



# FESTIVAL

14-19 FEB 2023



# SLAPSTICK 2023

Music has been a key ingredient of every Slapstick since the festival began. But for our 19th annual edition, we're giving it extra special attention. As well as live accompaniments to all our silent films, we're celebrating some of the many marriages between comedy and music, including via classic mockumentaries, Beatles revelations and family-friendly movies filled with hit songs.

Alongside the musical comedy thread, there's another - eight event strand saluting the comic legacy of Sir Michael Palin & Monty Python's Flying Circus, including solo projects by and nods to the people they influenced. Sir Michael Palin our 2023 guest curator, (who will be 80 in May) will be joining us in person for 2 events, and introducing a selection of his favourite starring and non-starring films on video.

National treasure Sir Michael will not, of course, be our only special guest. Others in the live line-up include Rob Brydon, Graeme Garden, Harry Hill, Peter Lord, Alex Lovell, Griff Rhys Jones, Stephen Merchant, Nigel Planer, Lucy Porter, Peter Richardson, Paul McGann and all three members of *The Scaffold*.

As ever, much of the programme is dedicated to silent film comedy, its stars and innovators, with many of the films rare to see, recently rediscovered

&/or newly restored. With this, we are delighted to be welcoming some of the finest champions of cinema and comedy's history, among them the Oscar-winning Kevin Brownlow, Oliver Double, Polly Rose and Steve Massa/Ben Model.

None of this would be possible without the kind support of our major sponsors (**Aardman Animations and the BFI**, awarding funds from the National Lottery); the many supporters who offer help in cash or in-kind (see inside back cover) and the festival's volunteers, advisers, venues and crews.

Look for the following symbols to find the glorious events in these three themes:

## MUSIC IN COMEDY



## PYTHON & PALIN



## SILENT COMEDY



But what matters is the joy everyone gets from experiencing stellar comedy as it was made to be seen - on a big screen, amid an audience, all laughing together. So please do join us and let the laughter begin.

Chris Daniels  
Director  
Slapstick Festival

## MOVING FORWARD...

Most of the films Slapstick screen were made 50 or more years ago. As a result, some reflect attitudes/behaviours/laws/language considered unremarkable at the time but are much less acceptable today. Please be assured there is no wish to offend, but the alternative is to lose the lessons our historic content provides on the development of cinema and how society/comedy changes and the chance to discuss these matters in a friendly setting. In future, we will proceed any programme that may contain such content with a title card that reads:

This film has outdated attitudes, language and cultural depictions which may offend a contemporary audience.

## DEDICATIONS

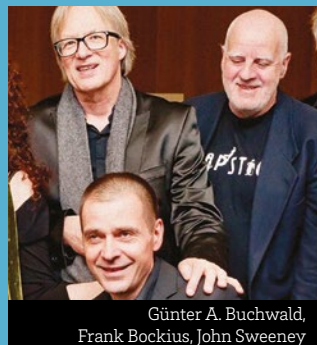
We dedicate this festival to the memory of our comedy comrades, film collector and contributor to Slapstick Festival, **David Wyatt** and **John Short**, Slapstick megafan, supporter. and autograph collector.

# THE MUSIC

Slapstick is always proud to present world-class live musical accompaniments for its silent comedy screenings, from solo improvisations to orchestral scores. In 2023 we celebrate the return of our long-time musical friends Günter A. Buchwald, Frank Bockius and John Sweeney, along with (in April) the Stephen Horne Ensemble and (to be announced) a series of events with Meg Morley on piano.



Meg Morley



Günter A. Buchwald,  
Frank Bockius, John Sweeney

**BOOKING IS SIMPLE** - All tickets for Slapstick 2023 can be bought from the individual box office hosting the event with the exception of events being held at The Former Bristol Imax Cinema, Bristol Aquarium. These nine events can be bought via [www.slapstick.org.uk](http://www.slapstick.org.uk) See the back page for booking information.

**LIMITED FESTIVAL PASSES** - If you are as passionate about slapstick and silent comedy as we are then you might consider buying one of our two festival passes to make huge savings on events. **Passes are limited in number and usually sell out, so do book early to avoid disappointment.**

**SILENT COMEDY PASS** - £82.00 including booking fees. 15 Events package featuring all 12 events held at Watershed along with Onscreen Wonder Women, Silent Comedy Gala and Harold Lloyd in Speedy at the former Bristol Imax. Only £82.00, with an incredible almost 50% saving on full price tickets.

**SLAPSTICK FULL PASS** - £225.00 including booking fees. Tickets to 31 events. All of the above PLUS all remaining tickets for the 16 additional events held between 14-19th February with an almost 50% savings on full price tickets \*\* Pass does not include tickets to Ode to Joyce as this clashes with our screening of Hard Day's Night at Bristol Old Vic.

**ALL PASSES COME WITH AN EXCLUSIVE COLLECTORS SLAPSTICK LAMINATE PASS.**

★ LIMITED ★  
★ AVAILABILITY ★



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

See back page for booking information

# FESTIVAL DIARY

## FEB 14 | TUESDAY

- 1400hrs Chitty Chitty Bang Bang **U** Bristol Aquarium  
2000hrs Some Like It Hot **12** Bristol Aquarium

## FEB 15 | WEDNESDAY

- 1030hrs Mary Poppins **U** Bristol Aquarium  
1400hrs The Cigarette Girl Of Mosselprom [1924] **12** Watershed  
1615hrs Fred Karno: The Legend Behind The Laughter Watershed  
1800hrs On-Screen Wonder Women **12** Watershed  
2030hrs This Is Spinal Tap **15** Bristol Aquarium

## FEB 16 | THURSDAY

- 0930hrs East Of Ipswich [1987] **12** Watershed  
1140hrs Charlie's London: A Success Story Watershed  
1330hrs I Kiss Your Hand, Madam [1929] **PG** Watershed  
1530hrs Live From New York - With Steve Massa & Ben Model **PG** Watershed  
1730hrs Monty Python & The Holy Grail **12A** Bristol Aquarium  
2030hrs Silent Comedy Gala Special (1924) - Buster Keaton At The Double! **U** Bristol Aquarium

