

Hitler Moustache

In one of the most talked about sell-out shows of this year's Edinburgh Festival Fringe, RICHARD HERRING – creator of previous hits Christ on a Bike, Talking Cock and last year's critically acclaimed The Headmaster's Son – attempts to reclaim the Hitler 'tache for comedy. HERRING will take Hitler Moustache on a 57-date tour during 2010, from 29th January until 22nd April, including ten dates at London's Leicester Square Theatre during the first two weeks of February.

The toothbrush moustache seems now forever associated with Adolf Hitler. Yet Charlie Chaplin had one first. The only place the Hitler 'tache is now acceptable is carved into a woman's pubic hair. Why has this innocent and amusing square inch of hair seemingly taken the blame for the crimes of the Nazi regime?

Like many men, in the privacy of his own bathroom, HERRING has shaven his beard down to see how he looks with "the Hitler". But unlike most men he has decided to venture out onto the streets with it still under his nose. How will people respond? Will they understand what he is doing or just assume he's mentally ill or a fascist or both? And by judging him by the way he looks, aren't they being just as fascistic as him? Was it the toothbrush moustache that was evil? Will he become evil if he has one? Or might it actually make him massively popular, as it seemed to do for Adolf, taking him from the tiny beer cellars he currently plays to stadium gigs with thousands of adoring fans chanting his name?

Along the way HERRING aims to find out: whether racism has anything going for it and if woolly liberals actually see people as less equal than the idiots in the BNP; whether God is racist and if He responds to prayer on volume, rather than merit; following the rule of "I was here first", whether that means Europe actually belongs to the Neanderthals, and that all the homo sapiens should just fuck off back to Africa where they belong; and if drawing cocks on your ballot paper could become an effective way to stop the rise of the BNP.

It's a show that examines iconography, the way we judge and are judged, the dangers of political apathy, the point where comedy and madness touch and the very ethics of such a comedy stunt. Is it worth HERRING upsetting strangers, risking physical and psychological damage and ruining his parent's Golden Wedding photos for the sake of a stand-up show? As his Jewish friend Dan observed, "*You're right that the moustache shouldn't have the associations that it does, but the thing is it does have those associations. You can't change it and it's offensive to try.*"

What the press said about Hitler Moustache in Edinburgh:

"A really excellent comedy show: a playful, pointed and often bitterly funny attack on racism ... stimulating, passionate, and thoroughly entertaining."

Dominic Maxwell, The Times

"An absolute Fringe must-see."

Bruce Dessau, Evening Standard

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WHAT THE PRESS SAID ABOUT...

... HITLER MOUSTACHE IN EDINBURGH:

"Superbly constructed and wickedly clever."
Stephanie Merritt, The Observer

"The most talked about show on the fringe."
Dominic Cavendish, Daily Telegraph

"A funny and often challenging look at liberal hubris, the intent of 'offensive' gags, and a condemnation of the bigots. Vote with your feet, and see it."
Steve Bennett, Chortle

"Surely his most passionate Fringe hour to date... a master of his form."
Brian Donaldson, The List

"Political comedy at its most effective and questioning, and should be a defining show of this year's Fringe."
Louise Ridley, Time Out

"A beautifully crafted and thought-provoking show."
Veronica Lee, The Sunday Telegraph

"Another hit for his solid back catalogue."
Julian Hall, The Independent

"One of the greatest stand-up routines I have seen."
Joe Daniels, Scotsgay

"Such a strong show, impassioned, emotive and clever. One of the shows that this year's Fringe will be remembered for."
Ian Phillips, The National Student

"Herring continues to grow as a comic and is fast carving himself a niche in British stand-up that has already become a Fringe highlight and will likely see him soon as a household name."
Graeme Strachan, The British Theatre Guide

"A very powerful, extremely funny show."
Paul Fleckney, London is Funny

"An intelligent, brave and brilliant show."
Ariadne Cass-Maran, The Skinny

...THE HEADMASTER'S SON:

"Few come sharper than Herring, who is back for what seems like his 73rd Fringe with yet another thoughtful, funny and personal hour of coruscating stand-up. His consistency in producing fine shows year on year is impressive indeed... this is one of the strongest shows Herring has produced in his already impressive canon. He's always a Fringe must-see, this year more than most."
Steve Bennett, Chortle

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"In years to come [Richard Herring] will be remembered as the best comic of his generation mastering every comedic art form – writing bestselling books, performing in award winning stand-up shows, writing and starring in primetime ITV1 comedy dramas. He is a one-man comedy tornado, ripping up every comedic outlet that crosses his path."

James Mullinger, GQ

"One of Britain's best stand-ups."

Si Hawkins, Metro

"Herring is one of the Fringe's reliable comic pleasures... Undercutting the heartfelt with the puerile wouldn't impress the headmaster. But it spells fine comedy for the rest of us."

Brian Logan, The Guardian

"Laughs pepper this wry monologue. Herring has a sharp tongue and can weave a yarn, whether recalling youthful crushes or imagining an encounter between his young and old selves...A glowing pass with no help from dad."

Bruce Dessau, Evening Standard

"Probably Herring's finest show to date in a career already littered with great shows. In an attempt to work out why he is who he is, this fine comedian goes back to his memories of school. Brilliant."

Tim Arthur, Time Out

"A comedy trouper at the top of his game."

Warren Howard, 'The Information' The Independent

"Herring's teenage diary entries are highly amusing and prove to be comedy gold, banked at an early age. Boisterous and full of bonhomie, Herring's self-deprecating humour is infectious and he's solid without ever being too predictable. Not only is The Headmaster's Son funny but there's a certain charming poignancy about a near middle-aged man looking back to his childhood and facing up to it. A man with a finger in many pies, including Radio 4 documentaries, an ITV comedy drama and columns in the New Statesman, Herring's a jack of all trades and a master of one – namely stand up."

Julian Hall, Virgin Hotline

"As glorious as anything Herring has done. He hits the ground running with an inspired and abrasive routine about Jesus's ascension to Heaven, before presenting a flurry of ideas about the child being the father of the man."

Dominic Maxwell, The Times

"His teenage diaries are gut-clenchingly funny and demand instant publication."

Stephen Armstrong, The Sunday Times

"He's still a master of the scholarly approach to crudity (watch out for an elegant treatise on the correct playground hand gestures to symbolise different types of sexual activity). But he also pushes himself, teasing his crowd by stretching material seemingly beyond its elastic limit."

James Kettle, 'The Guide' The Guardian

"Seasoned stand-up from one of the form's best."

Andrew Lowry, Shortlist

"Somehow, though, he holds it all together. The show is about his childhood, and some of the odd little vignettes are both hilarious and strangely touching. The best come when he reads through his teenage diary, allowing him to mock his own adolescent bombast and self-pity with wounding accuracy...he has written a charming, warm, funny show with some splendid surrealist asides."

Tom Chivers, Daily Telegraph (online)

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"This year, we're treated to a comedian who has matured, both in content and performance...Herring's dip into the psyche of the sex-obsessed male teenager is top-notch comedy fodder...The Headmaster's Son is a tantalising mix of humour, charm and depth."

Liz Rawlings, Fest

"Packed full of laughs."

The Scotsman

"Herring relives crushing formative experiences and teenage embarrassments – for pleasing comic effect."

Dominic Cavendish, Daily Telegraph

"Herring is effortlessly engaging."

Nadine McBay, Metro

"Sharp and witty."

Marissa Burgess, The List

"He is one of the leading hidden masters of modern British comedy. If there is any justice in the world, and no doubt both the 40 and the 16 year old Richards would tell you there was not, then this show will be sold out every night."

Graeme Strachan, The British Theatre Guide

"Along with some eye-watering, completely unrepeatable passages, Herring delivered an effusively warm and good natured reminiscence on lost youth."

