

SLAPSTICK

FESTIVAL 2013



CELEBRATING SILENT & CLASSIC COMEDY

JANUARY 24-27



FESTIVAL GUIDE

WELCOME TO SLAPSTICK FESTIVAL 2013

Britain's brightest festival brings Bristol a unique and eclectic mix of classic film comedy.

Slapstick produced the UK's first silent comedy festival in 2005. Way back then we were delighted to see 900 enthusiastic attendees discovering the unique pleasures of silent comedy with live musical accompaniment. In the eight years since then word has spread: audiences have multiplied five times over, to see some of today's most celebrated comedy performers and finest film musicians pay their tributes to the great clowns of the movies' golden age. This year is again bigger and better, with sixteen events, spread over four days at four of Bristol's finest venues - including, this year Bristol Old Vic, which on January 27th hosts a special Slapstick Sunday, with four major shows.

The central theme this January is FUNNY LADIES. Though the names of Chaplin and Keaton may be better known and remembered today, the girls gave as good as they got, and this is a chance to see again two truly great comediennes, Marion Davies and Colleen Moore, as well as the irresistible comedy troupers, Anita Garvin and Marion Byron, featured in four programmes. THE GIRL WITH THE HATBOX offers an unforgettable

THE MUSIC

Slapstick's live musical accompaniments to films have set new standards. Maestro Günter Buchwald returns with the European Silent Screen Virtuosi, featuring Günter himself on piano and violin, Frank Bockius on percussion, Romano Todesco on double-bass and accordion, and triple Oscar-winning animator Richard Williams on cornet. The Virtuosi will play alongside members of the Bristol Ensemble, presenting a part-

comedy performance by the gifted Ukrainian actress Anna Sten, who later became a Hollywood star. As a climax to the event, a great living British "Funny Lady", June Whitfield, will be honoured in a special "Comedy Legend" tribute on Sunday at Bristol Old Vic.

The male greats are not forgotten: the opening gala at the Colston Hall includes Harold Lloyd's THE KID BROTHER, while the European Silent Screen Virtuosi will provide musical accompaniment for Buster Keaton's COLLEGE. Bill Oddie introduces a selection of Laurel and Hardy talkies on Sunday morning and other contemporary comedy greats will be presenting shows such as Ian Lavender (COLLEGE) and Barry Cryer, Tim Brooke-Taylor, Graeme Garden and Colin Sell who will be celebrating 40 years of Sorry I Haven't a Clue. I hope you'll find something in the programme to entice you.

See you there!

Chris Daniels
Director
Slapstick Festival

improvised score for Harold Lloyd's great comedy THE KID BROTHER; while the Bristol Ensemble will present a new score for Buster Keaton's classic short comedy THE GOAT (1921). We also welcome back two world-renowned silent film accompanists, John Sweeney and the poly-instrumentalist Stephen Horne, who will accompany George Méliès' 1902 science fiction classic A TRIP TO THE MOON on piano, accordion and flute.

OUR SPECIAL GUESTS



June Whitfield CBE



Lucy Porter



Marcus Brigstocke



Victoria Wood CBE



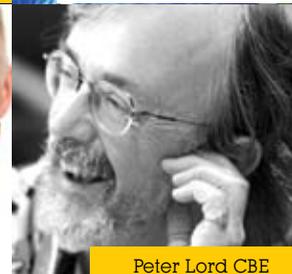
Nick Park CBE



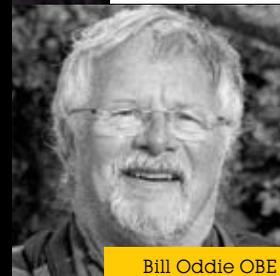
Ian Lavender



Barry Cryer OBE & Ronnie Golden



Peter Lord CBE



Bill Oddie OBE



Tim Brooke-Taylor OBE



Graeme Garden OBE



Paul McGann

Other special guests and experts include: Kevin Brownlow, Circimedia, David Robinson, Matthew Sweet, Colin Sell, Christopher Stevens, Don Fairservice and Chris Serle.