## FEB 17 | FRIDAY

- 0930hrs A Private Function [1984] **15** Watershed  
1145hrs Raymond Griffith - Re-Mastered, You'd Be Surprised [1926] **PG** Watershed  
1340hrs Harry Langdon: Tramp, Tramp, Tramp [1926] **U** Watershed  
1530hrs A Violin Over The Head: Slapstick Music in Variety Theatre Watershed  
1800hrs Archive Screening: The Scaffold Live at Talk Of The Town [1969] **12** Bristol Aquarium  
2030hrs Harold Lloyd in Speedy **U** Bristol Aquarium

## FEB 18 | SATURDAY

- 0930hrs The Extraordinary World of Charley Bowers Watershed  
1200hrs Harry Hill - Breaking the Silence **12** St George's  
1430hrs The Comic Strip Presents: More Bad News **15** St George's  
1730hrs Comic Strip Stories St George's  
2030hrs The Scaffold - A Celebration with Harry Hill St George's

## FEB 19 | SUNDAY

- 0930hrs The Rutles: All You Need is Cash [1978] **12** Watershed  
1130hrs Ode To Joyce: A One-Woman Homage to Joyce Grenfell BOV Weston Studio  
1200hrs The Beatles On-Screen: A Hard Day's Night [1964] **PG** Bristol Old Vic  
1400hrs Monty Python's Book Shambles BOV Weston Studio  
1500hrs Griff Rhys Jones: Why I Still Love Laurel & Hardy Bristol Old Vic  
1730hrs Monty Python's Life Of Brian [1979] **12A** Bristol Old Vic  
1930hrs The Good Listening to Show with Robin Ince BOV Weston Studio  
2030hrs Michael Palin: Beyond Python with Rob Brydon Bristol Old Vic

## APRIL 1 | SATURDAY

- 2000hrs Centenary Celebration: Harold Lloyd in Safety Last! **PG** St George's

**FEB 14** | TUESDAY



## **Chitty Chitty Bang Bang**

**TUES 14 FEB 1400hrs**

**The Former Bristol Imax Cinema,  
Bristol Aquarium**

**£10 adults / £5 under 16**

Dir: Ken Hughes (1968) UK,  
144 mins, cert U

Slapstick 2023 launches its festival-wide salute to comedy and music with a family-friendly screening of the fantasy adventure centred on a magical car. Taking inspiration from a novel by James Bond creator Ian Fleming, Chitty Chitty Bang Bang was co-scripted by Roald Dahl and features a dozen songs from the Oscar-winning Sherman Brothers and stars lifelong Charlie Chaplin, Stan Laurel and Buster Keaton fan Dick Van Dyke. As an added treat for ticket holders, a replica of the car, as seen on Strictly Come Dancing and the 50th Anniversary celebrations at Pinewood Studios, will be in Millennium Square for selfies from 12 midday on the 14th Feb. Event running time approx 3 hours, including an interval.



Chitty Chitty Bang Bang

## **Some Like It Hot**

**TUES 14 FEB 2000hrs**

**The Former Bristol Imax Cinema, Bristol Aquarium**

**£12 / £8 concs**

Dir: Billy Wilder (1959) USA, 121 mins, cert 12

Voted the all-time best comedy film in a BBC poll of reviewers in 52 countries and a triple Oscar and Golden Globes winner. Tony Curtis and Jack Lemmon portray musicians who escape Chicago mobsters by posing as women and joining a Florida-bound all-girl band in which the singer/ukulele player is Marilyn Monroe. Join us, on Valentine's day, for this romantic evening of classic comedy. With a special pre-screening musical intro by dazzlingly drag queen Cynthia Road. Event running time approx 2 hrs 10 mins.



Some Like It Hot

See back page for booking information

## Mary Poppins

WEDS 15 FEB 1030hrs

The Former Bristol Imax Cinema,  
Bristol Aquarium £10 adults / £5 under 16

Dir: Robert Stevenson, 1964, USA, 139 mins, cert U

It's not surprising Walt Disney considered this film the crowning achievement of his long career - it won his studio a record 13 Oscar nominations and five wins, including for best songs. It is also where Dame Julie Andrews makes her Hollywood debut, portraying the nanny with magical powers in a star-studded cast headed by Dick van Dyke. Whether you're seeing it for the first time or as a nostalgic reminder of your childhood, this is an event that will ensure it's a happy (half-term) holiday for all ages.

Event running time approx 2 hrs 30 mins.



Mary Poppins

## The Cigarette Girl Of Mosselprom [1924]

Hosted by Lucy Porter

WEDS 15 FEB 1400hrs Watershed £8.50 / £5

Dir: Yuri Zhelyabuzhsky, Soviet Union, 78 mins, cert 12

In stark contrast to most films made immediately after the Russian Revolution, this is an endearing rom-com filled with likeable characters and some self-effacing insights into the filmmaking process. At the centre of it all is cigarette seller Zina (played by the future Cannes award-winning director Yuliya Solntseva) and the love tangles that surround her when she is talent-spotted to become an actress. With an introduction from stand-up comedian and actor Lucy Porter and live piano accompaniment by John Sweeney.

Event running time approx 1 hr 30 mins.



The Cigarette Girl Of Mosselprom

## Fred Karno: The Legend Behind The Laughter

WEDS 15 FEB 1615hrs Watershed £8.50 / £5

Dir: Robert Stevenson, 1964, USA, 139 mins, cert U

Without the wit, grit and creativity of Exeter-born Fred Karno, the Slapstick Festival itself might not exist. Karno was the acrobat, gag deviser and impresario who recruited and trained many of the physical performers who gave Hollywood its slapstick comedy stars, such as Charlie Chaplin, Stan Laurel and Will Hay. The festival is delighted, therefore, to host an illustrated conversation between Andrew Kelly (Bristol ideas) and David Crump - author of a definitive new biography of the man whose mantra "If in doubt, fall on your arse" influences so many of the entertainers Slapstick celebrates. In partnership with Bristol Ideas.

Event running time approx 1 hr 15 mins.



