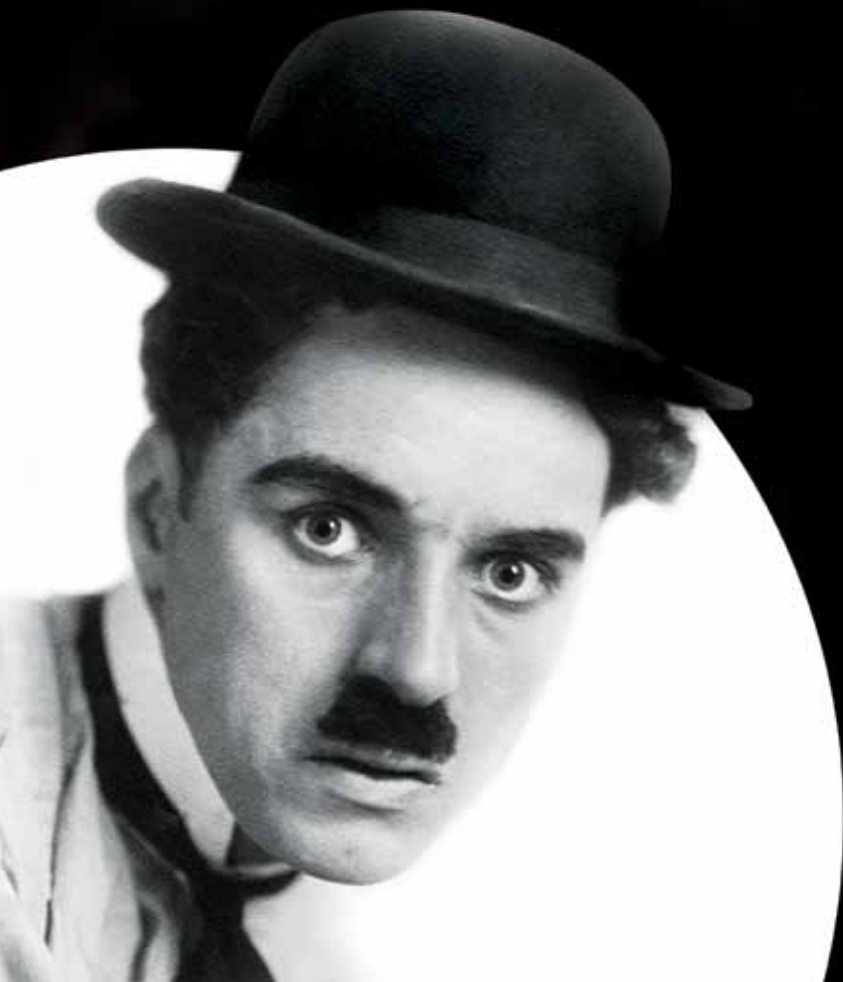


SLAPSTICK

FESTIVAL 2014

CELEBRATING SILENT & CLASSIC COMEDY

JANUARY 24-26



10th ANNIVERSARY FESTIVAL GUIDE

WELCOME TO SLAPSTICK FESTIVAL 2014

Bristol's 10th silent and classic comedy festival.

Here we are again! And it is a thrill to be able to announce, with absolute confidence, that our 10th Anniversary programme is our most ambitious and exciting to date.

Our array of festival guests reads like a who's who of the major British comedians of the 21st century. This year our festival regulars – Barry Cryer, Graeme Garden, Bill Oddie, Tim Brooke-Taylor and Paul McGann – are joined for the first time by Harry Hill, Omid Djalili, Tim Vine and (in March) Barry Humphries.

The centrepiece for this year's Slapstick is the launch of what will be a year-long global celebration of the centenary of Charles Chaplin's character The Tramp – first seen on screen in January 1914. Chaplin's biographer David Robinson presents a visual history of the creation and evolution of this seemingly immortal and universally cherished figure. Kevin Brownlow and Andrew Kelly examine Chaplin's complex relationship to the First World War. Kate Guyonvarch vividly demonstrates the continuing relevance of Chaplin to a very young 21st century audience. And Chaplin launches the 2014 festival with CITY LIGHTS, on Friday evening at Colston Hall in an event hosted by Omid Djalili and accompanied by a live orchestra.

