

**COMEDY: BOOM TIME!**

**Victoria Nangle** talks to comedy coach and the brains behind Comic Boom **Jill Edwards** about this top night

“Here’s what’s standing out for me about Comic Boom at the moment,” starts comedy coach Jill Edwards, whose previous students have included Jimmy Carr, Shappi Khorsandi, Shazia Mirza, and Hal Cruttenden. “Newer acts we’re developing are breaking through, getting nominated for awards or triumphing in high-profile competitions.” The name most recently that jumps out under that category is Angela Barnes, recent winner of the revived BBC Comedy Award, but she’s not the only one.

Seann Walsh, now resident compere and regular sight on TV turning up on *Mock The Week*, *Stand Up For The Week* and more, started out doing shorter spots at Comic Boom, as did Ian Stirling and Nick Helm who were nominated for Chortle’s Best Newcomer Award. It’s hardly surprising that after 20 years training top name comics, Jill Edwards has an eye for the cream of the crop. “I scour the country and local clubs to find all those great genuinely talented new comics that really stand out,” Jill explains, “and I put them on in exciting fast-paced shorter spots. I strive to bring fresh exciting original comics that audiences haven’t seen yet in Brighton to Comic Boom. You did “see them here first!”

Comedians love the regular night too, as this month’s headliner Simon Evans (*Michael McIntyre’s Roadshow*, *Live At The Apollo*) explains: “Comic Boom is a terrific club, even by the high standards of the venue it’s in – one of the best in the country. The mix of experienced acts and newer comics, whose eagerness and enthusiasm is infectious, really works. The audience reaction at Comic Boom is as good as it gets.” Rather emphatic.

This is a very special night though, with comics and audience alike contributing to that.

“One of the things I love most about running Comic Boom is that there’s always an excellent atmosphere dominated by the sheer sense of fun coming from both comics and audiences alike,” says Jill. “They feed off each other and the party fun atmosphere escalates through the night. We have the best regular audience and we love them. A Comic Boom night often feels more like a very friendly, warmly enthusiastic and slightly bonkers party than a comedy club.”

This month’s supporting line-up includes Jo Neary (Perrier nominee) and Benny Boot (NBC’s *Last Comic Standing* UK finalist), as well as Nick Hodder, Aidan Goatley, Jim Holland and Sophie Buijsen. Names to make a note of. Names to say you ‘saw them way back when...’  
*Comic Boom, Komedia, 28 July (next Thursday), £9/7, www.komedia.co.uk/brighton*

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Simon Evans



Joanna Neary

**COMEDY: OFF THE CUFF**

One of Brighton’s favourite improv troupes, Off The Cuff twist the audience’s suggestions into comic gold, making for a different show every time.  
*Upstairs At The Three And Ten, 23 July, 8pm, £8/6*

**COMEDY: LUKE MCQUEEN – YOUR LOVE IS MINE & STEPHEN CARLIN – GUILTY BYSTANDER**

After having his heart broken, Luke McQueen (one of *The Sun*’s ‘New stars of British comedy’) is having a breakdown and he is inviting you along to witness it all happen as an Edinburgh preview show. Following him is one man’s botched attempts to get on the wrong side of the law. Stephen Carlin’s 35, still without a criminal record and has been sucked into a desperate world of conformity, citizenship, and legitimacy. An Edinburgh preview show too.  
*Caroline Of Brunswick, 20 July, 8pm (Luke McQueen) & 9.30pm (Stephen Carlin), £5 for each show or £8 for both.*

**COMEDY: JOE BOR & MATT RUDGE EDINBURGH PREVIEW SHOWS**

Brand new shows from the pair that once made up The Gadabouts sketch group but are now performing stand up on their own.  
*Rooms Café Bar, St Leonard’s, 22 July, 8pm, £5.*

**EVENTS: BUNGEE ON THE BEACH**

Word up! This is your chance to bungee jump from 170ft in aid of the Rockinghorse charity, which supports making life better for sick



children in Sussex and Surrey. This is the fifth year of the bungee jump event, and hopefully it will be the biggest so far! Let’s go bungee bananas!

*Hove Lawns, 23–24 July, registration £30, sponsorship £120, for more info call 01273 330044*

**EVENTS: EVENING BUS WALKS JULY 2011**

With long summer evenings, here is a chance to explore the brand new South Downs National Park with five walks on consecutive evenings. Monday sees the chance to walk around Western Downs to the Dyke, Tuesday the Woodland Wonders and Stanmer Park, Wednesday the Sacred Views and The Chattri, Thursday the Castle Jewels to the National Nature Reserve and as if that wasn’t enough, Friday from Kiplings Downs to Rottingdean. All walks are around 3-4 miles long, and are free, you just pay the price of the bus fare. Hope to see you there!

*Mon 25–Fri 29 July, 6pm, meet at Churchill Square bus stop. Neil, the Park Ranger, will be there to meet in Park Rangers uniform, so you won’t be able to miss him! For more info call 01273 292929*



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