Fred Karno

**FEB 15** | WEDNESDAY

## On-Screen Wonder Women

Hosted by Lucy Porter & Jane Duffus

**WEDS 15 FEB 1800hrs**

**Watershed £10 / £6**

Comedian and Slapstick favourite Lucy Porter and Jane Duffus, author of the *What The Frock Book of Funny Women*, present and discuss their picks from a new collection of rarely-seen silent comedy films in collaboration with Kino Lober. The films, made between 1898 to 1926, feature slapstick high jinks, swipes at authority, gender swaps, feminist protests, and rebellions against the behaviour generally expected or demanded of women in those times. The collection is drawn from international film archives. See the festival website for film titles. With live piano accompaniment from John Sweeney. In partnership with Bristol Ideas. Event running time 80 mins.



Wonder Women



Lucy Porter

See back page for booking information

## This Is Spinal Tap

With specially recorded introductions from one of the film's stars and Sir Michael Palin

**WEDS 15 FEB 2030hrs The Former Imax Cinema, Bristol Aquarium £15 / £10**

Dir: Rob Reiner, USA (1984) 82 mins, cert 15

Included in the Slapstick 2023 line-up at the express request of guest curator Sir Michael Palin, who chose it as his favourite film comedy, Rob Reiner's 11 out of 10 deserving mockumentary is a scathing lampoon of every heavy metal band that's ever taken itself too seriously and of rock music documentaries in general. With a sequel reportedly on the way (with Reiner again in charge and Christopher Guest, Michael McKean and Harry Shearer reprising their characters), there's no better time to revel in this big-screen outing of a film hailed by Rotten Tomatoes critics as "Smartly directed, brilliantly acted, and packed with endlessly quotable moments... an all-time comedy classic."

Event running time approx 1 hr 30 mins.





## East Of Ipswich [1987]

With a specially recorded introduction from Sir Michael Palin

**THURS 16 FEB 0930hrs Watershed £8.50 / £5**

Dir: Tristram Powell, UK, 75 mins, cert 12

A comedy coming-of-age film, scripted by Michael Palin for BBC 2's Screen Two series and inspired in part by his family holiday to a sleepy seaside resort in 1959, during which he first met his future wife. Described by many as an overlooked gem and by Sir Michael as his "happiest creative project". The plot brings together a formidable guest house landlady (Joan Sanderson); parents bewildered by changing attitudes and teenage hormones (Pat Heywood/ John Nettleton), a clergyman running a youth mission, a fanciable neighbour, a new friend preoccupied with girls and an unexpectedly liberated Dutch girl. Introduced by Andrew Kelly and in collaboration with Bristol Ideas.

Event running time approx 1 hr 20 mins.



## Charlie's London: A Success Story

**THURS 16 FEB 1140hrs Watershed £6 / £4.50**

Join Ayşe Behçet for insights into how the discovery that she, her mother and grandmother were all born in the same part of London as Charlie Chaplin led to her becoming an internationally respected authority on the star's early years, a blogger with many thousands of social media followers and to gaining enough support from crowd-funders to publish Charlie's London: From East Lane to the Limelight - a Chaplin Estate-blessed biography in full-colour graphic comic format. In conversation with Andrew Kelly (Bristol Ideas) and in partnership with Bristol Ideas. Followed by a book signing with Ayse and illustrator Karl Stephan.

Event running time approx 1 hr.



## I Kiss Your Hand, Madam (Ich Küsse Ihre Hand, Madame) [1929]

With an introduction by Kevin Brownlow

**THURS 16 FEB 1330hrs Watershed £8.50 / £5**

Dir: Richard Land, Germany, 66 mins, cert PG

A rare chance to see Marlene Dietrich in one of the last films she made in Germany before she was spotted by actor/director Josef von Sternberg and taken to the States to star as Lola in THE BLUE ANGEL, thus beginning her stratospheric Hollywood career. In this, her only silent comedy, she plays a new divorcee who pins her hopes on a future with a rich Russian count, disbelieving her ex's claims that the man is penniless and working as a waiter. German intertitles with English translation. With live piano accompaniment by John Sweeney and an introduction from film historian Kevin Brownlow. Event running time approx 1 hr 15 mins. With special thanks to Andrea Maguire for the intertitle translation.



East Of Ipswich



I Kiss Your Hand, Madam



Charlie's London: A Success Story

**Live From New York -  
With Steve Massa & Ben Model  
Raymond Griffith in Paths To Paradise [1925]**

THURS 16 FEB 1530hrs Watershed £8.50 / £5

Dir: Clarence Badger, USA, 67 mins, cert PG

Considered to be one of Raymond Griffith's finest on-screen comedy performances. A recent crowd-funded restoration of this comedy crime thriller starring the under-appreciated silent star failed to unearth the final reel of this film, which remains lost. But fear not. The USA-based silent film champions Steve Massa and Ben Model have a cunning plan to fill in the gap! Event running time approx 1 hr 25 mins.



Paths To Paradise

**Monty Python & The Holy Grail**

With specially recorded introductions from Sir Michael Palin & John Cleese

THURS 16 FEB 1730hrs The Former Imax Cinema, Bristol Aquarium £15 / £10

Dir: Terry Gilliam/ Terry Jones (1975), UK, 91 mins, cert 12A

A big screen showing of the Flying Circus squad's first 'proper' feature kicks off our series of 'Palin & Python' events. A silly, ingeniously funny and visually lovely skewing of the Arthurian legend. One count says it contains 527 jokes, or roughly one every 10 seconds, guaranteeing it a top 10 place in numerous all-time best comedy film lists. Michael Palin, now a real knight, plays the most roles - 12 - and Sir Not-To-Be-Seen-In-This-Film is his then infant son, William. A cult comedy classic.

Event running time approx 1 hr 40 mins.



