand-up comedian Diane Spencer.

With her charming onstage persona and refreshingly honest confessional style, Diane delivers heart-warming autobiographical wit and laugh-out-loud humour.

Her other 7 hit shows are all available on YouTube.

"Not for the faint-hearted but also not to be missed" 5 stars ThreeWeeks

Online booking:
www.brownpapertickets.com/event/3337648

ARCHIE MADDOCKS - MATCHSTICK

Date: Wednesday 11th April, 2018
Venue: Ring O Bells
Doors: 6.15pm for 6.30pm show



Colin Hault

Duration: 1hr
Price: £5
Award winning comedian Archie Maddocks presents an hour of biting, provocative, unflinchingly funny comedy where he explores his deepest and darkest thoughts, exposes his flaws and interrogates his personal connection to the Grenfell Tower fire.

Online booking:
www.brownpapertickets.com/event/3338986

MATT GREEN - THESE PEOPLE

Date: Wednesday 11th April, 2018
Venue: Ring O Bells
Doors: 7.45pm for 8.00pm show
Duration: 1hr
Price: £7.50
Matt has been doing stand up for 15 years and he's got pretty good at it. Come and hear his latest thoughts about the current state of the world. Spoiler alert: he's not keen.

Featuring applying for an Irish passport, going viral with JK Rowling and trying not to argue about Brexit.

"Why someone as funny as this isn't doing the Apollo, or having a Radio Four series of his own, is a bit of a mystery. Maybe one day. Let's hope so." **** Theatre Bath

Online booking:
www.brownpapertickets.com/event/3338993

SAM CARRINGTON - ALL GROWN UP

Date: Wednesday 11th April, 2018
Venue: Ring O Bells
Doors: 9.15pm for 9.30pm show
Duration: 1hr
Price: £5
Sam Carrington turned 40 last year, join as he contemplates this milestone by working out where he's been, where he's going, and if his cheese-based drink will ever take off.

Online booking:
www.brownpapertickets.com/event/3345489



Sam Fraser



Sam Carrington

SAM FRASER STAND UP: WEATHER GIRL!

Date: Thursday 12th April, 2018
Venue: Ring O Bells
Doors: 6.15pm for 6.30pm show
Duration: 1hr
Price: £5
Sam Fraser has been a stand-by BBC local weather presenter since 2012. It's been a steep learning curve.

Having been distracted by online comments about her bottom, she wonders can you be a full time feminist and a part time weather girl?

Online booking:
www.brownpapertickets.com/event/3344964

COLIN HOULT - ANNA MANN IN HOW WE STOP THE FASCISTS

Date: Thursday 12th April, 2018
Venue: Ring O Bells
Doors: 7.45pm for 8.00pm show
Duration: 1hr
Price: £9 / £7 concs
Having effectively cured all depression in last year's smash-hit hour, actress Anna Mann (Colin Hault's "master class in character comedy" - Time Out) returns to take on the terrifying rise of fascism. Fear not, gentle liberals, Mother Mann is here. Star of her very own Sky Arts Short, 'Anna Mann's Valentine'. As seen in Murder in Successville, Porridge, Derek, Nurse, Life's Too Short, and Being Human.

Directed by Phoebe Bourke for Berk's Nest.

"Funnier than almost all other shows at this year's Fringe." **** Telegraph

"A hugely enjoyable, slyly satirical hour." **** Times

Master class in character comedy." **** Time Out

Online booking:
www.brownpapertickets.com/event/3178410

FESTIVAL CLOSING GALA SHOW

Date: Saturday 14th April, 2018
Venue: Apex Hotel Conference Centre
Doors: 7.00pm for 8.00pm show
Duration: 2.5hrs incl intervals
Price: £22 / £18 concs

A glittering array of fantastic comedic talent in celebration of the 10th Anniversary of the Festival, in the fabulous new venue at the Apex Hotel.

