

WELCOME BACK TO



We're back! And proud to be hosting some of the finest and funniest silent films ever made live from Bristol's best venues. With a little help from world-class musical accompaniments and some incredible guests we are more determined than ever to bring laughter, fun and delight to audiences old and new.

We have a rich and varied programme of events for our 18th edition. Including films from the undeniable legends of classic silent comedy; Keaton, Lloyd, Laurel & Hardy, Marion Davies, Chaplin and more. As well as events celebrating the golden era of classic British TV comedy: Tim Vine Salutes Kenny Everett', 'Barry Cryer: An Audience With A Comedy Legend' plus live onstage talks and performances from master satirist Armando lanucci along with stand up comedians Arthur Smith and Richard Herring and 'Would I Lie to You?' team captain David Mitchell amongst others.

Our celebrated programme of silent comedy will delight both casual fans and aficionados alike. From Soviet comedy My Grandmother (1929) introduced by Actor Paul McGann and Czechoslovakian slapstick comedy An Old Gangster's Molls (1927) introduced by comedian Lucy Porter to a screening of the brand new documentary The Real Chaplin (2021) and Aardman Animation's Peter Lord shares his love of classic animation.

But that's not all. In addition to the above guests already mentioned we have a delightful number of returning slapstick family members, along with some new faces, all bringing their unique qualities to these events.

Writer Stephen Mangan, Actor Sally Phillips, Impressionist Ronni Ancona, the unstoppable Barry Cryer, Tim Vine, Richard Herring, Robin Ince and Andy Day all make a welcome return.

Our incomparable team of musicians return including; Stephen Horne Ensemble (SHE) and solo pianist John Sweeney.
All this accompanied with experts like David Robinson, James Curtis, Kevin Brownlow, Sian Norris, Peter Kramër, Andrew Kelly, Chris Serle and Serge Bromberg each ready to showcase their knowledge and passion.

It's the perfect antidote to the long, cold, dark January nights. Come and have a laugh! Welcome back to Slapstick!

Chris Daniels Director Slapstick Festival



A COMEDIAN
DOES FUNNY THINGS.

AGOOD COMEDIAN
DOES THINGS FUNNY. 99

BUSTER KEATON

THE MUSIC





Slapstick is always proud to present world-class live musical accompaniments for its silent comedy screenings, from solo piano improvisations to full orchestral scores and this year is no exception. Covid related travel challenges mean our long-time friends Frank Bockius and Romano Todesco of the European Silent Screen Virtuosi are unable to attend but we are delighted to welcome back the super-talented pianist John Sweeney and the much acclaimed multi-instrumentalist Stephen Horne is stepping in with his Stephen Horne Ensemble to accompany our two Gala type screenings (Divas and Gala).





BOOKING IS SIMPLE - All tickets for Slapstick 2022 can be bought from the individual box office hosting the event, except for 'Slapstick in the Cathedral' events. Tickets for these three events (Slapstick Divas, David Mitchell's Top Comedy Moments, Silent Comedy Gala) can be bought exclusively online via links on our website to Eventive. See back page for venue booking information.

FESTIVAL PASSES - If you are as passionate about slapstick and silent comedy as we are, then you might consider buying one of our festival passes to make huge savings on events. Slapstick Festival passes are available from Watershed. We have two options: the Silent Comedy Pass featuring all 17 events held from Wednesday to Sunday at Watershed and Bristol Cathedral and our - 'only the brave' - Full Pass, which includes tickets to all 26 events including the pre-festival event on 25th January.*

SILENT COMEDY PASS - £92.00 including all booking fees, with an incredible almost 50% saving on full-price tickets. Includes tickets to all events at Watershed (14) and Bristol Cathedral (2), except David Mitchell's Top Comedy Moments.

All passes now come with an exclusive collector's laminate pass.

N.B. Please note Under 24s pay the concessionary rate to all Watershed events on standard festival tickets.