Monty Python & The Holy Grail

**FEB 16** | THURSDAY



**SILENT COMEDY GALA SPECIAL**

**1924 - Buster Keaton At The Double!**

Special guest hosts: Graeme Garden and Polly Rose

**THURS 16 FEB 2030hrs**

**The Former Bristol Imax Cinema, Bristol Aquarium  
£22 / £18 / £10 under 16**

The Navigator: Donald Crisp & Buster

Keaton USA (1924), 59 mins, cert U

Sherlock Jr: Dir Buster Keaton, USA 45 mins, cert U

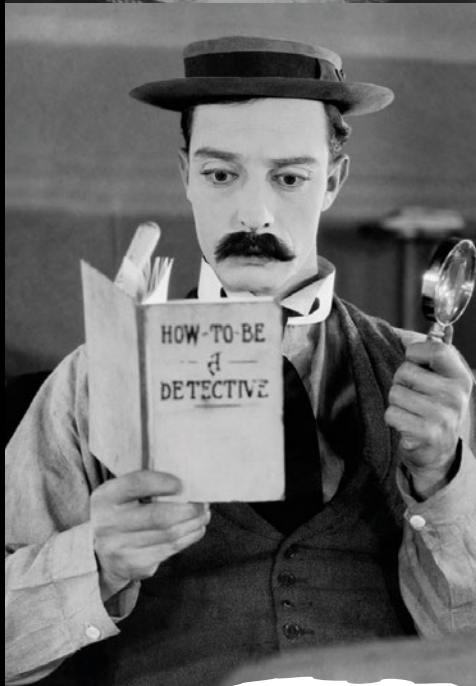
This event's title reflects that Keaton was, quite literally, working at a breakneck pace in 1924, beginning work on THE NAVIGATOR within weeks of fracturing his neck in one of the many daring stunts featured in the ingenious SHERLOCK JR. Seen as a double bill, they underscore Buster's extraordinary range as an actor.

Keaton superfans, Goodie and I'm Sorry I Haven't A Clue star Graeme Garden and filmmaker/ PhD researcher Polly Rose, introduce two of their favourite silent star's best-loved and most acclaimed comedies, with live musical accompaniment from the Ensemble ImproCinema, featuring Slapstick's musical director Günter A. Buchwald and on percussion Frank Bockius. Book now to enjoy two titles, both deservedly included in the American Film Institute's list of the 100 Funniest Movies of All Time.

In partnership with Bristol Ideas.

Event running time approx 2 hrs 30 mins, including interval.

Please Note: This event may be over-run!



Graeme Garden



See back page for booking information

## A Private Function [1984]

With a specially recorded introduction from Sir Michael Palin  
**FRI 17 FEB 0930hrs Watershed £8.50 / £5**  
 Dir: Malcolm Mowbray, UK, 92 mins, cert 15

Slapstick's 80th birthday salute to comedy legend Sir Michael Palin continues with some of his personal favourite starring films. This big screen showing of an Alan Bennett scripted comedy is set in Yorkshire in 1947, when post-WW2 Britain was still experiencing strict meat rationing. Local bigwigs are planning a feast to celebrate the upcoming wedding of Princess Elizabeth and Prince Philip. Betty, a secretly-raised pig, is destined to be the meal's main course. But the plans go awry when Betty is stolen, inspiring deeds and dialogue reminiscent of an Ealing Comedy. A deserved winner of multiple awards with an exceptional cast headed by Sir Michael, Dame Maggie Smith and Denholm Elliott. Event running time 1 hr 35 mins.



A Private Function

## Raymond Griffith - Re-Mastered You'd Be Surprised [1926]

Introduction by Kevin Brownlow  
**FRI 17 FEB 1145hrs Watershed £8.50 / £5**  
 Dir: Arthur Rosson, USA, 65 mins, cert PG

Newly restored and re-issued on DVD/Blu-Ray thanks to a successful crowd-funding campaign from Ben Model. In a companion to our Live From New York event, the Oscar-winning director, film historian and silent film champion Kevin Brownlow introduces another Raymond Griffith crime caper. YOU'D BE SURPRISED, featuring intertitles by the humourist Robert Benchley of Algonquin Round Table fame. It provoked mixed reactions. A contemporary critic described it as "One of the very best or very worst comedies I ever saw" but when shown recently at Cinecon, Hollywood, it was judged the undisputed hit of the weekend. With live piano accompaniment from John Sweeney. Event running time approx 1 hr 15 mins.



You'd be Surprised

## Harry Langdon: Tramp, Tramp, Tramp [1926]

Introduction by Kevin Brownlow  
**Fri 17 FEB 1340hrs Watershed £8.50 / £5**  
 Dir: Harry Edwards, USA, 62 mins, cert U

Made when Harry Langdon was still developing his man-child character with a young scriptwriter called Frank Capra and featuring Joan Crawford in one of her earliest starring roles, this is the story of a poor boy who enters a gruelling cross-country hike in the hope of winning enough prize money to secure the love of a pin-up. A rare chance to see 'the fourth genius' of silent cinema with an introduction from Langdon admirer Kevin Brownlow and live piano accompaniment from John Sweeney. Event running time approx 1 hr 10 mins.



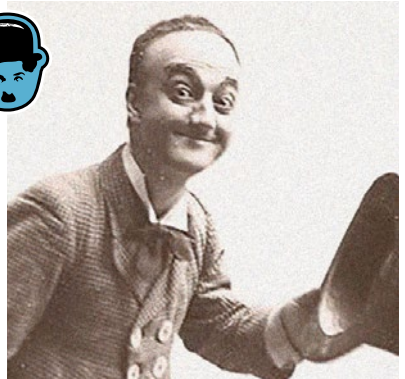
Tramp, Tramp, Tramp

**A Violin Over The Head:  
Slapstick Music in Variety Theatre**

With Oliver Double

**FRI 17 FEB 1530hrs Watershed £8.50 / £5**

Slapstick comedy and music often collided in the world of variety theatre. Here, Oliver Double introduces a dazzling array of historic footage featuring routines by some of the comedians, singers, dancers and spesh acts who mixed melody and pratfalls. Performers you'll meet include Stanelli and his Hornchestra, Little Tich, the Bill Hall Trio, Lily Morris, and Wilson, Keppel & Betty. Also featured are Manley & Austin, whose knockabout routine starts with Florence Austin smashing her violin over her husband's head. Oliver Double is Head of Comedy and Popular Performance at the University of Kent. Event running time approx 1 hr 20 mins.