TICKETS & FESTIVAL PASS

VENUES: The four venues hosting Slapstick 2013 events are: Bristol Old Vic, Arnolfini, Watershed and Colston Hall, all in Bristol city centre. See the diary on the next page to find out what is taking place where and when. To book for individual shows, please contact the box office at the venue where the event is happening. Details of how to contact each box office appear on this brochure's back page.

SAVERS & DISCOUNTS: If you're planning to attend all or most festival events, our Festival Pass is a time and money saver. Each costs £130 and can be bought from Colston Hall, in person, by phone or via www.colstonhall.org. The pass is valid for all shows (except STEPTOE & SON), including the Gala. Alternatively, if you book for two or more of the SLAPSTICK SUNDAY events at Bristol Old Vic you will earn a £2 per ticket discount.

HOTELS: For out-of-town visitors, we've arranged some very tempting accommodation deals with local hotels. To check the latest offers, please see www.slapstick.org.uk



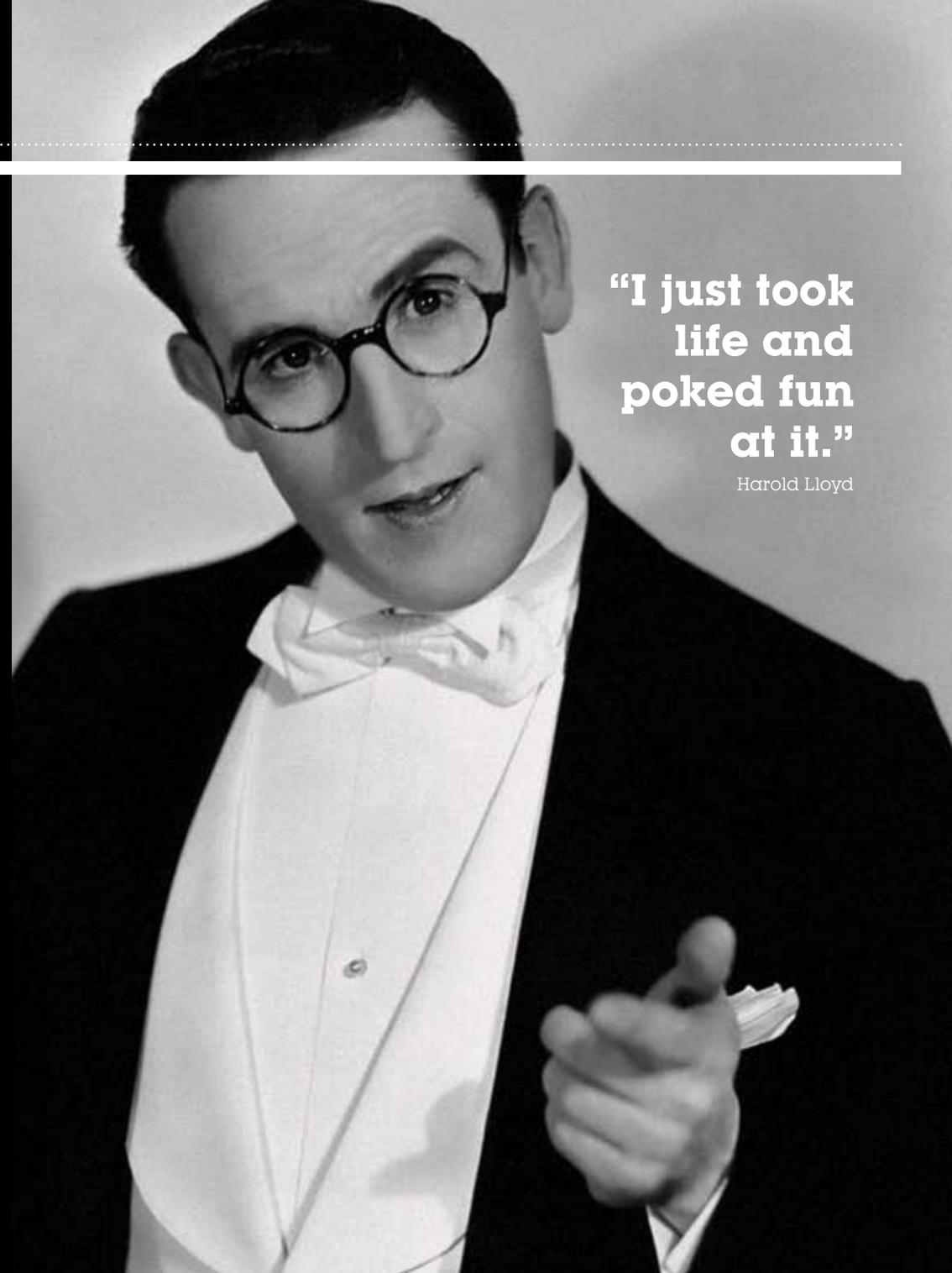
Günter A. Buchwald



Stephen Horne

FESTIVAL DIARY

DATE	TIME	EVENT	VENUE
Thursday 24	1740hrs	Slapstick Animation! with Nick Park and Peter Lord	Watershed
Friday 25	1430hrs	Funny Ladies: The Girl With The Hat Box	Arnolfini
	1630hrs	Harold Lloyd: Third Genius with Kevin Brownlow	Watershed
	1800hrs	Instant Wit: Live Improv comedy	Colston Hall (Hall 2)
	1930hrs	Silent Comedy Gala with Victoria Wood	Colston Hall
Saturday 26	1000hrs	Lost Clowns: Wait and See	Arnolfini
	1130hrs	Funny Ladies: Orchids and Ermine	Arnolfini