Slapstick continues to forge links between the great clowns of silent comedy and contemporary exponents of the comic art. This year, Barry Cryer introduces Harold Lloyd's masterpiece Safety Last, and Colin Sell

accompanies it on piano. All three Goodies join us to unveil rare Buster Keaton footage; Lucy Porter presents the wonderful Constance Talmadge to new generations and Graeme Garden celebrates the incomparable Jewish comic Max Davidson.

From the era between the golden age of silent comedy and the present we celebrate some already classic modern British film comedies – Withnail and I (1987) in the presence of two of its stars, Paul McGann & Ralph Brown, Monty Python's The Meaning of Life (1983) with Mr Creosote himself – Terry Jones and Benny Hill, revalued by comedian Tim Vine. And Bristol's own silent comedy legend, Aardman Animation's top dog, Gromit will be celebrated with some of his greatest onscreen moments.

Seventeen events packed into a non-stop three days in January, at Bristol's top venues – Watershed, Arnolfini, Colston Hall and Bristol Old Vic. And this year exceptionally the Aardman Comedy Legend Award® provides an outstanding encore for Slapstick in March, when global star Barry Humphries will accept this prestigious honour at St George's.

We eagerly look forward to seeing you at the festival, to join us in celebrating a decade of Slapstick and a century of the Tramp. There's nothing like laughter to dispel the winter gloom.

Chris Daniels
Director

THE MUSIC

Silents were never silent; accompanied by live music they offered a thrilling audio-visual experience. Slapstick has set new standards for accompaniment under the direction of Günter A. Buchwald. For this year's opening gala at Colston Hall he will conduct the 39-piece Bristol Ensemble in Chaplin's own score for his masterpiece City Lights. For the comedy shorts that night and on Saturday for Her Sister From Paris, maestro Buchwald leads

the European Silent Screen Virtuosi – with 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. To complete our world class musical team we have John Sweeney, a great virtuoso of live accompaniment, and, for the first time, Radio 4's Colin Sell.



Bristol Ensemble

Günter A. Buchwald

OUR SPECIAL GUESTS



Harry Hill



Barry Humphries CBE



Terry Jones



Omid Djalili



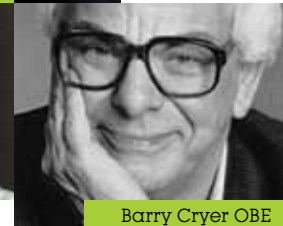
Graeme Garden OBE



Colin Sell



Tim Brooke-Taylor OBE



Barry Cryer OBE



Bill Oddie OBE



Nick Park CBE



Phill Jupitus



Paul McGann



Lucy Porter



Marcus Brigstocke



Tim Vine



Ralph Brown

Other special guests, hosts and experts include: Serge Bromberg, Chris Serle, Kevin Brownlow, David Robinson, Kate Guyonvarch, Barry Bliss, Andrew Kelly and Matthew Sweet.

TICKETS & FESTIVAL PASS

FESTIVAL VENUES: The five venues hosting Slapstick 2014 events are: Bristol Old Vic, Arnolfini, Watershed, St Georges & Colston Hall, all in Bristol's city centre. See our festival 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 or book online. Details of how to contact each box office appear on the back page with a venue map.

SAVERS & DISCOUNTS: If you're planning to attend all or most festival events, our Festival Pass is a time and money saver and can be bought from Colston Hall on www.colstonhall.org. The pass is valid for all seventeen shows including the Gala.

HOTELS: For out-of-town visitors, we've arranged some very tempting 10th anniversary offers and accommodation deals with local hotels. To check the latest offers, see our website www.slapstick.org.uk.

FESTIVAL DIARY

DATE	TIME	EVENT	VENUE
Friday 24	1415hrs	Slapstick International: The Adventures of Mr West	Arnolfini
	1600hrs	Lost Clowns: Hands Up !	Watershed
	1740hrs	A Hundred Years of The Tramp	Watershed
	1930hrs	Silent Comedy Gala with Omid Dhalili	Colston Hall
Saturday 25	1000hrs	Chaplin and The Great War	Watershed
	1130hrs	Funny ladies: Her Sister from Paris	Arnolfini
	1300hrs	BBC Radio 3 Landmark Discussion: Chaplin Special	Watershed
	1300hrs	Cinekids: Timeless Chaplin	Watershed
	1430hrs	Gromit: Silent Comedy Canine with Nick Park	Bristol Old Vic
	1630hrs	Lost Keaton Goodies	Bristol Old Vic
Sunday 26	2015hrs	The Meaning of Life Cert 15 with Terry Jones	Bristol Old Vic
	1000hrs	Lost Clowns Max Davidson's Best Comedy Shorts with Graeme Garden	Watershed
	1140hrs	Why I Love Benny Hill with Tim Vine	Watershed
	1400hrs	Harold Lloyd: Safety Last	Bristol Old Vic
	1600hrs	Harry Hill's Top Comedy Moments	Bristol Old Vic
Monday 17 March	1930hrs	Withnail & I Cert 15	Bristol Old Vic
	1930hrs	Barry Humphries: Comedy Legend	St Georges