Little Tich

**Archive Screening:  
The Scaffold Live at Talk Of The Town [1969]**

**FRI 17 FEB 1800hrs The Former Imax Cinema, Bristol Aquarium £10 / £8 cert 12**

An archive special event, as a curtain-raiser to our special reunion event on Saturday. Be among the first to view one of the latest finds by TV archaeologist Philip Morris - a live BBC recording of a show combining comedy, pop music and poetry by the 1960s Liverpool band The Scaffold, filmed live just weeks after the trio scored a global hit with Lily The Pink, yet long believed wiped and unseen for 50 years. This is a rare opportunity to watch the legendary "Scaffs" at the peak of their creative powers. With a post-screening chat with members of The Scaffold hosted by Andrew Kelly. In partnership with Bristol Ideas. Event running time approx 1 hr 20 mins.



The Scaffold



**SILENT COMEDY CLASSIC  
WITH LIVE MUSIC**



**Harold Lloyd in Speedy**

Hosted by Kevin Brownlow

**FRI 17 FEB 2030hrs**

**The Former Bristol Imax Cinema, Bristol Aquarium  
£18.50 / £15.50 / £10 under 16**

Dir: Ted Wilde, USA, 85 mins, cert U

Harold Lloyd's last great silent masterpiece. Journey back in time to 1920s New York via this Oscar-nominated comedy starring Harold Lloyd as he embarks on a David v Goliath battle to save the city's last horse-drawn streetcar, operated by the father of his sweetheart (Ann Christy). Includes a cameo by baseball legend Babe Ruth, evocative scenes shot at Coney Island and - pay attention - the first known use of the middle finger gesture, later banned under Hays Code rules. With an introduction from the veteran filmmaker and historian Kevin Brownlow and live music from the peerless Ensemble ImproCinema. Event running time approx 1 hr 35 mins.



Kevin Brownlow



**FEB 18** | SATURDAY

## The Extraordinary World of Charley Bowers

With Peter Lord

**SAT 18 FEB 0930hrs Watershed £8.50 / £5**

Even heroes have heroes and for the internationally-admired animator, director, producer and Aardman Animations co-founder Peter Lord, one is Charles R (Charley) Bowers (1877 - 1946) - not only an accomplished cartoonist, creator of hundreds of the Mutt & Jeff animations beloved by audiences in the 1920s and a popular comedy actor, but also the inventor of a process enabling him to insert jaw-dropping stop-motion-based special effects into live action sequences. Join Slapstick regular Pete as he hosts this event celebrating Bowers' extraordinary life and work, along with some of his favourite shorts and clips - all with live musical accompaniment from Günter A. Buchwald. Event running time approx 1 hr 20 mins.



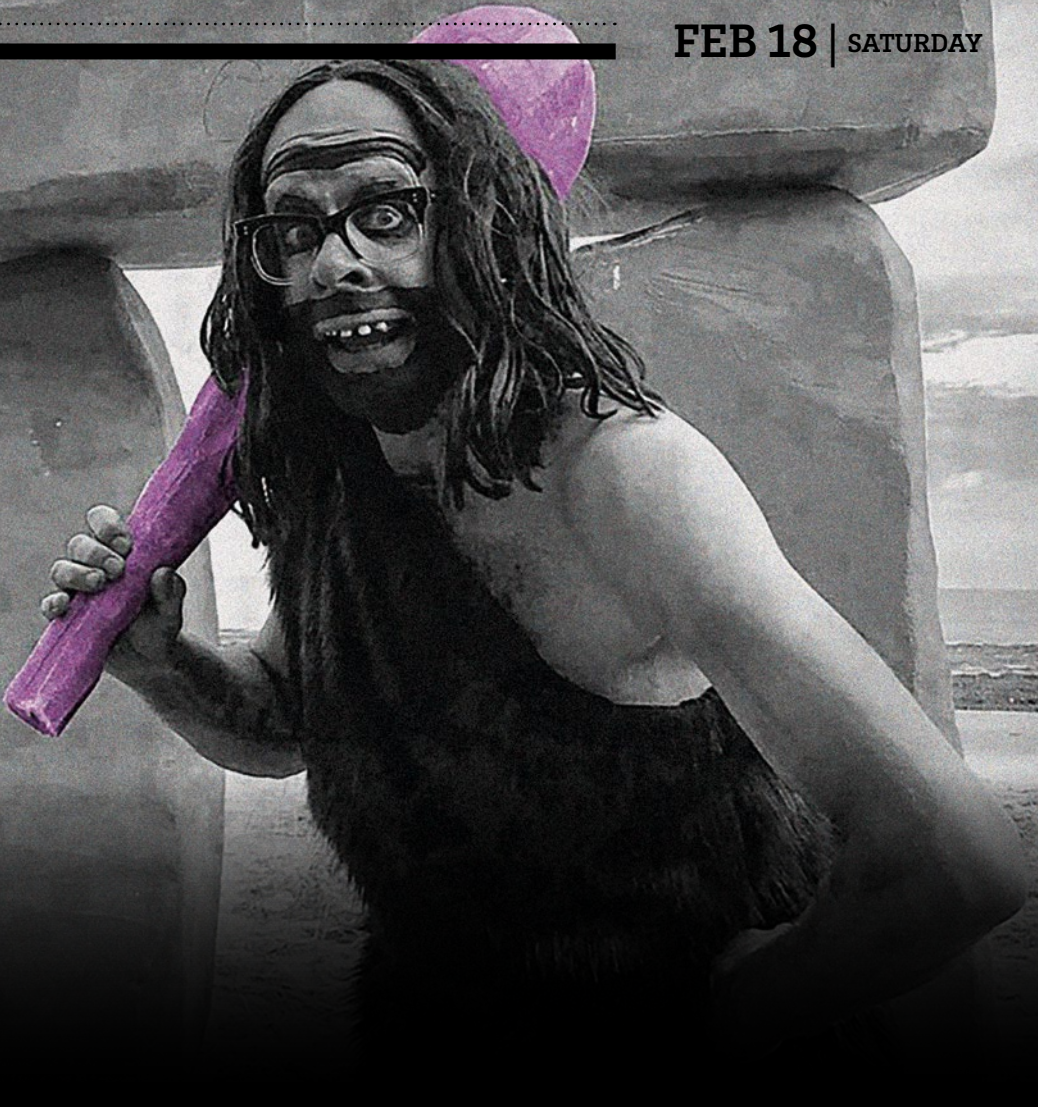
Peter Lord



The Extraordinary World of Charley Bowers

See back page for booking information

FEB 18 | SATURDAY



## Harry Hill - Breaking the Silence

Hosted by Robin Ince

**SAT 18 FEB 1200hrs St George's, Bristol From £15 cert 12**

The irrepressible Harry Hill makes a welcome return to Slapstick, this time to screen and talk about his Lonely Island short film series, including a screening of one never before seen. Harry wrote, produced, directed and starred in all four black & white, silent, slapstick comedy shorts, with each one located on the same island in a different historical setting. We also have the bonus of extracts from the 'work in progress' extension of his Cavemen episode and a brief 'Caveman' live performance!