Neil McEwan, Edinburgh Evening News

"Though not offensive, he does border on the disgusting, but in such a terrifically funny and witty way that he can be forgiven. A stage comedy expert, Herring's foray into his former childhood innocence is hilarious, thought provoking and thoroughly recommended."

Richard Hanrahan, Three Weeks

"Herring conjures up his teen self – a mix of pomposity and awkwardness – with passion, wit and authenticity."

Sharon Lougher, Metro

"We've all heard comedians blaming their parents for how they've turned out. But none do it quite as eloquently as Richard Herring."

London Lite

...OH FUCK, I'M 40!:

"A well-crafted blend of midlife crisis and smart observational comedy. His tale of taking part in the most pathetic pub brawl ever seen is worth the price of admission alone."

Stephen Armstrong, 'Culture' Sunday Times

"A very funny stand up set...While Herring may fear his imminent (supposed) descent, we might as well savour the vantage point from his current comic peak."

Brian Logan, The Guardian

"As a comedian he is at his peak."

Bruce Dessau, The Evening Standard

"He wastes no time alchemising his own misery into comedy gold."

Christopher Collett, Metro

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"His writing is as smart and effective as always."

Steve Bennett, Chortle

"There is nothing one-dimensional about Herring's wit. Herring may be over the hill in the traditional sense, but Oh f**k, I'm 40! marks a comic coming-of-age which cannot be written off."

Alison Lutton, Fest magazine

"He had the whole house roaring with laughter...the more Herring ups the ante, the more thoughtful you realise he becomes."

Nick Awde, The Stage

...MENAGE A UN:

"One of Britain's smartest solo comedians."

William Cook, The Guardian

"Richard Herring's show takes self-mockery to heart-warming new levels."

Stephen Armstrong, Sunday Times

"This is smart stand-up proving that other people's failure is the surefire stuff of comedy success."

Brian Logan, The Guardian

"This thoughtful Herring is still a big fish on stage."

Sharon Lougher, Metro

"Herring simply improves with age...If being by yourself produces this kind of entertainment, Herring should be confined to his own company indefinitely."

Brian Donaldson, The List

"Herring produces some of the most inventive, original and funny stand-up at the festival. In the glossy, free programme, he ponders why he keeps coming back to Edinburgh year after year. One answer must surely be: 'because he's good at it'."

Steve Bennett, Chortle

"The real stars of the Edinburgh Festival aren't the comics who turn up twice, win a sackful of awards and vanish onto TV. The true stars are the acts who keep pitching up, year after year, not to try and get on the telly, but to try out something new. Richard Herring is one of those stars."

William Cook, The Guardian

"Brave and thought-provoking stand up."

Les Dennis, The Daily Telegraph

...SOMEONE LIKES YOGHURT:

"His new show, Someone Likes Yoghurt, was inspired by a supermarket visit where the checkout person made a sarcastic comment about his penchant for milk-based desserts. Only a truly gifted neurotic could get so much material from such a minor slight."

Bruce Dessau, Evening Standard

"Clever, contrived and often quite silly."

Marissa Burgess, Metro

"Irritating, relentless, pathetic, petty, pedantic, arrogant, embarrassing, pointless and endlessly funny."

Stewart Lee, The Sunday Times

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“Brilliant... A triumphant experiment in the art of tedium.”

Sam Friedman, Fest

...THE TWELVE TASKS OF HERCULES TERRACE:

“Richard Herring hasn't just written a new show for this year's Fringe, he's started a new religion... Herring has taken the researching and writing a one-hour comedy show to its extreme and the gods should justly reward him.”

Shona Craven, Metro

“Triumphantly funny.”

Bruce Dessau, Evening Standard

“Herring has a confidence and affability which instantly draws you in.”

Gordon Eldrett, The List

“For a show that's ostensibly about depression, this is a remarkably feel good night out. Mainly, of course, because Herring conquered his demons, but also because of the jaunty, playful touch he brings to this impressively well-constructed show. Make it your task to catch it.”