**“It takes
courage to
make a fool
of yourself”**

Charlie Chaplin

JAN 24 | FRIDAY

JAN 24 | FRIDAY



The Extraordinary Adventures of Mister West in the Land of the Bolsheviks

**Slapstick International:
The Extraordinary Adventures
of Mister West in the Land of
the Bolsheviks (1924)**

FRI 24 JAN 1415hrs

Arnolfini £8.00/£6.50

Dir Lev Kuleshov USSR 73mins

This much neglected film from Lev Kuleshov uses slapstick comedy to expose and make fun of the wests (and specifically America's) fear of the new Communist regime. An enthusiastic supporter of the revolution he was also enamoured with America and its cinema - especially slapstick. Indeed in the early years of the revolution many looked for a future that incorporated the American way of life but with a Socialist conscience. This film in particular addresses this dream - taking a Max Sennet-like look at the fears and prejudices of the west towards this new World in the East. Introduced by Director Barry Bliss with live piano accompaniment by John Sweeney.

Lost Clowns: Raymond Griffith

With Kevin Brownlow

FRI 24 JAN 1600hrs

Watershed £8.00/£6.50

Hands Up! (1926)

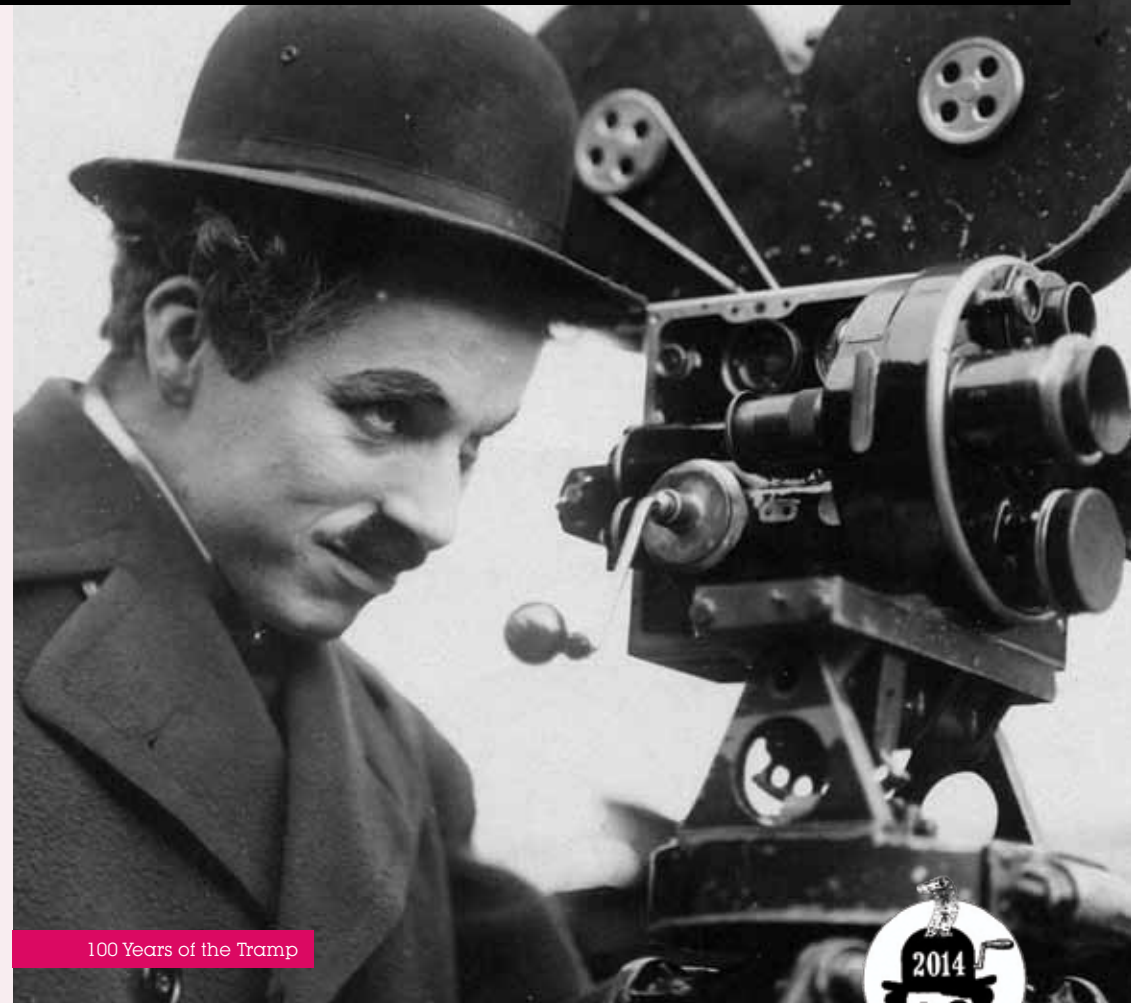
Dir: Clarence Badger US 70mins

A triumph at the 2012 edition of the Pordenone Silent Film Festival, Italy, this film stars the long-neglected silent comedian Raymond Griffith in his best and funniest surviving comedy. Set in the Civil War the film tells the story of Jack, a spy for the confederacy during the Civil war, and his efforts to capture a Union shipment of gold. Obstacles along the way include a pair of sisters, hostile Indians and a firing squad! Griffith is a silk hat comedian, a superb mime artist - best illustrated in a sequence set on a stagecoach under attack by Indians - a rare opportunity to see this unique performer in his comic masterpiece.

Introduced by film historian, film maker and Oscar winner Kevin Brownlow. Live piano accompaniment by John Sweeney.



Raymond Griffith



100 Years of the Tramp



100 Years of the Tramp

with David Robinson

FRI 24 JAN 1740hrs Watershed £8.00/£6.50

Chaplin's Tramp is the world's most universally recognized human image and has remained so for a century since he first erupted on screen in January 1914. As a prelude to the international celebrations of this centenary, David Robinson - the foremost authority on Chaplin - presents a visual survey of the Tramp's first hundred years, from the first seemingly offhand choice of costume and accessories to his final screen appearance and subsequent immortality. Including a complete screening of the first appearance of the tramp in Kid Auto Races USA (1914) 11mins Dir: Henry Lehrman.