Event running time approx 1 hr 10 mins.







More Bad News

### The Comic Strip Presents: More Bad News

With Nigel 'Den Dennis' Planer & Peter 'Spider Webb' Richardson

**SAT 18 FEB 1430hrs St George's, Bristol From £15**

Dir: Adrian Edmondson, 1988, 51 mins, cert 15



Slapstick's homage to mockumentaries continues with the second film by Channel 4's Comic Strip gang about the heavy metal band Bad News - back together four years after an acrimonious break-up and preparing for an appearance at Castle Donington's Monsters of Rock festival. Directed by Ade Edmondson and featuring Ade along with Rik Mayall, Nigel Planer and Peter Richardson as the band and with Dawn French as their manager and Jennifer Saunders as the journalist tracking the mayhem. Joining us for the screening will be Nigel Planer and Peter Richardson. Hosted by Robin Ince and followed by a Q&A. Event running time approx 1 hr 10 mins.

### Comic Strip Stories

With Nigel Planer & Peter Richardson

**SAT 18 FEB 1730hrs St George's, Bristol £12**

Happening straight after our big screen showing of the rock music spoof classic, MORE BAD NEWS... stay with Nigel and Peter as they celebrated the 40th Anniversary of the show and share insider anecdotes and favourite moments from the much loved game-changing TV series that debuted on the opening night of Channel 4 in Nov 1982.

**COMIC  
STRIP  
STORIES**

FEB 18 | SATURDAY

## The Scaffold – A Celebration with Harry Hill

With John Gorman, Roger McGough and Mike “McGear” McCartney  
**SAT 18 FEB 2030hrs St George’s, Bristol From £15**



There’s never been a satirical performance group quite like The Scaffold. In the sixties and early seventies, their unique blend of comedy, music and poetry packed out theatres at home and across the world and their frequent appearances on prime-time TV ensured that John Gorman, Roger McGough and Mike “McGear” McCartney became much-loved household names.

Equally loved by the mainstream and 1960s counter-culture, they produced hit after hit of chart-topping perennial favourites, including Thank U Very Much ( for the Aintree Iron), Lily the Pink & Liverpool Lou.

With superfan and guest presenter Harry Hill onboard you can be sure of an evening of hilarious stories, sketches, poems and rare footage, including a screening of their short film Plod (1972), and possibly even a song or two, all celebrating the fascinating history of The Scaffold.  
Event Running Time approx 2hrs.

Photo credit: Mike McCartney



Harry Hill



**The Rutles: All You Need is Cash [1978]**

Introduction from John "Barry Wom" Halsey  
**SAT 19 FEB 0930hrs Watershed £8.50 / £5**  
Dir: Eric Idle, Gary Weis, UK 76 mins, cert 12

This is the Eric Idle / Neil Innes cult classic mockumentary which paved the way for all others, including This Is Spinal Tap (1984) and The Comic Strip's Bad News (1983) and More Bad News (1988). A brilliant comedy spoof of Beatlemania, it charts the rise, falls and fallings out of the 'Pre-Fab Four' with 20 Neil Innes songs not only instantly recognisable as parodies of Beatles' hits but also pitch-perfect in their own right. Innes is a natural as Ron Nasty (John), whilst Idle plays the band's Paul-like frontman Dirk McQuickly as part of a world-class cast which also includes Dan Ackroyd, John Belushi, Barry Cryer, George Harrison, Bianca Jagger, Bill Murray and Michael Palin himself. We're delighted to have John Halsey AKA Barry Wom (Ringo) appearing in person for a pre-screening discussion with Fab Fools author Jem Roberts - celebrating this timeless mockumentary classic. Event running time approx 1 hr 35 min.



John Halsey

**Ode To Joyce:  
A One-Woman Homage to Joyce Grenfell**

**SAT 19 FEB 1130hrs Bristol Old Vic (Weston Studio) £12**

Cheryl Knight stars in a must-see tribute to Joyce Grenfell (1910 - 1979) whose hilarious and acutely-observed monologues and songs made her a global comedy star last century and inspired many other entertainers, including Miranda Hart and the late, great, Victoria Wood. With a live piano accompaniment. "A wonderful show... leaves you marvelling at Joyce's wit and wisdom" - Daily Telegraph. Event running time approx 1 hr 20 min.



Ode To Joyce



The Rutles

**The Beatles On-Screen: A Hard Day's Night [1964]**

With special guests Mike McCartney and Paul McGann

**SUN 19 FEB 1200hrs Bristol Old Vic From £11**

Dir: Eric Idle, Gary Weis, UK 76 mins, cert 12

Ranked among the BFI's top 100 British films and nominated both for a BAFTA and two Oscars, *A Hard Day's Night*, in which The Beatles play cheeky comic versions of themselves, captures the astonishing moment when the band officially became the singular, irreverent, idols of their generation and changed music forever. Their natural comic talent is self-evident throughout, including several nods paid by the director to his favourite filmmaker: Buster Keaton. It is packed with hit songs and features appearances by many of the 20th century's best-known entertainers. This newly restored version will start with a short 'in conversation' with actor Paul McGann and Mike McCartney, the younger brother of Sir Paul, a guest at the 1964 Liverpool premiere and lead singer of legendary chart-topping comedy trio, The Scaffold. Event running time approx 1 hr 50 min.