	1430hrs	Lost Goodies	Arnolfini
	1630hrs	Funny Ladies: The Patsy	Watershed
	2000hrs	Buster Keaton's College	Arnolfini
Sunday 27	1000hrs	Bill Oddie's Laurel & Hardy Classics	Watershed
	1130hrs	I'm Sorry I Haven't A Clue: Best of 40yrs	Bristol Old Vic
	1415hrs	Marcus Brigstocke's Top Comedy Moments	Bristol Old Vic
	1730hrs	June Whitfield: Comedy Legend	Bristol Old Vic
	2000hrs	Funny Ladies with Lucy Porter	Bristol Old Vic



**“I just took
life and
poked fun
at it.”**

Harold Lloyd

JAN 24 | THURSDAY

JAN 25 | FRIDAY



Slapstick Animation!

Slapstick Animation!

With Nick Park & Peter Lord
THURS 24 JAN 1740hrs
Watershed £8.00/£6.50

Whatever happened to purely visual comedy in film and TV? Aardman's NICK PARK and PETER LORD reckon they know where it went – into the world of animation. In conversation – with each other! – they'll be talking about influences and inspiration, and sharing many moments of slapstick fun from Aardman's back catalogue and beyond.

Steptoe & Son

THURS 24 JAN 1930hrs
Bristol Old Vic £8.00-£28.00 Ages: 12+

Slapstick Festival is delighted to be co-promoting this Kneehigh production at Bristol Old Vic celebrating Galton and Simpson's timeless comedy classic.

Adapted from the legendary scripts of Galton and Simpson, this new production charts the tender, cruel and surprising dance of father and son. Journalist and writer Christopher Stevens, the world's foremost expert on the work of Galton and Simpson and author of The Masters of Sitcom: From Hancock to Steptoe will introduce this special performance in collaboration with Slapstick Festival and Bristol Old Vic.