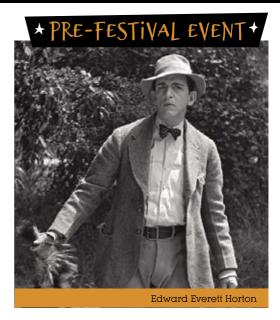
COVID STATEMENT - We can't wait to welcome you back to our festival and our venues. The Covid-19 pandemic has created uncertainty and challenging times for everyone. At Slapstick we are working through these difficulties with the safety of our audience, artists and team as our priority. It's really important that we all work together to keep our Slapstick community safe. All our events will be held in accordance with the latest government guidance on Covid -19. Some of our venues have specific entry requirements – which we will notify you of in advance. You can book safely in the knowledge that should an event have to be cancelled by Slapstick Festival due to changes in the guidance for Covid -19 you will receive a refund for the face value of your ticket.

TUES 25 JAN

Ben Model & Steve Massa Live from New York Edward Everett Horton – Silent Comedian?

TUES 25th JAN 1730hrs Watershed £4-£6.50

Edward Everett Horton is remembered today for his fussy on-screen character in Hollywood sound films such as Top Hat (1935). While never thought of as a silent slapstick comedian, he actually was! Mr Horton had a substantial career in 1920s silent comedies, culminating in eight starring two-reelers – produced by no less than Harold Lloyd. Undercrank Production's new DVD Edward Everett Horton: 8 Silent Comedies presents the whole series. This programme features three of the best – Find the King (1927), Scrambled Weddings (1928) and Dad's Choice (1928). Curated and hosted by Ben Model and silent comedy historian Steve Massa. Accompanied by Ben Model on piano.



WED 26 JAN







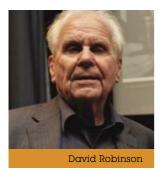
Silent Ozu: Days Of Youth (1929)

With David Robinson

WEDS 26th JAN 1030hrs Watershed £5-£8.50

Dir: Yasujirô Ozu JP 103mins U

The oldest known surviving film by legendary Japanese director Yasujirô Ozu, with a (pre recorded) introduction by film historian David Robinson. Ozu's debut feature film 'Days of Youth' is a carefree and joyful romantic comedy that follows the extravagant efforts of two men unknowingly competing for the same girl. Made in the director's student days, it is his most lighthearted film and although it's very different to his later work, a keen eye could certainly spot how this film helped shape the incredible career he had ahead of him. With live piano accompaniment by John Sweeney.





Silent Ozu: Days Of Youth

WED 26 JAN

Max Linder: Be My Wife (1921)

With Serge Bromberg

WEDS 26th JAN 1320hrs

Watershed £5-£8.50

Dir: Max Linder US 57min

Max Linder writes, directs and stars in the second of his three American films. He plays the role of 'The Fiancé' and is determined to woo his girlfriend Mary and make her his wife, but the soon-to-be aunt-in-law Agatha does not approve of Max and tries to set up Mary with another man. This love triangle comedy makes incredible use of visual and physical gags perfectly showcasing the French comic's elegant yet chaotic performance. Plus rare footage of Max and fellow actors at Goldwyn Pictures studio in 1922. With live piano accompaniment by John Sweeney along with an online introduction from silent film champion and Lobster Films co-founder Serge Bromberg.



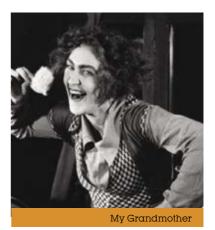
My Grandmother (1929)

With Paul McGann

WEDS 26th JAN 1530hrs Watershed £5-£8.50

Dir: Kote Mikaberidze Soviet Union 80mins

'My Grandmother' is an avant-garde gem of early Soviet Union film making, banned for almost 50 years for some not so subtle political criticism. This experimental film is an incredibly sophisticated piece of silent cinema. Following his sacking, our protagonist, a lazy pen-pusher, must seek out a benefactor, a "grandmother" in the slang of the day, and make them write a letter of recommendation for him to return to his job. Director Kote Mikaberidze has created an incredibly euphoric film, blending together animated sequences, modern editing techniques, bold satire and absurdist set designs. With a recorded introduction from actor and admirer of early Russian cinema Paul McGann. Live piano accompaniment by John Sweeney.