Mike McCartney



**FEB 19 | SUNDAY**

## Monty Python's Book Shambles

Hosted by Robin Ince with special guests  
Jem Roberts and Oliver Double

**SUN 19 FEB 1400hrs**

**Bristol Old Vic (Weston Studio)**

**From £8**

Be part of the participating audience at a recording for a Monty Python-themed future edition of the chart-topping podcast. It will start with Robin Ince and special guests diving into books by, about, inspired by or an influence on the Monty Python's Flying Circus team but - be aware - tangents cannot be ruled out! Event running time approx 1 hr.



Robin Ince



Monty Python's Book Shambles

See back page for booking information

FEB 19 | SUNDAY



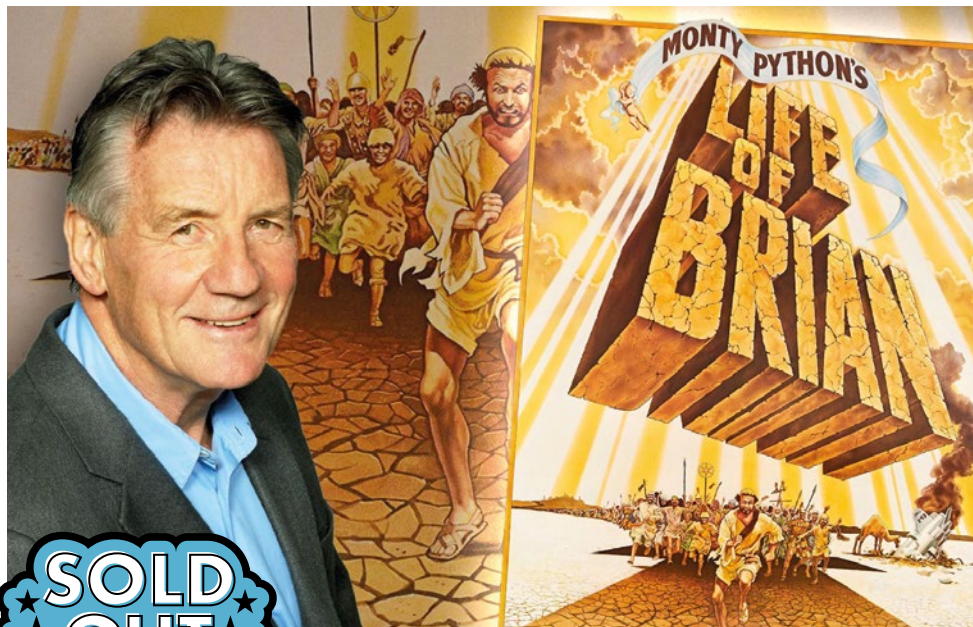
**Griff Rhys Jones: Why I Still Love Laurel & Hardy**  
**SUN 19 FEB 1500hrs Bristol Old Vic (Weston Studio) From £15**

Join the star of Not The Nine O'Clock News, Smith & Jones and Three Men In A Boat as he returns to Slapstick with an event championing his favourite comedy duo - Laurel & Hardy.

Fresh from his recent, critically acclaimed stand-up tour, Griff will present a mix of the Stan & Ollie clips and shorts he rates most highly and will provide insights into what drives his long-standing love of their work and why he thinks they won, and keep winning, fans worldwide.

Event running time 1 hr 30 mins.

Please Note: Griff is now hosting this event due to an unforeseen change in the filming schedule for Stephen Mangan's latest project.



**SOLD OUT**

Monty Python's Life of Brian

### Monty Python's Life Of Brian [1979]

With Sir Michael Palin & Stephen Merchant

SUN 19 FEB 1730hrs

Bristol Old Vic (Weston Studio)

From £15

Dir: Terry Jones, UK, 1979, 94 mins, cert 12A

A big screen showing of the film that sparked international controversy - and hilarity - by telling the story of Brian of Nazareth, born on the same day as Jesus, in the stable next door, but who most definitely was not the Messiah. LIFE OF BRIAN stars all six members of the Monty Python team portraying a total of 40 characters. The screening will be hosted by Stephen Merchant and will begin with a brief on-stage chat with Sir Michael, sharing anecdotes from the making of the film, some home movie footage and explaining why he still considers it the most accomplished of the Python movies. Event running time approx 1 hr 50 mins.



Stephen Merchant



FEB 19 | SUNDAY

“ People are still crazy  
about Python after fifty  
years which I find hard  
to believe ”







# THE GOOD LISTENING TO SHOW & PODCAST



**Chris Grimes**  
Coach Facilitator Motivational Comedian



**SPECIAL OFFER 2-4-1 on all tickets for this event**

## The Good Listening to Show with Robin Ince

Hosted by Instant Wit's Chris Grimes

**SUN 19 FEB 1930hrs Bristol Old Vic (Weston Studio) From £10**

In a live podcast recording of 'The Good Listening To Show' (also streaming on Facebook & YouTube) actor, comedian and Instant Wit improviser Chris Grimes hosts a wide-ranging chat with Slapstick Festival regular, stand-up, author and broadcaster Robin Ince. Tune in for stories from Robin's colourful life and career, including his adventures as a co-presenter with Professor Brian Cox of The Infinite Monkey Cage on BBC Radio 4 and on sell-out tours worldwide. Event running time approx 1 hr.

## Michael Palin: Beyond Python

In conversation with Rob Brydon

**SUN 19 FEB 2030hrs**

**Bristol Old Vic (Weston Studio)**

**From £23**



He may be best known for his work with Monty Python but Sir Michael Palin (80 in May) has a long and distinguished track record as a comedy writer and performer, from penning gags for the likes of Ken Dodd and Roy Hudd and being in TV's Do Not Adjust Your Set ensemble in the 1960s, to roles in Armando Iannucci's The Death of Stalin (2017) and the Michael Sheen/David Tennant lockdown project Staged (2021). Here, Rob Brydon (Would I Lie to You, The Trip) probes Michael for insights and anecdotes about this outstanding legacy and what comes next, promising illuminating conversation and laugh-out-loud banter. Event running time approx 1 hr 20 mins.