Steve Bennett, Chortle

...TALKING COCK:

“It is the avowedly funny Talking Cock that in the end produces more serious food for thought than all the platitudes of The Vagina Monologues. Herring is a good enough comedian to make you see men, with all their obsessions and oddities, differently.”

Sarah Crompton, The Daily Telegraph

“The show is funny, humiliating, impassioned and weird in equal parts. It's his best work to date. If we gave stars, he'd have lots.”

Stephen Armstrong, The Sunday Times

“His Cock is as funny and fascinating for women as it is for men. I loved it. I only wished it could have been longer.”

Kate Copstick, The Scotsman

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TOUR DATES

JANUARY		
Friday 29 th	FOLKESTONE Quarter House	01303 858500
Saturday 30 th	NOTTINGHAM Playhouse	01159 419419
Sunday 31 st	YORK Hyena Club	08707583219
FEBRUARY		
Tuesday 2 nd	LONDON Leicester Square Theatre	0844 847 2475
Wednesday 3 rd	LONDON Leicester Square Theatre	0844 847 2475
Thursday 4 th	LONDON Leicester Square Theatre	0844 847 2475
Friday 5 th	LONDON Leicester Square Theatre	0844 847 2475
Saturday 6 th	LONDON Leicester Square Theatre	0844 847 2475
Tuesday 9 th	LONDON Leicester Square Theatre	0844 847 2475
Wednesday 10 th	LONDON Leicester Square Theatre	0844 847 2475
Thursday 11 th	LONDON Leicester Square Theatre	0844 847 2475
Friday 12 th	LONDON Leicester Square Theatre	0844 847 2475
Saturday 13 th	LONDON Leicester Square Theatre	0844 847 2475
Sunday 14 th	WARWICK Arts Centre	02476524524
Wednesday 17 th	LUTON The Library	01582 547474
Thursday 18 th	BATH Komedia	0845 293 8480
Friday 19 th	PETERBOROUGH Radius	01733 560231
Saturday 20 th	WINDSOR Firestation Arts	01753 866865
Sunday 21 st	BRISTOL Tobacco Factory	01179020344
Monday 22 nd	HEREFORD The Courtyard	01432 340555
Tuesday 23 rd	RHYL New Pavilion Theatre	01745 330000
Wednesday 24 th	BIRMINGHAM Glee	0871 472 0400
Thursday 25 th	LEAMINGTON SPA Royal Spa Centre	01926 334418
Friday 26 th	STAMFORD Arts Centre	01780 763203
Saturday 27 th	HASTINGS White Rock Theatre	01424 462288
MARCH		
Monday 1 st	HARROGATE Theatre	01423 502 116
Wednesday 3 rd	GWENT Blackwood Minors Institute	01495 227206
Thursday 4 th	CARDIFF Glee	0871 472 0400
Friday 5 th	READING South Street Arts	0118 960 6060
Saturday 6 th	ANDOVER The Lights	01264 368368
Sunday 7 th	MANCHESTER Frog and Bucket	01612 369805
Tuesday 9 th	CHELTENHAM Town Hall	0844 576 2210
Wednesday 10 th	LINCOLN Performing Arts Centre	0844 888 8766
Thursday 11 th	SHEFFIELD City Hall Memorial Hall	0114 2 789 789
Friday 12 th	BERWICK-UPON-TWEED Maltings	01289 330999