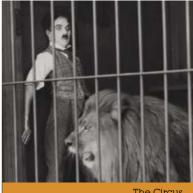
Silent Comedy Classic Chaplin: The Circus (1928)

With David Robinson

WED 26th JAN 1720hrs Watershed £5-£8.50

Dir: Charles Chaplin US 81 mins U

Charlie Chaplin once again dons his iconic 'Tramp' character in his film 'The Circus'. Released in 1928, Chaplin was already a household name and one of Hollywood's greatest stars, and his newest film would continue to cement his legacy. The iconic tightrope scene permanently etched Chaplin into the minds of everyone who saw it. Nothing can make you forget seeing Chaplin's tramp walk a tightrope with such grace, all with a group of monkeys on his back. With a recorded introduction from film historian and film director David Robinson.



The Circus

THURS 27 JAN

An Old Gangster's Molls (1927)

With Lucy Porter

THURS 27th Jan 1000hrs

Watershed £5-£8.50

Dir: Svatopluk Innemann CZ 108min U

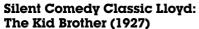
This Czechoslovakian silent comedy 'An Old Gangster Molls' stars Anny Ondra, who later became one of Hitchcock's leads in his classic silent thriller 'Blackmail' (1929). She plays alongside Czech greats like Vlasta Burian and Jan W. Speerger in this screwball comedy about a factory owner and his uncle, who swap their identities and invent incredible stories to escape marriage in this classic filled with physical comedy and exquisitely observed situational humour. With an introduction from comedian and presenter Lucy Porter and live accompaniment by John Sweeney on the piano and Frank Bockius on percussion.



With Sian Norris and Lucy Porter

THURS 27th Jan 1300hrs Watershed £5-£8.50

Lucy Porter and Sian Norris present a series of short films celebrating pioneering women in film comedy. Between 1914 and 1919, Universal Studios released 170 movies from women directors. By comparison, between 2007-2017, only 53 movies directed by women cracked the top 100 movies at the box office. Featuring films from pioneering directors Alice Guy Blache, Mabel Normand, Lois Weber and more, Lucy and Sian discuss the films, the culture of the period and take a look at women in comedy today. With live piano accompaniment by John Sweeney. Sian Norris is a writer and journalist. She is the Chief European and Social Affairs Reporter at Byline Times and her book, Birth Violence, will be published in 2022 by Verso. She is the founder of the Bristol Women's Literature Festival. Lucy Porter is a stand-up comedian, writer and actor who can often be heard on Radio 4 on 'Just a Minute', 'Quote...Unquote' and 'The Personality Test'.



With Suzanne Lloyd

THURS 27th JAN 1500hrs Watershed £5-£8.50

Dir: Ted Wilde & Harold Lloyd US 82mins U

Slapstick legend Harold Lloyd stars in one of the greatest ever silent comedies 'The Kid Brother'. Lloyd is undoubtedly an icon of the silent era, and this film is an incredible testament to his talent. Perfectly paced, it balances humour and action into a beautifully crafted story of a sheriff's timid son, someone who has a chance to prove himself when a medicine show run by con artists comes into town. With live piano accompaniment from John Sweeney. With an introduction and personal message from Suzanne Lloyd (Lloyd's granddaughter).