**SOLD OUT**

Rob Brydon

**APRIL 1** | SATURDAY



## **SILENT COMEDY CENTENARY SPECIAL WITH LIVE MUSIC**

### **Harold Lloyd in Safety Last!**

With special guest host (TBA)

**SAT 1 APRIL 2000hrs**

**St George's, Bristol £22.50**

Dir: Fred Nymeyer and Sam Taylor, 1923,

USA, 74 mins, cert PG



Stephen Horne

The clock sequence in *Safety Last!* is arguably the best known of any in a silent comedy. Genuinely dangerous, too, as it was shot high up on the side of real LA skyscrapers and using clever camera angles and a series of platforms still creates a sense of peril in audiences today as the witness Harold's long climb to the top. But the scene is only one of the reasons this film regularly appears on Funniest Film Ever lists. Lloyd sparks laugh after laugh with his over-ambitious efforts to make it in the big city so that he can marry his home-town sweetheart (Mildred Davis). And this screening will be extra special - showing here exactly 100 years to the day of its first release and with live accompaniment by a trio of stellar musicians, The Stephen Horne Trio. Join us for this special centenary screening of an undisputed comedy masterpiece  
Event running time approx 90 mins.



# A BIG THANK YOU TO ALL OUR SUPPORTERS!

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## The Festival Team

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

**Festival Advisory Board:** Steven Coombe, Chris Daniels, Jo Daniels, Graeme Garden, Chris Kidd, Robin Ince, Sue Lion, Lucy Porter, David Robinson, David Sproxton

**Festival Director:** Chris Daniels **Festival Producer:** Jacqui Ham **Social Media Administrator:** Rustin Allison

**Digital Content:** Guy Manchester, Keith Kilpin **Technical Manager:** Ewan Dunford **Operations Manager:** Sue Lion

**Guest Liaison:** Bill Kelly, Chris Kidd **Stage Manager:** Gemma Brooks **Musical Director:** Günter A. Buchwald

**Festival Photographers:** David Betteridge/ Paul Lippiatt **Website:** Web Design City **Press & PR:** Pam Beddard

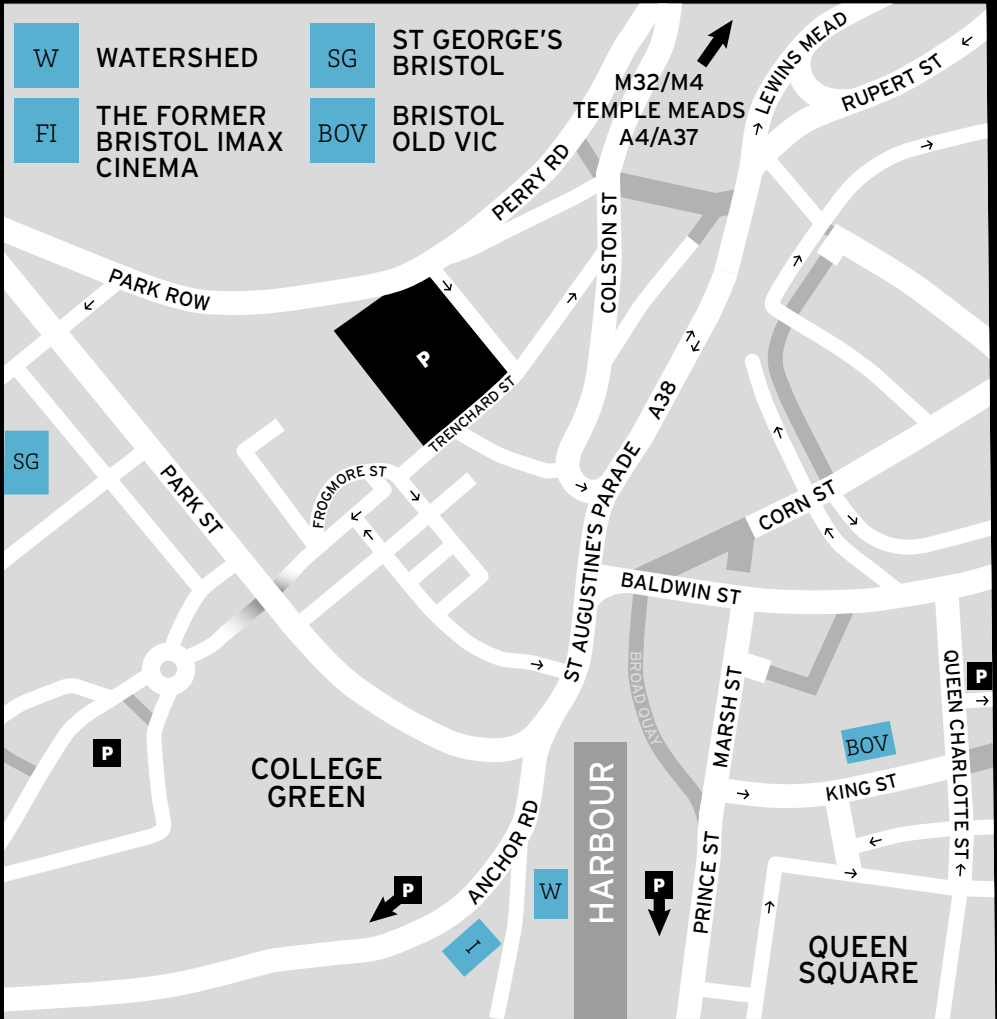
**Design & Branding:** Limepark Studios **Advertising:** Out of Hand Ltd **Branding:** Danny Heffer, Keith Kilpin

**Filming Team and Editing:** UWE, Aardman Machine Room, Megan McGregor, Jacob Burley **Trailer:** Keith Kilpin

**Ident:** Bram Twheam (Aardman Animations) **Advisors:** Polly Rose, Michael Daniels, Andrew Kelly

And all of our fantastic volunteers!

See back page for booking information



**Venues: Ticket Information**

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

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

Bristol Old Vic, King St, Bristol BS1 4ED  
 0117 987 7877 | bristololdvic.org.uk

The Former Bristol Imax Cinema, Bristol Aquarium  
 Anchor Road, Bristol BS1 5DB | 0117 929 8929



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