Starring:

ZOE LYONS

"Probably the most impressive British female comic on the circuit." - The Skinny

SIMON DAY

(The Fast Show)

ARTHUR SMITH

(Legendary Comedian, Broadcaster and Grumpy Old Man)

LEWIS MACLEOD AS DONALD TRUMP

(Steve Wright, Dead Ringers)

RONNI ANCONA AS MELANIA TRUMP

(The Big Impression)

KIRSTY NEWTON

(enormously talented musical entertainer)

ALAN FRANCIS

Award winning comedian and writer (The Big Impression, Ronni Ancona & Co and many more)

Featuring a presentation of the inaugural Lovehoney Award for best (innuendo-laden?) joke of the Festival. Rumour has it the Queen herself will be in attendance...

For full information and booking details for all the 130+ shows at this year's Bath Comedy Festival, visit: www.bathcomedy.com

Brown Paper Tickets booking line:
0800 411 8881

BATH COMEDY SPECIAL

MOTHER'S RUIN

A CABARET ABOUT GIN

Now booking: 1st - 6th April, Widcombe Social Club, Bath

International sell-out show. "Blisteringly entertaining" (Daily Review)

★★★★★ One4review
★★★★★ TheatrePass
★★★★★ Daily Review
★★★★★ Scotsman
★★★★★ Edinburgh Guide

Tickets £14 / £10 concs from www.bathcomedy.com 0800 411 8881

Tickets include a free gin and tonic!

win

a pair of tickets to see
Jon Richardson 'Old Man' tour at
The Forum, Bath, as part of
The Bath Comedy Festival.
Tuesday 27th March, 8pm.

For a chance to win, simply send us
your name and contact details,
on e-mail, to:
competitions@inbath.net
Subject: Jon Richardson
Closing date: Mon 19 March
Usual T's and C's apply

BAD MOOD RISING

Jon Richardson has become a familiar face on our TV screens. He is a regular Have I Got News For You panellist, star of Live At The Apollo, team member of Channel 4's Stand Up For The Week, team captain of Channel 4's long-running series 8 Out Of 10 Cats and team Captain on the words and numbers game, 8 out of 10 Cats Does Countdown. His first solo Edinburgh show about his obsessive compulsive personality disorder was nominated for the Best Newcomer award at the 2007 Edinburgh Festival and he has rarely been off our screens for the ensuing decade. Here, Jon talks about his 'Old Man' tour and how being a new father has really given him something to stress about. You can see Jon's show at this years Bath Comedy Festival.

The stand-up Jon Richardson is chatting to me from a rather unusual location. He reveals that, "I'm currently in the Aldi car park in Clevedon." Who said that the life of a comedian isn't non-stop glamour?

Still, Jon admits that being on a nationwide tour in places such as Clevedon with his brilliant new show, "Old Man", is a blessed relief from his full-on domestic life. He is a very proud father – but things have been understandably frantic at home.

Jon, one of the finest stand-ups in the land, laughs that, "Gigs have become very cathartic for me, as things are so hectic at home. Gigs are now the equivalent of going to the pub or the cinema!"

"Our baby is only just over a year old, so it's obviously the perfect time for me to be leaving home for several weeks! It has to be said, I'm not terribly popular at home. But I'm assuming that by the time I get back home, my daughter will be toilet-trained, capable of dressing herself and able to drive!"

The new show is packed with such terrific reflections on the trials and tribulations of fatherhood. Jon discloses some of the more bizarre incidents that have occurred since he has become a father. For instance, he recalls that, "At one point, we were driving along the motorway when my wife needed to breastfeed.

"So we got off the motorway and drove down to the end of what we thought was a deserted lane. But as we reached the end, I began to think that there were more cars than there should be at 9 o'clock on a Tuesday evening. It turned out it was a local dogging site. We got a fair bit of attention..."

In the show, Jon will also be explaining that the arrival of his baby daughter has affected him in many unexpected ways. "Suddenly, global events take on more significance.

"When you're single, you're not beholden to anyone and you can shut down more easily. In the past, I had the idea that I'd live in a caravan with a dog near a pub with no responsibilities. But now when bad things happen in the world, I feel responsible for them because they're going to impact on my daughter. The caravan, the dog and the pub have gone now!"