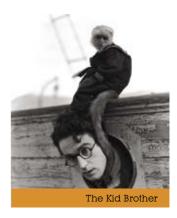


Lucy Porter



An Old Gangster Molls





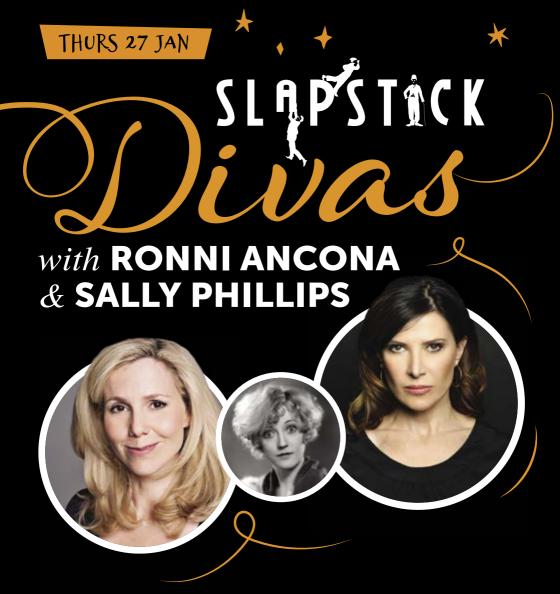
DAVID MITCHELL'S TOP COMEDY MOMENTS



THURS 27th JAN 1800hrs Bristol Cathedral £8-£22

Comedian, writer and actor David Mitchell is making his debut at Slapstick in our ever-popular Top Comedy Moments strand. During the show, David will reveal his favourite moments of on-screen comedy to his host Matthew Sweet (Free Thinking, Radio 3) and explain how they influenced his own comedy. A unique opportunity to discover what helped shape the comedic mind of the cynical yet always hilarious king of dry wit. David is known for his memorable on-screen performances, such as in Ben Elton's satirical interpretation of Shakespeare in 'Upstart Crow' and his stellar portfolio of comedy shows, including the enduring Would I Lie to You, The Mitchell and Webb Look, The Unbelievable Truth and the BAFTA-winning cult classic Peep Show. With an opportunity to ask David a question too, this is a rare chance to hear David discussing his comedy influences.





THURS 27th JAN 2030hrs Bristol Cathedral £8-£22

An evening of brilliant, rarely seen silent comedies in Bristol's magnificent cathedral as we celebrate the outstanding leading women in some of the funniest on-screen comedies from the golden age of silents. Actor and comedian Sally Phillips is joined by actor and impressionist Ronni Ancona as they host this fascinating evening celebrating three silent comedy deities. Highlights include a rare screening of SHOW PEOPLE [1928] featuring Marion Davies, the silent starlet who is still reaching new heights today as one of the stand-out characters in the recent Oscar-winning Netflix drama MANK (2020). In addition, there will be shorts starring Mabel Normand, part of the inspiration for the Tony Award-nominated musical MACK & MABEL, and by the first female director Alice Guy-Blaché. Expect an electric night of classic comedies on the big screen with a live audience, alongside live musical accompaniment from Stephen Horne Ensemble (SHE). In collaboration with Bristol Festival of Ideas.

FRi 28 JAN

W.C. Fields: Sally of the Sawdust (1924)

With Dr Harriet Fields and Chris Serle

FRI 28th JAN 1000hrs Watershed £5-£8.50

Dir: D.W Griffith US 104mins U

The irascible and immensely talented W.C Fields stars alongside silent film darling Carol Dempster as they form a sort of father/daughter relationship in 'Sally of the Sawdust'. When her circus mother dies, young Sally (Dempster) is raised by Professor McGargle (Fields), a juggler and small-time con man. McGargle trains Sally to dance for his opening act, and after their success, the pair join a carnival in this rare D.W Griffith comedy. Putting these two incredible actors together in the circus is bound to make for a great comedy. With an introduction from presenter Chris Serle and a personal message from Dr Harriet Fields (Fields' granddaughter) (Live via zoom). With live piano accompaniment by John Sweeney.

The Patsy (1928)

With Sally Phillips & Ronni Ancona

FRI 28th JAN 1300hrs Watershed £5-£8.50

Dir: King Vidor US 78min U

Following the gala screening of 'Show People' at The Cathedral, the iconic Marion Davies shines in one of the best of her many collaborations with director King Vidor. The film does not skip a beat. No scene, gag or joke is out of place in this delightful movie, which follows the trials and tribulations of an awkward teenager hopelessly in love with her elder sister's boyfriend. With live piano accompaniment by John Sweeney and introduced by Ronni Ancona and Sally Phillips.

Slapstick Conversations: Buster Keaton

With James Curtis

FRI 28th JAN 1530hrs Watershed £4-£6.50

James Curtis, admired biographer of Preston Sturges, W.C.Fields and Spencer Tracy, gives us the richest, most comprehensive life story to date of the legendary actor, stunt artist, screenwriter, director and comedic master Keaton, in his latest biography Buster Keaton: A Filmmakers' Life. Buster transformed movie-making by elevating physical comedy on film to the highest of art forms. His silent shorts and features remain as startling, innovative, and irresistible today as they were when they first beguiled audiences almost a century ago. In partnership with Festival of Ideas, Slapstick is proud to present a special 'in conversation' with James Curtis on Zoom, live from California, hosted by Bristol Ideas director Andrew Kelly. In collaboration with Bristol Festival of Ideas.