JAN 24 | FRIDAY

JAN 25 | SATURDAY



Silent Comedy Gala with Omid Djalili ★★★★★★

Charlie Chaplin's City Lights with 39-piece orchestra (Bristol Ensemble), conducted by Günter A. Buchwald

FRI 24 JAN 1930hrs Colston Hall £23.50/£20.00/£10 under 16's

Slapstick Festival's annual celebration of the finest silent comedy returns for a 10th year with our brightest and funniest show yet. Our special guest host this year is comedian, actor and Chaplin admirer Omid Djalili.

Both deeply moving and wonderfully funny, City Lights (1931) is Chaplin's silent masterpiece – the film he dared to produce in 1931 when the 'talkies' were in full swing. His boldness produced one of the landmarks of world cinema. This is a rare opportunity to see this comedy masterpiece accompanied by Chaplin's own original score performed live by a 39 piece orchestra.

The evening also features on screen comedy genius from Laurel & Hardy in their classic comedy short Two Tars (1928); 22 minutes of pure joy in which the inimitable Stan and Ollie find themselves wreaking havoc in a huge traffic jam with hilarious consequences. This will be accompanied live by the European Silent Screen Virtuosi.

There will also be an exclusive screening of Pass the Gravy (1928). If you don't know this comedy gem, discover the rare genius of comedy master Max Davidson.

Gala ends approx 10.20pm.



Omid Djalili



Laurel & Hardy

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Chaplin and the Great War

Chaplin and the Great War

With Kevin Brownlow and Andrew Kelly

SAT 25 JAN 1000hrs

Watershed £8.00/£6.50

An extraordinary story from an extraordinary era; a young man of military age fails to answer the call to the colours in 1914. He had to return at once or be charged as a deserter. Since Chaplin was becoming the most famous man in the world, he had nowhere to hide. Fortunately, the Allies found him more useful for his astonishing effect on morale, and his equally astounding impact on raising money for the war effort. He was allowed to continue working in America, although he received white feathers and letters accusing him of cowardice. Illustrated with rare footage, including a fund-raising film with Harry Lauder which was never released.



