

Edinburgh Fringe Festival Small Group Tour

Reading List

Off the Mic: The World's Best Stand-Up Comedians Get Serious About Comedy (Performance Books)

by Deborah Frances-White & Marsha Shandur

What is it to be a stand-up comedian? To be funny, solo? You have no character-role, no double-act partner, and nowhere to look but out into the darkness, with just a microphone, an audience and your imagination. This is a job without an annual appraisal; a job where you are publicly appraised every ten seconds. The results are harsh and obvious: if the audience isn't laughing, you 'died'; if they can't stop, you 'killed'. Deborah Frances-White and Marsha Shandur unpack the inner-workings of the minds of comics, sharing their secrets, insecurities and successes; their *bÃates noires* and their biggest fears. Featuring interviews with a host of comedians including Eddie Izzard, Moshe Kasher, Sarah Millican, Jim Jeffries, Stewart Lee, Lewis Black, Jenny Eclair, Todd Barry, Richard Herring, Marc Maron, Stephen K Amos, Rich Hall, Zoe Lyons, Marcus Brigstocke, Phill Jupitus, Gary Delaney, Mark Watson, Greg Davies and many more, this excellent book lets you in to the hearts and minds of celebrated comedians, away from the stage and off the mic.

Cracking The Fringe: Your balls-out guide to taking on the Edinburgh Fringe

by Jon Gracey

Ever dreamed of doing a show at the Edinburgh Fringe? Thousands have done it, and those thousands have made millions of mistakes. And while they'll tell you mistakes are part of the fun, they're really not. Mistakes suck. We know, because we've made them. This is your guide to navigating the behemoth that is the Edinburgh Fringe - the biggest arts festival in the world, which attracts 20,000 performers each year. Whether you're a dancer, comedian, cabaret act, ventriloquist, juggler, playwright or all of the above, we're here to help with every aspect of

preparing for and tackling the Fringe - plus we've backed up our knowledge by asking performers, producers, agents, press and venue staff for their best advice and top tips. Learn to (amongst many other things): Pick & book a venue Flyer correctly Network in Edinburgh Stay healthy and sane for the month! Prepare and distribute your publicity Organise your get in Get the best accommodation and transport And lots more. Your Fringe experience starts here. Featuring advice and tips from Nick Helm (BBC, Edinburgh Comedy Award Nominee), Cariad Lloyd (BBC Radio 4, Channel 4, BBC3, Edinburgh Comedy Award Nominee), Benny Davis (Axis Of Awesome, creator of smash hit 4 Chords Song) and many, many more.

The Edinburgh Fringe Survival Guide: How to Make Your Show A Success

by Mark Fisher

'Ah! The Fringe! I can't think of a more delightful way of putting my liver, bank account, relationship, complexion, and mental stability under the greatest strain they've ever known!' Mel Giedroyc It is the world's largest arts festival, attracting everyone from student first-timers to Hollywood stars. Thrilling, inspiring and bewildering in equal measure, the Edinburgh Festival Fringe can make you a star or break your bank. So what is the secret of making it work for you? The Edinburgh Fringe Survival Guide draws on the experiences of the festival's leading figures - their disasters as well as their triumphs - to take you step by step through the process of making your show a success in the Scottish capital. From choosing a venue to keeping on top of the budget, from sorting out accommodation to securing the best press coverage, from generating word of mouth to making the most of a hit, this unique practical guide for performers, directors and producers helps you get your show the audience it deserves. Among those sharing their expert advice are playwright Simon Stephens, comedian Phil Nichol, actor Siobhan Redmond, producer Guy Masterson, Tiger Lillies front man Martyn Jacques, theatre critic Lyn Gardner, Foster's Edinburgh Comedy Award director Nica Burns, as well as the directors of all the major Fringe venues, top press officers, international promoters and insiders from the Fringe Society itself. The foreword is written by playwright Mark Ravenhill.

English humour for beginners

by George Mikes

If you want to succeed here you must be able to handle the English sense of humour. So proclaims George Mikes' timeless exploration of this curious phenomenon. Whether it's understatement, self-deprecation or plain cruelty, the three elements he identifies as essential to our sense of humour, being witty here is a way of life. Perfectly placed as an adopted Englishman himself, Mikes delivers his shrewd advice - helpfully divided into 'Theory' and 'Practice' - with a comic precision that does his chosen country proud. Drawing on a trove of examples from our rich comic canon, from Orwell ("Every joke is a tiny revolution") to Oscar Wilde, this is the essential handbook for natives and foreigners alike. Mrs Kennedy: "I don't think, Mr Churchill, that I have told you anything about my grandchildren." Winston Churchill: "For which, madam, I am infinitely grateful."

How to be a Brit

by George Mikes

The indispensable manual for everyone who longs to attain True Britishness George Mikes's perceptive best-seller provides a complete guide to the British Way of Life. Having been born in Hungary, he eventually spent more than forty years in the field, and the fruits of his labour include insights on important topics including the weather, how to be rude and how to panic quietly. Loved by readers and authors alike, How to Be a Brit contains Mikes's three major works -- How to be an Alien, How to be Inimitable and How to be Decadent. If you're British, you'll love it; if you're a foreigner, you'll appreciate it. How to plan a town: "Street names should be painted clearly and distinctly on large boards. Then hide these boards carefully." Queuing: "An Englishman, even if he is alone, forms an orderly queue of one." Sex: "Continental people have sex lives: the English have hot water bottles."