The Patsy



Conversations: Buster Keaton

FRi 28 JAN

SILENT COMEDY GALA at the Cathedral presents Buster Keaton's The Cameraman (1928)

Hosted by Stephen Mangan

FRI 28th JAN 2000hrs

Bristol Cathedral £8-£25

Step inside Bristol's spectacular Cathedral for a very special triple-bill of silent comedy classics on the big screen, accompanied by live music. Join us for an evening of live music and classic onscreen comedies in an event showcasing your alltime favourite comedy stars. Your host for the evening will be the hugely gifted actor, comedian, presenter and writer, Steven Mangan, who achieved fame through TV roles in Green Wing, Episodes, Dirk Gently and The Split (among others) and has subsequently also written a best-selling children's book, Escape The Rooms. Stephen is a huge Buster Keaton and Laurel & Hardy fan, and he can't wait to introduce Buster to new audiences at Slapstick Festival's 17th annual Silent Comedy Gala. The highlight of the evening is a complete screening of Buster Keaton's last great film, the outstanding comedy masterpiece The Cameraman (1928). Accompanied by an improvised score from Stephen Horne Ensemble (SHE), the film famously features several of the most celebrated sequences in cinema history. Other highlights include short comedies from the timeless Laurel & Hardy and thrill picture legend Harold Lloyd. This truly will be a thrill-packed evening not to be missed! Book early to avoid disappointment and get the best view in the house!



Stephen Mangan



SAT 29 JAN

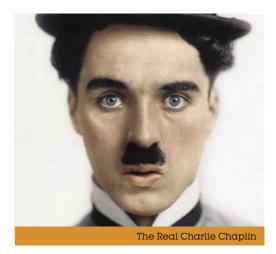
The Real Charlie Chaplin (2021)

SAT 29th JAN 0920hrs

Watershed £5-£8.50

Dir: Peter Middleton & James Spinney US 104min

We are honoured to be hosting a screening of the brand new documentary 'The Real Charlie Chaplin' fresh off its debut at The London Film festival. A look at the life and work of the one and only Charlie Chaplin in his own words, featuring an in-depth interview he gave to Life Magazine in 1966. With unprecedented access to archive footage, as well as talking heads from surviving family members, this documentary reveals never-before-seen insights into the Hollywood star. Introduced by the film's directors Peter Middleton and James Spinney. Followed by a Q&A.





SAT 29 JAN

The Goodies Forever

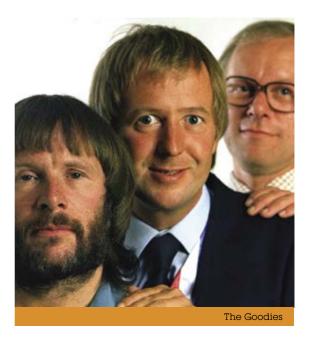
With Robin Ince & Friends

SAT 29th Jan 1420hrs

Watershed £5-£8.50

In 2020 Tim, Bill and Graeme attended a special 50th anniversary event at Slapstick celebrating The Goodies onstage with Robin ince. As Bill Oddie is now sadly unable to make Slapstick 2022 due to complications related to covid, Robin Ince, comedian and host of infinite monkey cage, will be celebrating the work of those 'Super Chaps Three' The Goodies by hosting a celebration of their best moments onscreen.

Robin has reached out to fellow comedians, writers and friends and asked them to record an onscreen introduction to their favourite moment from The Goodies. Watch out for Tim Vine, Richard Herring, Harry Hill and a plethora of other surprise celebrity fans as they choose their favourite moments from the classic ty series.



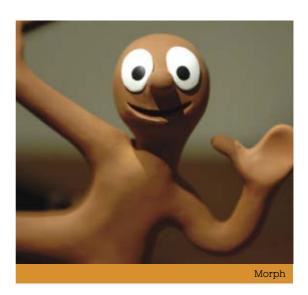
SUN 30 JAN

Animation Fanatic

With Peter Lord

SUN 30th JAN 0930hrs Watershed £5-£8.50

Peter Lord (co-founder of Aardman Animations) has a passion for early animation, both stop motion and classical drawing. Here he celebrates the unique blend of surrealism and visual comedy that animation does best, showing clips from the weird and wonderful work of Ladislas Starevich right through to the classic slapstick of the Golden Years. This cornucopia of animated delights will dazzle and charm, with the opportunity to learn from the perspective of a animator/director as well as his experience as animation fanatic.