Her Sister From Paris

Funny Ladies: Constance Talmadge Her Sister From Paris (1925)

With live musical accompaniment from The European Silent Screen Virtuosi
Introduced by comedian Lucy Porter

SAT 25 JAN 1130hrs

Arnolfini £9.00/£7.50

Dir Sidney Franklin US, 74mins

Continuing our championing of pioneering comediennes of the silent screen, Constance Talmadge stars here in a dual role: the unhappy wife (to a very young Ronald Coleman) and her vivacious sister. Terrific at 28 and at the peak of her career Talmadge was one of the funniest women on screen. Director Sidney Franklin was a man with the perfect sense of humour for her and this, their finest film together, was written by Lubitsch's scenario writer and has only recently been restored. Live accompaniment by The European Silent Screen Virtuosi and hosted by Comedian and writer Lucy Porter.



Lucy Porter

JAN 25 | SATURDAY

JAN 25 | SATURDAY

**BBC Radio 3 Landmark
Discussion: Chaplin Special**

SAT 25 JAN 1300hrs
Watershed FREE

Matthew Sweet hosts a discussion with guests at the festival about Chaplin's film City Lights and a century of The Little Tramp.

This event will be broadcast as a Landmark Discussion on BBC Radio 3 and available as a download. Supported by Watershed.

**Cinekids:
Timeless Chaplin**

SAT 25 JAN 1300hrs
Watershed £5.50/£4.00/£2.50



Introducing Chaplin to a new generation. Charlie Chaplin was sent to the Lambeth workhouse twice before the age of nine, his father was largely absent, and his mother was committed to a mental asylum. How did he become a worldwide icon? This engaging talk from Kate Guyonvarch, Director of the Chaplin office in Paris is illustrated and shows how Chaplin's childhood and teenage years made his future global career possible, and tells how he became the most famous man in the world. Plus Screening: The Adventurer (1917).



Nick Park CBE

Gromit: Silent Comedy Canine

with Nick Park CBE

SAT 25 JAN 1430hrs
Bristol Old Vic £15.00 /£8.00 under 16s

Slapstick unleashes a special tribute to Bristol's very own Oscar-winning silent comedy, charity fund-raising and sculpture trail superstar: Gromit. Gromit's creator, Nick Park CBE, talks to Radio 4's Matthew Sweet about the comedy canine's best slapstick moments, using excerpts from Gromit's globally adored animation The Wrong Trousers (1993) plus other screen outings. This family-friendly event includes a big screen showing of Gromit (and Wallace's) debut 'A Grand Day Out' (1989) and is accompanied with live improvised piano by the Slapstick festival's musical director, Günter A. Buchwald.



Lost Keaton Goodies

With Tim Brooke-Taylor, Bill Oddie, Graeme Garden & Serge Bromberg

SAT 25 JAN 1630hrs Bristol Old Vic £15.00

Tim, Bill & Graeme were one of UK's funniest and most successful TV comedy teams of the 70s. Huge admirers of Buster Keaton the boys have been inspired recently by the discovery of 6 minutes of completely lost and unseen footage from a newly discovered version of his comedy well known comedy short The Blacksmith (1922). Appearing alongside the inimitable Serge Bromberg (Lobster Films, Paris) the boys will delight audiences with the UK premiere of unseen Keaton extracts and the world premiere of The Gorilla Man (1950) in this Lobster Films/Slapstick Festival co-production. A unique event for Keaton fans everywhere.



The Goodies

JAN 25 | SATURDAY

JAN 26 | SUNDAY

Monty Python's The Meaning Of Life UK (1983)

With intro and after-show chat with Python star Terry Jones

SAT 25 JAN 2015hrs Bristol Old Vic £15.00 Cert 15

Dir: Terry Jones, 107mins

The last ever film by the Monty Python's Flying Circus team is a riot of best-loved Python moments – a genius assembly of hysterical, silly and no-cow-too-sacred sketches exploring Life - from birth to death - including one of the most memorable of the many unforgettable characters created by Terry Jones: the appallingly gluttonous Mr Creosote. This is a rare chance to watch a 20th century comedy classic on the big screen with the added bonus of director, writer, performer Terry Jones providing the introduction and then joining Chris Serle on stage for an after-film discussion.



