

RUSSELL HOWARD TO HOST NEW TOPICAL SHOW ON BBC THREE

RUSSELL HOWARD is to make his BBC Three debut with a brand new topical show. Russell Howard's Good News will be put together each week on the brink of transmission, so it's impossible to call what news will catch RUSSELL HOWARD'S eye, but audiences can expect to see the Mock The Week star offer his unique perspective on the big stories dominating the media across TV, online and in print, as well as picking up on those sometimes overlooked things that make him smile.

In the last 12 months RUSSELL HOWARD has become one of the UK's most successful live comedians having sold more than 120,000 tickets on his last tour, including three gigs at London's Hammersmith Apollo and one at Wembley Arena. His debut live stand-up DVD was the fifth highest selling stand-up release of Christmas 2008 and has now sold in excess of 145,000 copies. This autumn will see RUSSELL HOWARD embark on a 10-date arena tour with a brand new live show and a DVD of his previous live tour released in time for Christmas.

In addition to being a regular on Mock The Week (BBC Two's highest rating comedy show, which has seen viewing figures of over 5 million per week), RUSSELL HOWARD has twice appeared on Live At The Apollo (BBC ONE) alongside some of the biggest names in comedy; and followed in the footsteps of AL MURRAY - THE PUB LANDLORD becoming host of Comedy Central's Edinburgh & Beyond.

Recorded weekly in front of a live studio audience, Russell Howard's Good News will also give fans at home the chance to shape the news agenda by allowing them to submit stories online at www.bbc.co.uk/russellhoward (where they will also be able to view exclusive extra features) or via Twitter at www.twitter.com/bbcgoodnews. The series will run for 7 weeks, followed by a best-of and a Christmas special.

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"As sparkling as a tree's-worth of Christmas lights... a robust antidote to the depressive, recessionary mood of the moment ... Right now, he's flying."

Dominic Cavendish, The Daily Telegraph

"Probably the best of the new generation of comics. His mind is as sharp as a witch's nose and gags flow from him with the ease and majesty of the river Nile."

Tim Arthur, Time Out

He's the hot comic right now, selling out venues and stadiums all over the country."

Emma Cox, The Sun

"The Mock the Week star has joined the big league."

Julian Hall, The Independent

Russell Howard's Good News starts on BBC Three on 22nd October 2009

For more information please contact: Jenny Stewart or Dan Lloyd at Avalon on 020 7598 7222 / jenny.stewart@avalonuk.com / danl@avalonuk.com

www.russell-howard.co.uk

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AVALON TELEVISION

Avalon Television is one of the leading producers of award-winning comedy and light entertainment programmes in the UK. Founded in 1993, the independent production house supplies television programming to all the British terrestrial channels and the leading cable and satellite stations, in addition to content for radio broadcasters.

Recent television productions include: a new comedy sketch show written by and starring the multi-award winning creator of *The Pub Landlord*, Al Murray's Multiple Personality Disorder (ITV1); the quadruple-BAFTA and triple *British Comedy Award*-winning Harry Hill's TV Burp (ITV1); Al Murray's Happy Hour (ITV1) - the *British Comedy Award* winning peak-time entertainment show; three series of the *Royal Television Society* and *Rose D'Or* award-winning sitcom Not Going Out (BBC ONE); the acclaimed Touch Me I'm Karen Taylor (BBC THREE); the *Rose d'Or* award-winning Kombat Opera Presents (BBC TWO), a series of contemporary musical comedies from the creator of the multi-award-winning hit musical Jerry Springer - The Opera, with collaborators including STEWART LEE, DAVE GORMAN and TERRY JONES; a feature-length documentary, written by and starring DAVE GORMAN, entitled Unchained America (More 4); Laura, Ben and Him, a multi-character sketch show for ITV2 written by and starring hotly-tipped new writer performers LAURA SOLON, BEN WILLBOND and MAREK LARWOOD; You Can Choose Your Friends (ITV1) - a 90-minute comedy-drama starring the late ANTON RODGERS and JULIA MCKENZIE; a prime-time reality format in the US called Wake Up Call (ABC Network); and The Greg Behrendt Show, a first-run syndication show in the USA produced by Avalon Television and Sony.

Avalon Television also produces radio, with recent projects including: Yes it's the Ashes, ANDY ZALTZMAN'S topical look at the ashes series; The Frank Skinner Show, which goes out on Saturday mornings on Absolute Radio; a sixth series of DAVID BADDIEL'S acclaimed BBC Radio 4 comic-discussion show, Heresy; series six of Out To Lunch (BBC Radio 2), a comedy show for Saturday afternoons hosted by RUSSELL KANE - featuring some of the finest up-and-coming comic talent currently working in the UK; a third series of Banter (BBC Radio 4), hosted by *Sony Award*-winning ANDREW COLLINS, a comedy panel show in which the guests including RICHARD HERRING and RUSSELL HOWARD are asked to hammer out Top Threes in categories covering anything from playwrights to Playstation; series two of Political Animal (BBC Radio 4), a socio-political satire show, hosted and linked by ANDY ZALTZMAN and The Daily Show With Jon Stewart (More 4) regular JOHN OLIVER.

OTHER SHOW CREDITS

The series is produced by MARK IDDON series produced by ROBYN O'BRIEN and directed by PETER ORTON. Executive producers are JON THODAY, RICHARD ALLEN-TURNER, JAMES TAYLOR and KARL WARNER for the BBC.

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