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MARCH CNTD			
Saturday 13 th		GLASGOW Comedy Festival: The Garage	0844 395 4005
Sunday 14 th		EDINBURGH The Stand	0131 558 7272
Monday 15 th		PERTH Red Rooms	01738 621 031
Tuesday 16 th		CHORLEY Little Theatre	01257 264362
Wednesday 17 th		KENDAL Brewery Arts Centre	01539 725133
Thursday 18 th		ALDERSHOT West End Centre	01252 330040
Friday 19 th		FAREHAM Ashcroft Arts Centre	01329 223100
Saturday 20 th		WOLVERHAMPTON Little Civic	08703207000
Wednesday 24 th		BRIGHTON Komedia	0871 22 117 29
Thursday 25 th		COLCHESTER Arts Centre	01206 500900
Friday 26 th		CAMBRIDGE The Junction	01223 511511
Saturday 27 th		SOUTHSEA The Kings Theatre	023 9282 8282
Sunday 28 th		EXETER Phoenix	01392 667080
Wednesday 31 st		TAUNTON Brewhouse	01823 283244
APRIL			
Thursday 1 st		PENZANCE St. John's Hall – Acorn Arts	01736 365520
Saturday 3 rd		NORWICH Playhouse	01603 598 598
Monday 5 th		LEEDS Library	01132 440794
Tuesday 6 th		LEEDS Library	01132 440794
Saturday 10 th		BRIDPORT Electric Palace	01308 428354
Saturday 17 th		WHITBY Hilarity Bites	01325 362364
Sunday 18 th		DARLINGTON Hilarity Bites	01325 362364
Thursday 22 nd		STOCKTON-ON-TEES ARC	01642 525199

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RICHARD HERRING

In the 1990s RICHARD HERRING was in the prodigious double act LEE & HERRING, who created the cult hit BBC TWO shows Fist of Fun and This Morning With Richard Not Judy. He was one of the team behind the award-winning BBC Radio 4 series On The Hour. More recently he has written and starred in ITV1's hit comedy drama You Can Choose Your Friends, and BBC Radio 2's That Was Then, This Is Now. A busy year has seen RICHARD: sell-out his Edinburgh run of Hitler Moustache, one of the most-talked about shows at this year's Fringe; debut his revolutionary new internet sketch show As It Occurs To Me in a 10-show run at London's Leicester Square Theatre; take his critically acclaimed, *Chortle Award* nominated show The Headmaster's Son on a hugely successful national tour and two-week London run; present a new documentary series Bad Habits on BBC Radio 4; continue to host the Collings and Herrin podcast with broadcaster and writer ANDREW COLLINS, which entered the iTunes top 20 podcast chart when released; and appear as a panellist on BBC TWO's Never Mind the Buzzcocks. His previous hit live shows include: Ra Ra Rasputin, Punk's Not Dead, Excavating Rita, Christ on a Bike, Talking Cock, Someone Likes Yoghurt, ménage à un, Oh Fuck, I'm 40! and The Headmaster's Son.

AVALON PROMOTIONS

Avalon Promotions Limited is one of the leading promoters of live comedy in the UK. Productions include: NEWMAN & BADDIEL in the first comedy show ever to be staged at Wembley Arena; FRANK SKINNER's record-breaking performance to an audience of 6,000 at the Battersea Power Station; Jerry Springer – The Opera at the National Theatre, at the Cambridge Theatre in London's West End, on national tour and at New York's Carnegie Hall; HARRY HILL at the Palace and Dominion Theatres in London; and Dave Gorman's Googlewhack Adventure at the Sydney Opera House, at the Edinburgh Festival Fringe, on national tour and at the Village Theatre, New York (nominated for *Drama Desk Award 2004*).

The last 12 months has seen Avalon Promotions: present multi-award winning comics JENNY ECLAIR, RICHARD HERRING, RUSSELL HOWARD and FRANK SKINNER on sell-out runs; produce AL MURRAY, THE PUB LANDLORD live at the O2 and RUSSELL HOWARD at Wembley Arena; introduce some of the fastest-rising stars in comedy such as RUSSELL KANE, KRISTEN SCHAAL & KURT BRAUNOHLER and ISY SUTTIE; produce stage shows, such as Frank Skinner's Credit Crunch Cabaret and Grumpy Old Women Live, which has toured the UK three times and performed a highly successful run in Australia; and present 23 acts at the Edinburgh Festival, where it has promoted a total of five *Perrier Award* winners and 17 *Perrier Award/if.comedy Award* nominees in just 20 years.