

SLAPSTOCK

14 - 18 FEB 2024



FESTIVAL GUIDE

SLAPSTICK 2024

Drum roll please as we unveil the exciting and star-studded programme for Slapstick 2024, including the long-awaited return of our cherished Gala to the venue where it all began, now renamed Bristol Beacon and looking and sounding truly glorious after its extensive refit.

As you flick through this festival guide you will find information on the 30+ unique comedy events we will be sharing during the five days from Wednesday 14 to Sunday 18 February in the company of such famous guests as Samira Ahmed, Hugh Bonneville, Marcus Brigstocke, Terry Gilliam, Harry Hill, Robert Lindsay, Sylvester McCoy, Lucy Porter, Tim Vine and Adam Hills (to name just some).

As ever, the line-up is a mix of silent comedy classics and rarities accompanied always by world-class musicians; nostalgic revivals; honours for modern day artists keeping the slapstick spirit alive; fresh looks at beloved stars of the past and not one, not two, but three regional premieres.

COMEDY HORROR

Celebrating Comedy Horror

In a festival first, Slapstick 2024 will feature a Comedy Horror strand, starting with the seminal and much parodied 1927 spine-tingler classic THE CAT AND THE CANARY, hosted by Alasdair Beckett-King and Robin Ince. Events in this strand are flagged throughout this brochure with a special

logo and include Tim Vine introducing his film FEARMOTH, a live from New York Spooktacular with Steve Massa and Ben Model, a 'relaxed screening' * of ABBOTT and COSTELLO MEET FRANKENSTEIN, and Brian da Palma's rock opera parody PHANTOM OF THE PARADISE.

Leading Women On and Off-Screen

Another strand provides a triple bill of films from 1926 starring women, with Slapstick favourite Lucy Porter introducing two of them. And women take key roles elsewhere in the programme with Samira Ahmed urging a reappraisal of the insights and social impact of THE GOODIES; a Gala cameo by Cheryl Knight as Joyce Grenfell, Christina Newland revealing the real cost of early stunt work in the days before health and safety and Polly Rose highlighting Buster Keaton's talkie talents and interviewing the author of a new book which puts Keaton's life and work in new context.

Salutes To The Greats

Chaplin, Keaton and Laurel & Hardy feature strongly, of course, including in a new film all about Stan and Laurel's 1952 visit to Ireland. But today's comic geniuses will not be overlooked. See inside for details of a day of events at Bristol Old Vic celebrating the work of Sir Michael Palin, Robert Lindsay, and Terry Gilliam.

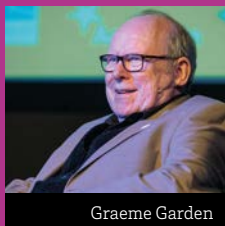
In short, this line-up offers something for everyone who enjoys, or needs, more magic, mischief, and mirth in their lives and we do hope you will join us.

Chris Daniels
Director
Slapstick Festival

* See www.slapstick.org.uk for more information on Relaxed Screenings

SPECIAL THANKS

Special thanks go to Graeme Garden for his ongoing support for the festival, including his invaluable help with fundraising, and to Robin Ince for his regular and welcome flow of event ideas and for being such a willing and supportive quest host.



Graeme Garden



Robin Ince

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 2024 our musical director Günter A. Buchwald returns to conduct the 15-piece Bristol Ensemble for The Gold Rush (1925) at our Silent Comedy Gala and he will accompany other screenings alongside percussionist Frank Bockius. John Sweeney and Daan van den Hurk complete the line up of musical talent for 2024 providing exemplary improvised piano accompaniments throughout.



Bristol Ensemble

BOOKING & PASSES

BOOKING IS SIMPLE - All tickets for Slapstick 2024 can be bought from the individual box office hosting the event. See the back page for booking information.

FESTIVAL | 2024 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. **Passes are limited in number and usually sell out, so do book early to avoid disappointment.**

Secure your spot with Slapstick Festival passes for the ultimate seating experience.

