



LAURA SOLON

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The Times

"Solon's twisted imagination means that the show is jam-packed with delights. Her performance(s) are expertly differentiated, even while each woman proves as demented as the last. And there are countless killer one-liners".

The Guardian

PERSONAL DETAILS

Location: London
Height: 5'6" (167 cm)
Playing Age: 21 - 30 years
Role Types: White
Eye Colour: Brown
Hair Colour: Blonde
Hair Length: Mid Length

SKILLS

Accents & Dialects: (* = native)

American Southern States, Australian, California, Cockney, East European, French, Northern, RP*, South African, Standard American, Standard Scots, Standard Welsh, West Country

Languages: (* = mother tongue)

English*, French, Latin

Performance: Comedy, Stand-Up Comic

Sports: (* = highly skilled) Lacrosse*, Running, Skiing, Swimming, Tennis*

Vehicle Licences: Car

Other Skills: Improvisation

AVALON MANAGEMENT GROUP LTD

4A Exmoor Street, London W10 6BD

Phone: 020-7598 8000

Fax: 020-7598 7300

WWW: www.avalonuk.com

TELEVISION

Al Murray's Multiple Personality Disorder, ITV1, 2008
Various Roles

Ruddy Hell! It's Harry and Paul, BBC 1, 2007 - 2008
Various Roles

Laura, Ben and Him, ITV2, 2008
Writer/Performer

Learners, BBC 1, 2007
'Ivana'

Great News, BBC 1, 2006
'Fi'

Man Stroke Woman, BBC 3, 2005 – 2006
Writer

RADIO

Headliner, BBC Radio 4, 2009
Katya

From Fact to Fiction: Clear Your Desk, BBC Radio 4, 2008
Writer / 'Juliet'

Fabulous, BBC Radio 4, 2006 - 2008
'Kimberly'

Talking And Not Talking, Series 1-3, BBC Radio 4, 2007 – 2009
Writer/Performer

Peacefully In Their Sleeps, BBC Radio 4, 2006
Performer

RELEASES

Talking And Not Talking Series Two, BBC Audio Books, 2009
CD

Talking And Not Talking, BBC Audio Books, 2008
CD

LIVE

Laura Solon: Rabbit Faced Story Soup, National Tour, 2010
Writer/Performer

Laura Solon: Rabbit Faced Story Soup, Soho Theatre, 2009
Writer/Performer

Laura Solon: Rabbit Faced Story Soup, Edinburgh Festival, 2009

Laura Solon, National Tour; Soho Theatre, London; Lyric Theatre, London, 2005 - 2006

Laura Solon, Edinburgh Festival, 2005

AWARDS

Winner – Perrier Award for her debut show 'Laura Solon', Edinburgh Festival, 2005

WHAT THE PRESS HAS SAID:

...about Laura Solon's 2005 Perrier Award winning show:

"Sketch comedy that smacks all other sketch shows in the mouth and calls them a pussy".

The Sunday Times

"Certainly Solon's attraction is much more than a physical appeal, her magnetism comes from her ability to physically change herself on stage, her taut, controlled performance and most importantly her high-quality lines such as 'She's not a medium, she's huge' and 'Elephant and Castle: once place names, two broken promises'".

The Independent

"A strikingly original, darkly funny series of monologues by forlorn young women...Studded with finely wrought one liners, this is the year's most impressive debut".

The Times

"The show...sees this photogenic blonde tackling a wide range of characters, from away-with-the-fairies Sloanes to tough-as-boots chavs, with immense versatility, confidence and charm. The writing is as fresh as a cowslip, as sharp as a kitchen-knife, and sometimes as coarse as a fishwife".

The Telegraph

"Solon's twisted imagination means that the show is jam-packed with delights. Her performance(s) are expertly differentiated, even while each woman proves as demented as the last. And there are countless killer one-liners".

The Guardian

What the press said about 'Rabbit Faced Story Soup' in Edinburgh:

"Faultless performance aside, Solon has written a script that's been polished until it flashes and gleams, and which evinces an Iannucci-like gift for steering a sentence off the main road and into a cul de sac of surrealism. She is frighteningly talented.

Nicholas Barber, Independent on Sunday

"A masterclass"

Stephen Armstrong, Sunday Times

Solon's unfair advantage is that she can not only do it all – the writing, the performing, the characters, the accents – but do it all so well...Solon always finds her mark, and in the most entertaining way. Do see her if you can.

Mark Monahan, Daily Telegraph

"Somebody needs to give this woman a TV show soon. There are more great one-liners and imagination in this one-woman, one-act play than in the entire annual output of BBC Three... The constant stream of gold-plated gags and well-drawn characters make it a delightful hour of entertainment."

Neil McEwan, Edinburgh Evening News

"It's an entertaining and unusual tale, teeming with vivid characters. Its script is densely populated with acerbic one-liners; Solon has retained her facility for articulate defamation."

Brain Logan, The Guardian

"Rabbit Faced Story Soup – don't let the title put you off – reminds us what we've been missing."

Dominic Maxwell, The Times

"This is gag-driven, no-extra-fat character comedy... A real vindication of the faith that was put in her four years ago."

Julian Hall, The Independent

"Solon fits loads of characters into her one-hour slot and equal, painstaking thought has been given to each one. She also paints amazing comic imagery, with just one carefully chosen word turning a good line into a great one. Throw in a cute white rabbit called Ian and you've got a show that is imaginative, innovative and inventive."

Micky Noonan, Metro

"Entertaining, character-driven yarn, full of wryly smart lines and performed with subtle aplomb... With her long-overdue comeback, Solon is striving for the simple, yet often elusive, aim of a classy, delightfully funny hour. Job done."