Steptoe & Son



Funny Ladies: Anna Sten

Harold Lloyd:
The Third Genius

Slapstick International/Funny Ladies

Introduced by David Robinson
FRI 25 JAN 1430hrs Arnolfini £7.50/£6.00

The Girl With The Hatbox (1927)

Dir: Boris Barnet, Russia, 65mins

The film tells the tale of the eponymous hatmaker Natasha (Anna Sten), a lovelorn railway cashier and homeless student Ilya. Anna Sten shines out as the sparky, spunky heroine of this delightful and enduring Russian silent comedy, ripe for rediscovery.

This film was a highlight of the recent Pordenone Silent Film Festival (Italy) as part of their extensive Anna Sten retrospective. We are thrilled that it's creative Director, eminent film historian and Chaplin's official biographer David Robinson will introduce this rare screening. With live piano accompaniment.

Harold Lloyd: The Third Genius

with Kevin Brownlow
FRI 25 JAN 1630hrs
Watershed £8.00/£6.50

Following Kevin Brownlow's exploration of both Keaton and Chaplin at previous festivals Kevin returns to enthral us with tales of that man on the clock - Harold Lloyd.

In conversation with journalist and writer Christopher Stevens, Kevin discusses and shows extracts from his documentary HAROLD LLOYD - THE THIRD GENIUS. It was in production in the mid-1980s just in time to capture interviews with the last survivors of the Hal Roach studio, including Roach himself.

Plus a complete screening of early Lonesome Luke film Giving Them Fits (1915) accompanied live on piano by Stephen Horne.

JAN 25 | FRIDAY

JAN 25 | FRIDAY

INSTANT WIT

FRI 25 JAN 1800hrs Colston Hall, Hall 2 £10.00
(£5 with each gala ticket purchased)

Bristol's very own and highly acclaimed Comedy Improvisation Company, are delighted to be 'parping their hooter' for the first time, at the Bristol Slapstick Festival!

Yes, join INSTANT WIT - The Unusual Suspects - or "impro troupe on the run" (think "Keystone Cops" - see what we did there?!) as they whisk up their unique blend of slapstick and improvised comic jolly-japery, as the perfect hors d'oeuvre to the Bristol Slapstick Festival main Comedy Gala!

Featuring Stan Laurel lookalikey Mr Nik Howden himself (who actually played "Stan" in the BBC Film of the same name) Howard "Oliver Hardy" Coggins (!), alongside INSTANT WIT comedy stalwarts Mr Chris Grimes and Ms Stephanie Weston - complete with musical accompaniment on the old ivories, by the dextrous and very talented nimblies of Mr Colin Smith. Get in!

So come and enjoy pre-show entertainment at it best and make the evening last even longer.
Approx running time 60mins

"These are conspicuously talented performers. Everyone is exhilarated, on-stage and off!" The Guardian

www.instantwit.co.uk



SLAPSTICK FESTIVAL presents ★★★★★★
SILENT COMEDY GALA hosted by Victoria Wood

Featuring Harold Lloyd in his classic comedy KID BROTHER (1927)

FRI 25 JAN 1930hrs Colston Hall £20.00/£17.00/£8.50 Under 12s

Three classic comedy film masterpieces from Harold Lloyd, Buster Keaton and Georges Melies accompanied with live music.

The return of Slapstick festival's annual Silent Comedy Gala, for a ninth year with special host for the evening, comedian, actor, singer-songwriter, screenwriter and national comedy treasure Victoria Wood.

Kid Brother (1927) considered by many to be Harold Lloyd's finest feature film is a masterful blend of comedy, romance and drama and considered a comedy classic. Meek country boy Harold Hickory (Lloyd), the youngest of Sheriff John Hickory's three sons, is smitten by Mary Powers (Jobyna Ralston). When the town's money is stolen by thugs, Harold's father is accused and with encouragement from Mary, Harold sets out to find the real crooks. A rare opportunity to see this hilarious and inventive comedy with the world premiere of a new score by silent film maestro Guenter A. Buchwald and performed live by The European Silent Screen Virtuosi and the Bristol Ensemble.