SUN 30 JAN

Richard Herring: The Sunday Chat

With Jon Culshaw

SUN 30th JAN 1200hrs St George's Bristol £10-£20

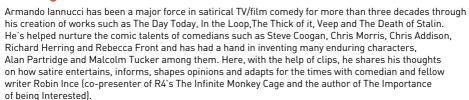
Join comedian and writer Richard Herring as he turns the interviewing skills honed on his award-winning podcast to quiz the latest in a line-up of celebrity guests. His special Slapstick Festival guest is the hilarious award-winning comedian, actor and impressionist Jon Culshaw. Jon is best known for being a star of The Impressions Show and Dead Ringers along with lending his many voices to shows such as Spitting Image and ITV sketch show Newzoids. Richard pulls no punches in his interviews, frequently prying the most hilarious, original and surprising stories from his guests, and we expect nothing less when he sits down with Jon to discuss his life and career.

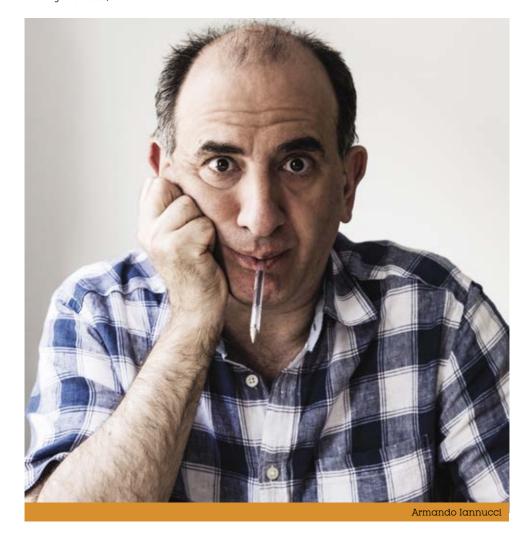


SUN 30 JAN



SUN 30th JAN 1430hrs St George's Bristol £10-£20







SUN 27 MARCH

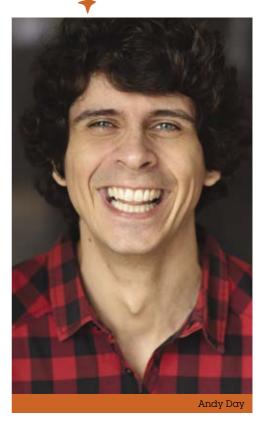
Slapstick Kids: Paddington

Introduced by Andy Day

SUN 27th MARCH 1230hrs **Redarave Theatre** £10 Adults £5 - Under 16

Dir: Paul King UK 95mins

A rare chance to see the BAFTA award-winning and much celebrated first outing of Michael Bond's beloved bear's transition to the big screen. Slapstick's special one-off screening is an occasion for the whole family. With an introduction from one of UK's best-loved CBeebies presenters Andy Day. Paul King, director of Paddington, has cited Buster Keaton and Charlie Chaplin as being huge influences on Paddington's character and transition to the big screen, and at Slapstick, we can only applaud that. Upon release the film received showers of praise, living up to the reputation of the classic kids' story. It stays true to the original, and beautifully depicts the comic misadventures of a young Peruvian bear who travels to London in search of a home. Finding himself lost and alone in the middle of Paddington station, he begins to worry that city life is not all he had imagined. But his luck changes when he meets the kindly Brown family, who offer him a temporary haven. Paddington then starts to rather enjoy life in London, that is until a museum taxidermist gets sight of him...We will also be handing out a special complimentary Paddington Pack for every young person, which includes a Marmalade sandwich, of course! This is fun-packed family entertainment not to be missed.