The Meaning of Life



Terry Jones

Lost Clowns: Max Davidson's Best Comedy Shorts

With Graeme Garden

SUN 26 JAN 1000hrs Watershed £8.00/£6.50

Max Davidson (1875-1950) was a German actor who specialised in playing the henpecked Jewish family father. At the peak of his career in 1927 he was given his own series of two reeler comedies, when he was signed to the Hal Roach studios for a series of Jewish comedies which belong to the best and funniest shorts the studio ever produced. The character Davidson played was a fish out of water, struggling to adjust to mainstream America, and his comedy grew out of the gulf between his old world manners and the new world that his children were born into. Graeme Garden selects his favourite Davidson silent shorts to reveal Max at his brightest and funniest. With live piano accompaniment by Günter A. Buchwald.

Tim Vine: Why I LOVE Benny Hill

SUN 26 JAN 1130hrs Watershed £8.00/£6.50

With a long running TV career from 1950 onwards and appearances on numerous radio programmes and films, Benny Hill became one of the best known British comedians of his time. Punster and award winning stand-up comedian Tim Vine believes Hill is an underrated comedian in Britain, and he joins Slapstick to show a different side to Hill, sharing with us some of the comedians lesser known but hilariously funny work, and tell us why he loves Benny Hill!



Max Davidson



Benny Hill

JAN 26 | SUNDAY

JAN 26 | SUNDAY

Colin Sell "On the Piano"

Introduced by Barry Cryer

SUN 26 JAN 1400hrs

Bristol Old Vic £15

Safety Last (1923)

Fred Nedameyr 70mins

"Colin Sell.... on the piano" is a familiar phrase for fans of I'm Sorry I Haven't a Clue from Colin's 40yrs as the accompanist on the BBC R4 comedy show. There, he's usually only ever heard in short bursts. Here, he proves his true talent as musician, playing live to one of the very finest and funniest full length silent features – Harold Lloyd's Safety Last (featuring the famously gripping clock tower climb that was a marvel of filmmaking ingenuity in its day). With an introduction by Slapstick Festival favourite Barry Cryer. Prepare to laugh yourself silly and for thrills that will keep you on the edge of your seat!



Colin Sell and Barry Cryer

Harry Hill's Top Comedy Moments

SUN 26 JAN 1600hrs Bristol Old Vic £15

We are delighted to welcome award winning comedian Harry Hill to Slapstick Festival as he chooses his top visual comedy films in this annual Slapstick sell-out show. Showing favourite clips and discussing his comic influences, Harry will be in conversation onstage with I'm Sorry I Haven't a Clue star and Goodie Graeme Garden. A rare insight into the comic influences of the master of surrealist comedy as he reveals his top comedy moments to delight and entertain. A guaranteed highlight of the festival!



Harry Hill

JAN 26 | SUNDAY

Withnail & I (1987) UK

With Paul McGann and Ralph Brown
in conversation with Phill Jupitus

SUN 26 JAN 1930hrs Bristol Old Vic £15

Dir Bruce Robertson 107mins Cert 15

A rare insight into the making of a classic British comedy of cult status, Slapstick Festival invites Paul McGann (Marwood) and Ralph Brown (Danny) to share their memories of making the excellent and very funny Withnail & I.

Set in the sixties; the story of two down on their luck actors seeking refuge from their uneventful lives in London; taking the opportunity to escape to an uncle's cottage up north. The holiday they thought they would get turns into a weird and creepy nightmare, brilliantly told with dry wit and irony.

Join us in discovering how this excellent black comedy came about and rose to cult status with continued popularity! Paul and Ralph will be in conversation with Phill Jupitus following the screening.



Paul McGann & Ralph Brown



Phill Jupitus



Withnail & I

MARCH 27 | MONDAY

Barry Humphries: Comedy Legend

MON 27 MARCH 1930hrs St Georges £22/£15

Global star and legendary entertainer Barry Humphries will be in conversation with actor, comedian and satirist Marcus Brigstocke picking the most memorable stories from a comedy career that has spanned over five decades and created many of comedy's most famous characters including Australian Housewife Dame Edna Everage and cultural attaché Sir Les Patterson. Their chat will be illustrated with excerpts from Barry's extensive, film and TV career and Barry will be presented with The Aardman Slapstick Comedy Legend Award® fondly known as the 'golden morph' which will be given jointly by the festival and Aardman Animations. Supported by Festival of Ideas.



Dame Edna Everage

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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.

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The Festival Team

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www.arnolfini.org.uk

Colston Hall
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www.colstonhall.org

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www.watershed.co.uk

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