The gala will also screen Buster Keaton's classic comedy short, The Goat (1921) in which Buster is mistaken for the notorious criminal Dead Shot Dan and fabulous chaos ensues. Accompanied live by the Bristol Ensemble presenting the world premiere of their newly commissioned score for the film.

Finally, don't miss an exclusive UK premiere of Georges Melies' beautiful, new fully tinted restoration of A Trip to the Moon (1902) with Melies' wonderful narration read by actor Paul McGann. Accompanied by Stephen Horne at the grand piano.

With music and entertainment from comedy legend Barry Cryer and his partner in comedy crime Ronnie Golden this is our biggest, brightest and funniest gala to date.

Book early to avoid disappointment!



Barry Cryer & Ronnie Golden



Victoria Wood

JAN 26 | SATURDAY

JAN 26 | SATURDAY

Lost Clowns: Walter Forde

SAT 26 JAN 1000hrs

Arnolfini £7.50/£6.00

Wait and See (1928)

Dir: Walter Forde UK 70mins

Walter Forde was Britain's top silent comedian in the 1920's, signed to make a series of comedy features – something never before tried in Britain. Wait and See (1928) was his first and perhaps best. Forde's originality and chase finale resulted in a comedy hit. Introduced by BAFTA award winning film editor and Forde admirer Don Fairservice.