SILENT COMEDY PASS - £110.00 + Booking Fees. Ideal for Silent comedy enthusiasts, offering close to a 50% discount off regular tickets. Includes access to 17 events, featuring all 12 Watershed events (excluding the relaxed screening of Abbott & Costello). Additionally, events included at Bristol Beacon are The Silent Comedy Gala with Hugh Bonneville, Even Stranger Films, The Timeless Genius of Buster Keaton, and The Last Cuckoo.

SLAPSTICK FULL PASS - £225.00 + Booking Fees. Tickets to 30 events, encompassing everything in the Silent Comedy Pass plus prime seating to 13 additional events held between 14-18th February, offering almost 50% savings on full-price tickets.

ALL PASSES COME WITH AN EXCLUSIVE SLAPSTICK LAMINATE PASS.



FESTIVAL DIARY

FEB 14 | WEDNESDAY

1400hrs	Leading Women: Exit Smiling 15	Watershed
1615hrs	Barry Cryer: Same Time Tomorrow	Watershed
1900hrs	Silent Comedy Horror : The Cat & The Canary 12A	Bristol Beacon
2130hrs	Alasdair Beckett King's Even Stranger Films	Bristol Beacon

FEB 15 | THURSDAY

0930hrs	What Happened to Jones 12A	Watershed
1130hrs	Keaton Speaks! 12A	Watershed
1345hrs	Leading Women: Up In Mabel's Room 12A	Watershed
1600hrs	Live from New York - Silent Comedy Spooktacular 12A	Watershed
1800hrs	Laurel & Hardy: Last Dance of The Cuckoos	Bristol Beacon
2030hrs	The Thinking Woman's Guide to The Goodies	Bristol Beacon

FEB 16 | FRIDAY

0930hrs	Laurel & Hardy - Year One PG	Watershed
1140hrs	Lloyd Hamilton: The Comedian's Comedian 12A	Watershed
1330hrs	Leading Women: Kiki 12A	Watershed
1645hrs	Live from New York - Buster Keaton: Camera Man 12A	Watershed
1930hrs	Silent Comedy Gala PG	Bristol Beacon

FEB 17 | SATURDAY

0930hrs	Painfully Funny! When Stunts Go Wrong	Watershed
0945hrs	Abbott & Costello Meet Frankenstein PG	Watershed
1130hrs	Tim Vine's FEARMOTH	Bristol Beacon
1400hrs	Adam Hills & Mike McCartney Present: Buster Keaton	Bristol Beacon
1600hrs	Tim Vine: The Physical Years	Bristol Beacon
1745hrs	Harry Hill's The Last Caveman	Bristol Beacon
1945hrs	Sylvester McCoy : Who's Funny!	Bristol Beacon
2145hrs	Phantom of The Paradise 15	Bristol Beacon

FEB 18 | SUNDAY

0930hrs	Big Jim and The Figaro Club PG	Watershed
1200hrs	Onscreen: Brazil with Terry Gilliam 15	Bristol Old Vic
1430hrs	Cult Figure: Kenneth Williams	Bristol Old Vic
1530hrs	Adam Hills' Desert Island Comedy Flicks	Bristol Old Vic
1700hrs	The Laugheologists	Bristol Old Vic
1800hrs	The Dark Comic Genius of Terry Gilliam	Bristol Old Vic
1930hrs	The Laurel & Hardy Cabaret	Bristol Old Vic
2030hrs	Robert Lindsay, The Aardman Slapstick Comedy Award	Bristol Old Vic

FEB 14 | WEDNESDAY

Leading Women: Exit Smiling

WED 14 FEB 1400hrs

Watershed

£11.00 (£8.50/ £5.00)

Dir: Sam Taylor, 1926, USA, 77 mins, Cert 15

Opening our series of 'Leading Women' silent pictures Beatrice Lillie plays a maid working for a travelling theatre company who dreams of becoming a leading lady. But there's a snag. Unlike Lillie, she can't act. Various reviewers describe her as 'wonderful, hilarious, mesmerising'. Watch out too for Franklin Pangborn in a laugh-out-loud role which earned this film a place in TCM's Gay Images in Hollywood series. With an onscreen introduction by Slapstick favourite, film historian legend David Robinson. With live piano accompaniment from Daan van den Hurk.