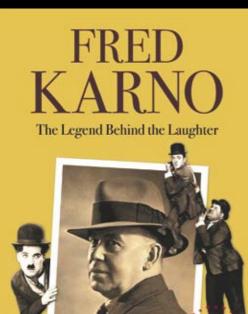
Following his recent successful outing performing in homage to one of his great musical favourites – Elvis Presley (in the guise of Plastic Elvis) Tim returns to Slapstick Festival to champion one of his great comedy heroes, Kenny Everett. A renowned and revered DJ, Kenny exploded onto our small screens in 1981 with his wonderful Kenny Everett Video Show (1981–88). The series was an instant hit utilising Kenny's innovative jingles, multi-track recordings and groundbreaking comedy sketches. Scripted by Barry Cryer and Ray Cameron, the show had an intentionally anarchic and unpredictable live broadcast feel which all contributed to its popularity and legacy. Tim shares his passion for Kenny with a series of extracts and a brief onstage appearance from none other than the legendary Barry Cryer.

LEE MACK'S DESERT ISLAND COMEDY FLICKS



Lee Mack teams up with Slapstick Festival as part of our Slapstick Sunday's series of events at the Redgrave Theatre this March. The prolific actor, writer and comedian, best known for his appearances in his award-winning long running sit-com 'Not Going Out' and as team captain in 'Would I Lie To You?' discusses the comedy feature films he would choose if he was stranded on a desert island but could only bring 10 films with him. Followed by a Q&A.





DAVID CRUMP

Foreword by David Robinson

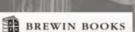
ZING, DEFINITIVE MASTERWORK DAVID ROBINSON SMENT HEM BUFF WWW LOVEREADING COUK

OUT NOW!

Available from bookstores and online signed copies available direct from the author at www.fredkarno.com

"Fred Karno didn't teach Charlie Chaplin and me all we know about comedy - he just taught us most of it" - Stan Laurel





A BIG thank you to all our supporters!

Who give their time and share their passion for silent, visual and classic comedy.

Sponsors











Venue Partners







Partners & Supporters

























The Festival Team

Patrons: Kevin Brownlow, Graeme Garden OBE, Peter Lord CBE, Matt Lucas, Rob Brydon MBE, Bernie Clifton, Barry Humphries CBE. Paul McGann, David Robinson, Marcus Brigstocke, David Sproxton CBE, Barry Cryer OBE, Sir Michael Palin Nick Park CBE, Ian Lavender, Bill Oddie OBE, Dr Harriet Fields

Festival Advisory Board: Graeme Garden, David Sproxton, David Robinson, Imogen Sutton, Lucy Porter, Dr Jo Daniels, Sue Lion, Steven Coombe, Chris Kidd, Chris Daniels

Festival Director: Chris Daniels

Festival Producer: Jacqui Ham

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Website: Web Design City

Press & PR: Pam Beddard

Design & Branding: Limepark Studios

Advertising: Piers Martens, MW Coms

Branding: Danny Heffer

Filming Team and Editing:

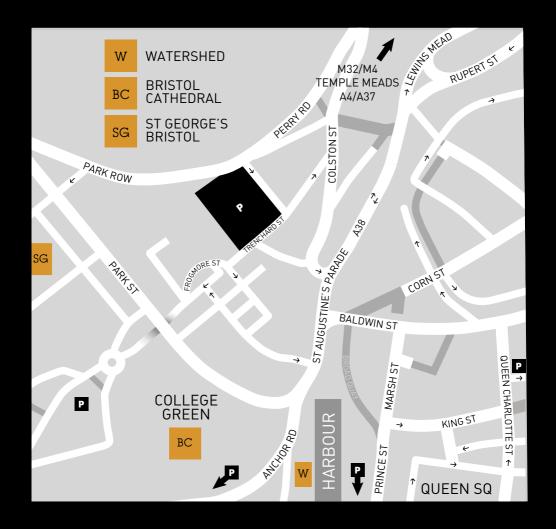
Aardman Machine Room, UWE.

Trailer: Skylark Media

Idebt: Bram Twheam (Aardman Animations)

Advisors: Michael Daniels, Andrew Kelly

And all of our fantastic volunteers!



Venues: Ticket Information

Watershed, 1 Canons Road, Bristol, BS1 5TX 0117 927 5100 | watershed.co.uk

Bristol Cathedral, College Green, BS1 5TJ Tickets via Watershed Box Office

St George's Bristol, Great George St, Bristol BS1 5RR 0845 402 4001 | stgeorgesbristol.co.uk

Redgrave Theatre, Percival Road, Bristol BS8 3LE 0117 315 7602 | redgravetheatre.com









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