Funny Ladies: Colleen Moore

Introduction by Kevin Brownlow

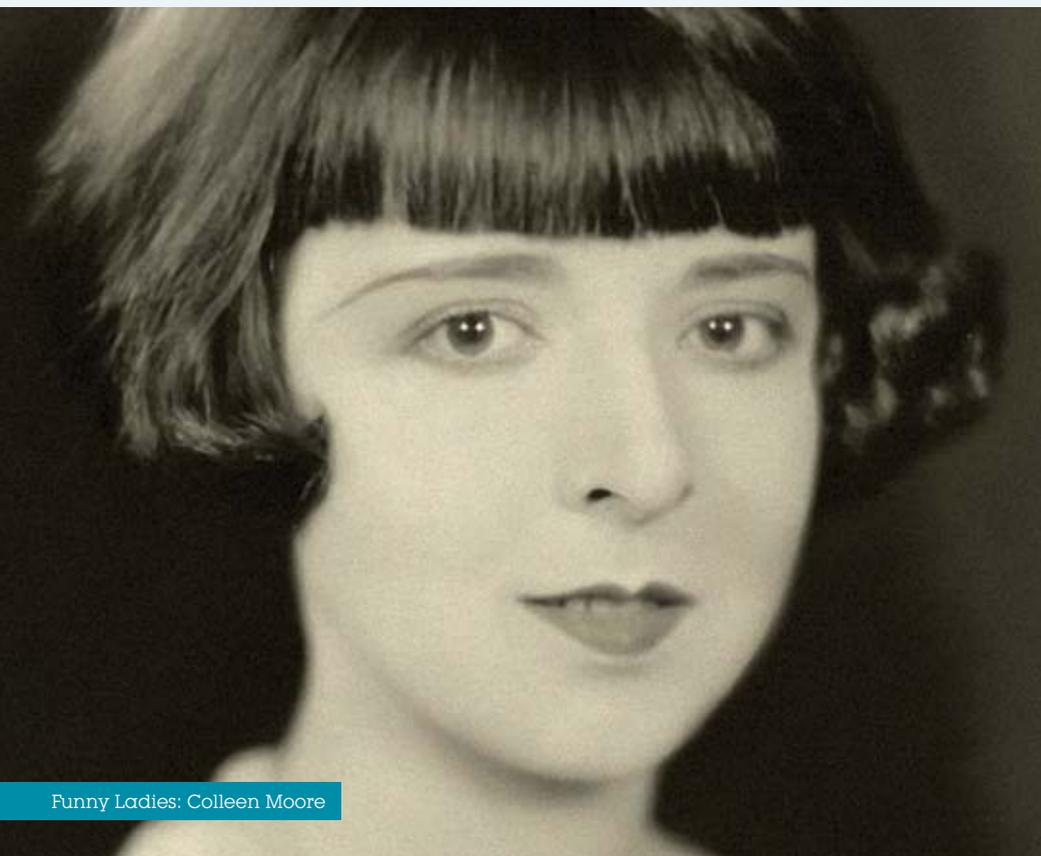
SAT 26 JAN 1130hrs

Arnolfini £7.50/£6.00

Orchids and Ermine (1927)

Dir: Alfred Santell US 70mins

A rare chance to see Orchids and Ermine, a typical Colleen Moore picture – a marvellous central performance, superb supporting players including Mickey Rooney as a midget millionaire and hilarious titles and action. Live piano accompaniment by John Sweeney.



Funny Ladies: Colleen Moore



Lost Goodies

With Tim Brooke-Taylor, Graeme Garden and Bill Oddie

SAT 26 JAN 1430hrs Arnolfini £8.00/£6.50

From 1970 to 1982, British television audiences roared regularly with delighted laughter at the zany and visually-inventive comedy shows and specials created by the madcap trio known as The Goodies. Slapstick is reuniting all three Goodies for a look-back at rarely-seen gems from their multiple award-winning output. Chris Serle is in the chair giving you a chance to put questions.



Lost Goodies

Funny Ladies: Marion Davies

Introduced by Lucy Porter

SAT 26 JAN 1630hrs Watershed £8.00/£6.50

The Patsy (1928) Dir: King Vidor US, 77mins

Directed by the great King Vidor, this Marion Davies silent comedy also stars Marie Dressler, in a magnificent comeback role. It's a Jazz Age Cinderella story built around Davies' tomboyish sunniness - here as the put-upon daughter of bulldog matriarch Marie Dressler, yearning to be "entrancing, alluring, ravishing... like a stocking advertisement." With snooty older sister Jane Winton hogging the attention of dream beau Orville Caldwell, Davies ditches washing dishes for a personality transfusion and drives her family nuts by mangling dictums and hitting on soused playboys.

Davies gets to convincingly imitate several of the silent screen's personalities, while trying to revive a drunken playboy, including Lillian Gish, Mae Murray and vamp Pola Negri.

A delight in every scene. Live accompaniment by Stephen Horne on piano keyboard, accordion and flute. and finally Screened on 35mm from a restored print from Photoplay Productions.

Buster Keaton in College (1927) plus short with Ian Lavender

SAT 26 JAN 2000hrs Arnolfini £9.00/£7.50

Dir: Buster Keaton USA 1927, 66mins

Introduced by actor, Keaton admirer and Dad's Army star Ian Lavender. Buster goes back to school and stages a hilarious send up of university life. Keaton's underrated campus feature is full of athletic mastery and a selection of some of his finest onscreen gags. Live accompaniment by European Silent Screen Virtuosi. Plus: Ian will be selecting a Buster Keaton short to be revealed on the evening!



College



The Patsy

Bill Oddie's Laurel & Hardy Classics

SUN 27 JAN 1000hrs

Watershed £8.00/£6.50

Bill Oddie, national treasure, Goodie and wildlife guru returns to Bristol's Slapstick festival to introduce audiences old and young to another of his passions: Laurel & Hardy. Bill chooses his favourite talkies in this early morning programme set to get you buzzing with nostalgia and delight. What better way to start your Sunday? Approx running time 70mins.