Steve Bennett, Chortle

"Rabbit Faced Story Soup is tightly structured and thrillingly, almost bewilderingly dense... It's superbly written, incorporating a seemingly endless stream of intelligently surreal imagery and unexpected collisions of ideas that frequently brings to mind the work of Douglas Adams... A show that delivers some of the most satisfying narrative and comic punches that I've seen at the festival this year."

Tom Hackett, Fest

"An even more impressive showcase for the 30-year-old's talent for understated character comedy than her award-winning debut... Solon's joke-rich writing is as sharp and nuanced as her performance, full of barbed observations and elegant turns of phrase, the finest of which must surely be her new name for stilettoes: tart stilts".

Steve Bennett, Mail on Sunday

...Talking and Not Talking

"Sometimes observational, at other times strangely surreal, the sketches all benefit from being created by a writer who has placed the English language in a cocktail shaker and poured out

an intoxicating mix of wit and words. This should be in the 6.30pm comedy slot, not buried in the bedtime slumber zone."

Jane Anderson, Radio Times

"Seemingly poised for stardom for creating instantly memorable and grotesque comic characters, one might dub Laura Solon the next Catherine Tate. What makes her different is that she specialises in brilliantly written verbal comedy, displayed at length in this latest Radio 4 series. Almost every sketch is a showcase for ultra-deft characterisation and surprising gags. There's a real sense of superior craftsmanship, making her seem more like a successor to the tradition of Fry & Laurie than anyone more contemporary. Her various alter egos allow Solon to mix it up a bit, with some characters offering delicate observational comedy (check out the divorcee entrepreneur perched forever on the verge of tears) and others diving headlong into the surreal (her demented Teutonic heiress, forever plotting coups in the company of a china model lion, is a blindingly original highpoint). Following her memorable cameos in Harry and Paul, Solon's surely going to be bringing this stuff to TV soon; this release shows exactly why she deserves it."

James Kettle, 'The Guide' The Guardian

"Laura Solon has a streak of genuine originality... The joke lies partly in the speed of delivery – Solon rarely pauses; and she is one of the few comics around prepared to use silly voices to get a laugh... I wonder whether radio light entertainment is the right place for Solon: she's a little too clever and a little too dark. I don't suppose they'd let her present the Today programme?"

Robert Hanks, 'The Week in Radio' The Independent

"Very interesting it is too: the scripts are dark, sharp and entirely devoid of punchlines, but still manage to contain more laughs than most comedy half-hours."

Lisa Mullen, Time Out

"If you're in search of a laugh on Radio 4, then Talking and Not Talking, Laura Solon's new comedy sketch show, is – whisper it – rather good. A bit Catherine Tate, a bit Green Wing. You know: funny."

Miranda Sawyer, The Observer

"The 2005 Perrier Award-winning stand-up comes to radio with six episodes of the off-kilter observations and surreal sketches that make her the sort of stand-up who wins comedy awards. Talking and Not Talking is very clever, very well put-together and slightly soulless; it is Yuppie comedy. It lives in a converted loft in the late Eighties. Nothing wrong with that, of course, particularly when it is capable of coming up with lines like these, which fit together like something terribly expensive from Scandinavia: "I thought my father was going to live for ever, because that's what he told me. But no, that wasn't my father, that was the theme tune to Fame. I loved that film, it was like a father to me."

Chris Campling, 'T2' The Times

"Is she the new Catherine Tate? Alan Bennett? Victoria Wood? Nobody seems sure. But one thing is certain: Perrier Award-winning comedian Laura Solon is destined for great things. In her new sketch show Talking and Not Talking she lays into the smug moneyed middle classes with laser-guided precision. She's a remarkable talent; BBC2 undoubtedly beckons."

Maxton Walker, 'G2' The Guardian

...Laura, Ben and Him

"Good performances, particularly from Solon who has a knack for characters."

Phelim O'Neill, 'Guide' The Guardian

"This rapid-fire sketch delivers the comic goods. Laura Solon, Ben Willbond and Him - aka Marek Larwood - dish up a refreshingly daft election of sketches from a smart running gag about Narnia to a sly spoof of all those ambulance-chasing lawyer ads you get on daytime TV. Mitchell and Webb should be made to watch and take notes."

Ceri Thomas, Evening Standard / London Lite

"Whatever else these funny, well-observed sketches are about their subject is the middle class, its faults and its prejudices. There is the horsey woman who keeps a pony in the office, the clown who is suing over health-and-safety issues and the character with Narnia in his wardrobe (when the council would not even give him permission for a conservatory). It is written by Marek Larwood and the Perrier Award-winners Laura Solon and Ben Willbond. Their pedigree shows."

Sally Kinnes, 'Culture' The Sunday Times

"This brand-new sketch show is written and performed by hot new comedy stars Laura Solon, Ben Willbond and Marek Larwood. With characters including Jill and her office pony, and a clown who sues for work-related accidents, this is jam-packed with silliness."

Belinda Wanis, 'Hot TV' Daily Star

"If you find the number of sketch shows on TV off-putting, don't dismiss this one without seeing it. Ex-Perrier Award winner Laura Solon is the best of the bunch of Laura, Ben and Him, playing a dainty Jane Austen type who turns nasty when a snooty gent mistakenly gives her a bloody nose..."

Olly Grant, TV Times

"It's obvious why this trio have a clutch of awards between them, as the combination of funny looking characters and silly humour is a definite winner. Laughter lines in episode one come from the clown who points at his red nose and says 'from drinking', the tradesman who remarks 'the best thing about being a bed-wetter is that I don't find it hard to get up in the morning', and the man who has made a 'slag trap' from a cardboard box filled with ciggies and a bottle of Hooch. It's naughty but nice."

Adrian Lobb, 'We Love Telly' Daily Mirror