One of Jon's main worries is that his daughter will grow up resembling him. "What I'm dreading is raising her to be like me. If I hear her saying, 'I can't eat that chip because it's touched those baked beans', I'll know she got too much of me in her!"

Despite such tremendous anecdotes, though, Jon doesn't want his observations about the impact his new baby daughter has had on his life to put people off. The comic, who has put out two live successful stand-up DVDs, Funny Magnet in 2012 and Nidiot in 2014, both of which are released through Universal Pictures (UK), says that, "I'm determined not to talk about my baby in a way that's alienating".

"But it's been such a big change in my life that I can't not talk about it. It's also nice to have something new to stress about. I can really get my teeth into this stress!"

The comedian, who has starred on such TV shows as 8 out of 10 Cats Does Countdown (Channel 4) and Have I Got News For You (BBC One), Live At The Apollo (BBC One), Channel 4's Comedy Gala Live At The 02 and more recently Taskmaster (Dave), has been attracting shed loads of critical plaudits. The Mirror, for instance, declares that, "For 10 years he has been among the funniest men in Britain".

The Times, meanwhile, calls him, "One of our most individual and interesting stand-ups". For its part, Time Out goes for a more succinct summary of Jon's talent, describing him as, "Sublimely brilliant, stunning."

Jon, who is as warm and witty in person as he is on stage, is still appealingly humble about his role as a stand-up. "I can't believe I get to do this job! As I get older, I've got more and more to talk about and I have more and more confidence.

"I love the privilege of looking back on my life every three years, turning it into a comedy show and sharing it with an audience. It's incredibly cathartic. It's a way of converting the difficult elements of life into comedy. None of us know what's going on at the moment, so to be able to laugh at it in unity for two hours is absolutely great."

Since last touring the country, Jon has watched on as the UK voted to leave the EU and witnessed the inexorable rise of Donald Trump to the US Presidency. All of this prompts one key question: Why does it seem that no one else alive can correctly load a dishwasher?

As well as this pressing matter, Jon will be ranging over an array of other hilarious comic topics, including stress, a constant theme in his dazzling act. "I got shingles on the day of the EU referendum. It's good to see that my stress has got worse as I've got older and that now there is a physical element to it!"

Another very amusing element of "Old Man" is that Jon uses Twitter to interact with his audience. The comic, whose bestselling book It's Not Me, It's You, was published by HarperCollins in 2012, recounts that, "Recently, I talked to a man in the audience, and he was shocked because I knew where he had been that morning, what football team he supported, and what his wife's name was. It's a good about-turn. That's the joy of Twitter."

Jon, who is a British Comedy Award nominee and runner-up in Heat Magazine's 'Weird Crush' poll (not once, not twice, but three times!), adds, "That man had messaged me earlier, but people don't always realise that when you Tweet, you're building a public record of yourself. It's nice to have all that free material. It means I can spend more time with my daughter and just take the mickey out of someone in the audience!"

The stand-up, who has also starred in Live At The Apollo (BBC ONE), Channel 4's Comedy Gala Live At The 02 and most recently Taskmaster (DAVE), proceeds to reflect on how much he adores the experience of live comedy. "It's such a buzz. The instant reaction you get from the audience is such a privilege.

"Each show is a very honest portrayal of how I'm feeling that night. It can go off in any direction. The show is different every night, and that makes it much more exciting. Every evening is unique."

But, much as he loves touring, Jon reveals, "I'll have a break over the summer. People would rather be out in the sun than inside listening to a whingeing moron!"

And when "Old Man" tour finally comes to an end, Jon discloses what he will do next. "I'll be back at home, concentrating once again on being a dad and a pernickety husband!"

Bath Comedy Festival presents Jon Richardson 'Old Man' tour.
Tuesday 27th March, The Forum. www.bathforum.co.uk
Show time 8:00pm. Tickets: From £20.50 (+ booking fee per ticket)
Age Restriction: 14+