Bill Oddie



Laurel & Hardy

SLAPSTICK SUNDAY @ BRISTOL OLD VIC

Four Unique Events

Each event costs £8.00-£12.00

JAN 27 | SUNDAY

I'm Sorry I Haven't a Clue – The Best of 40 Years

SUN 27 JAN 1130hrs Bristol Old Vic

Just what are the rules of Mornington Crescent? And who is the lovely Samantha? Join Barry Cryer, Tim Brooke-Taylor, Graeme Garden and Colin Sell at the piano - the team from the self-styled antidote to panel games - as they mark the publication of their new book celebrating 40 years of being given silly things to do, and delighting their legions of fans across the world. Co-presented with Bristol's Festival of Ideas.



I'm Sorry I Haven't a Clue - The Best of 40 Years

June Whitfield: Comedy Legend

SUN 27 JAN 1730hrs Bristol Old Vic

Author, broadcaster, journalist and screenwriter Matthew Sweet steers a conversation with actor, icon and national treasure June Whitfield, picking out the most memorable stories from a comedy career that has spanned six decades and featured many of comedy's most famous names. Their chat will be illustrated with excerpts from June's radio, film and tv classics including Tony Hancock's The Blood Donor, Terry & June and, Absolutely Fabulous.

June Whitfield will also become the worthy first recipient of Slapstick's brand new Comedy Legend Award, given jointly by the festival and Aardman Animations.



June Whitfield: Comedy Legend

Marcus Brigstocke's Top Comedy Moments

SUN 27 JAN 1415hrs Bristol Old Vic

Writer, comedian and satirist Marcus Brigstocke comes to Bristol Old Vic to share his favourite visual comedy clips at the event now established as one of Slapstick's guaranteed highlights. As well as explaining his screening choices, Marcus will also talk about the wider comedy influences which have helped to make him one of today's sharpest and most popular comedy talents.



Marcus Brigstocke's Top Comedy Moments

Funny Ladies with Lucy Porter

SUN 27 JAN 2000hrs Bristol Old Vic

To round-off the Slapstick 2013 programme, a deserved salute to some of our earliest screen comedienne hosted by the deliciously funny contemporary stand-up comic, actor and writer Lucy Porter – a favourite on shows such as Mock The Week and The Unbelievable Truth. The laugh-out loud double bill features Show People (1928) starring Marion Davies and the gloriously funny A Pair Of Tights (1929) with Anita Garvin & Marion Byron plus live musical accompaniment from The European Silent Screen Virtuosi. Approximate running time: 120mins



Funny Ladies with Lucy Porter

SLAPSTICK SUNDAY SAVER £2 off each ticket, when you buy for 2 or more shows for Bristol Old Vic Slapstick events. The Bristol Old Vic's cafe-bar will be serving food and drinks all day. Bristol Old Vic show running times approx 70-80mins except where stated. No Intervals

www.slapstick.org.uk

A BIG thank you to all our supporters!

Bristol's Slapstick Festival would simply not be possible without the support of artists and performers willing to give their time and share their passion for silent and visual comedy. We thank every one of our guests for their time and enduring commitment.

Sponsors



Venue Partners

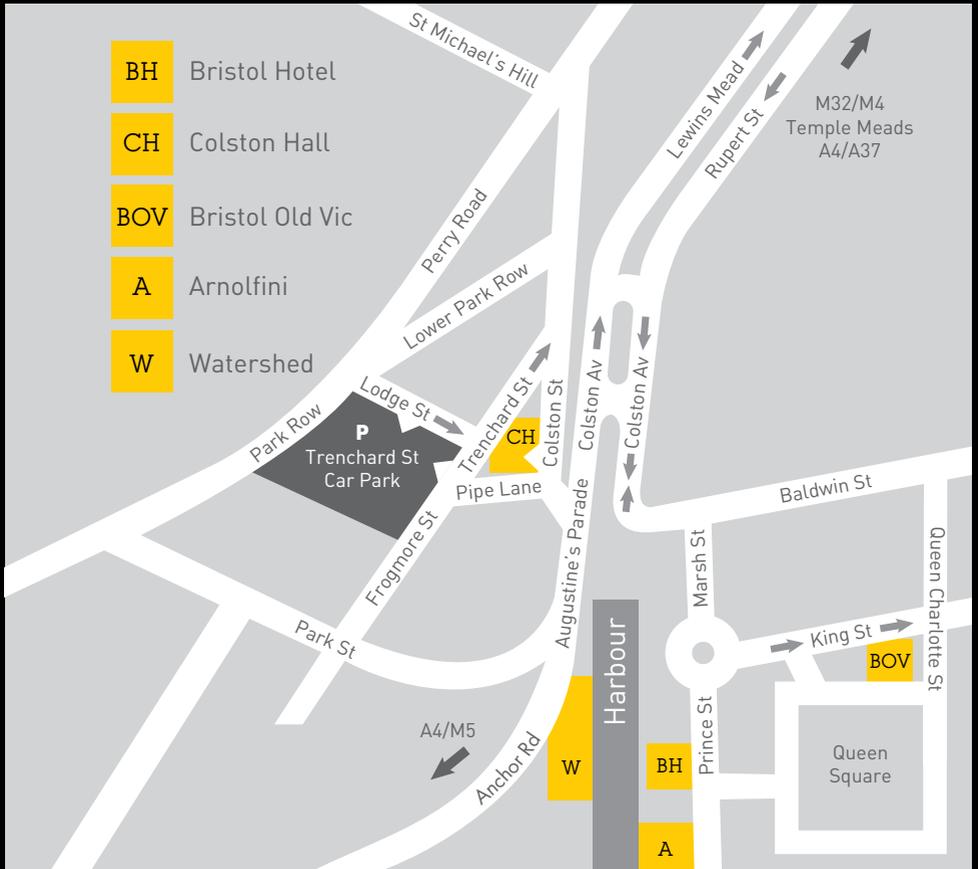


Partners & Supporters



The Festival Team

Patrons Bill Oddie, Tim Brooke-Taylor, Michael Palin, Lord Attenborough, Terry Jones, Graeme Garden, David Robinson, Kevin Brownlow, Dianna Serra Cary (Baby Peggy), Jean Darling, Ian Lavender, Peter Lord, David Sproxton **Festival Director** Chris Daniels **Festival Committee** Chris Daniels, David Robinson, Jo Daniels, Graeme Garden, David Sproxton, Mo Sutton, Norman Connor **Programming Team** Kevin Brownlow, David Robinson, Graeme Garden, Chris Daniels, David Wyatt, Andrew Kelly **Awards Team** Peter Lord, David Sproxton, Nick Park, Chris Daniels, Chris Entwistle **Researchers** James Harrison, Scott Vennell, Jack Beddard Coll, Rosie Taylor **Digital Media** James Harrison, Guy Manchester **Festival Photographer** Adam Johnson **Press & PR** Pam Beddard **Stage Manager** Gemma Brooks **Projection** Tom Taylor, Graeme Hogg, **Fundraising and Sponsorship** Piers Martens, MW Coms **Design** Louise Kelly, Dan Fowler, Adam Johnson, Toby Farrow **Website** Dan Jones **Advisors** Sir Christopher Frayling, Andrew Kelly, Richard Williams, Stephen Clarke, Tony White **Musical Director** Guenter A. Buchwald **Festival Transport** Martin Hammond **Events Co-ordinators** Sue Lion, Catherine Gregory **Editing** Don Fairservice, Matt Purgaus, Bram Ttwham **Festival Hotels** Bristol Hotel, Raddison Blu



BOX OFFICES:

Arnolfini
 (0117) 917 2300
www.arnolfini.org.uk

Colston Hall
 (0117) 922 3686
www.colstonhall.org

Watershed
 (0117) 927 5100
www.watershed.co.uk

Bristol Old Vic
 (0117) 987 7877
www.bristololdvic.org.uk

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