Leading Women: Exit Smiling

Barry Cryer: Same Time Tomorrow

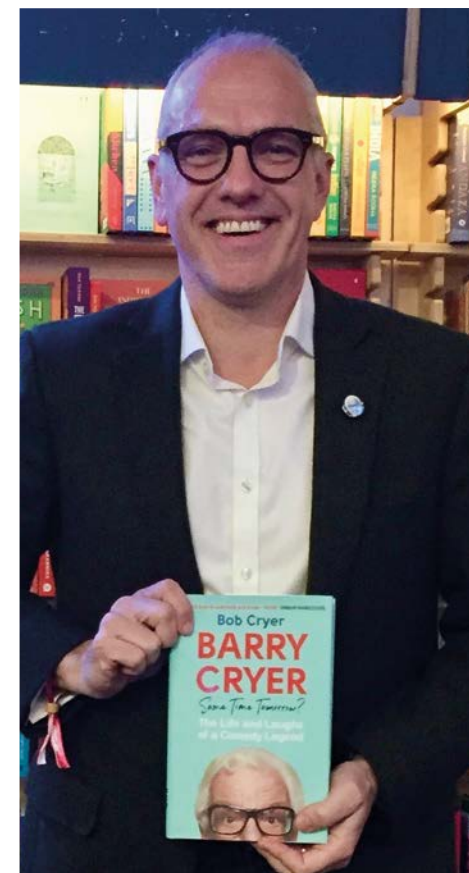
With Bob Cryer

WED 14 FEB 1615hrs

Watershed

£8.50 (£5.00)

National treasure Barry Cryer rarely missed a Slapstick festival and was as beloved by our audiences as he was by showbiz colleagues and the British public. In this event, Barry's son, Bob Cryer draws on material from his highly-praised book - Barry Cryer: Same Time Tomorrow - the lives and laughs of a comedy legend - to share his personal memories and favourite Cryer gags with Andrew Kelly. Includes Q&A and followed by a book signing. In collaboration with Bristol Ideas.



Bob Cryer:

FEB 14 | WEDNESDAY

Silent Comedy Horror : The Cat & The Canary

With Alasdair Beckett-King & Robin Ince

WEDS 14 FEB 1900hrs

Bristol Beacon: Lantern Hall

£12.50 (£9.00)

Dir: Paul Leni, USA, 1927,
80mins, Cert 12A

**COMEDY
HORROR**



The Cat & The Canary

Kicking off Slapstick's Comedy Horror strand, get ready for a spine-tingling night of laughter and suspense with the pioneering silent comedy-horror The Cat & The Canary (1927). Surviving relatives gather at a creepy mansion for a will reading, but something sinister lurks in the shadows. Its seminal influence can be seen in the development of the horror genre, making it a significant and historically important work. Hosting are author/comedian Robin Ince and YouTuber/comedian Alasdair Beckett-King. Günter A. Buchwald adds a haunting live piano and violin soundtrack. Don't miss the opportunity to experience this cinematic milestone!

Alasdair Beckett King's Even Stranger Films

WEDS 14 FEB 2130hrs

Bristol Beacon: Lantern Hall

£12.50 (£9.00)

**COMEDY
HORROR**



Even Stranger Films

Prepare to be hilariously entertained and spooked to your core with the return of Slapstick Festival's "Stranger Films" event, hosted once more by award-winning comedian/filmmaker and writer Alasdair Beckett-King. He will be sharing a collection of eerie and strange silent comedy shorts from pioneering film legends Thomas Edison, Georges Méliès and beyond. Films which will challenge your perceptions of silent film and comedy. Trust us - films don't come much stranger than these. Age Advisory 15+



Alasdair Beckett-King

FEB 15 | THURSDAY

What Happened to Jones

THURS 15 FEB 0930hrs Watershed

£11.00 (£8.50/ £5.00)

Dir: William A Seiter, USA, 1926,
70mins, Cert 12A

This delightful comedy showcases the unique comedy style of silent star Reginald Denny, known for his portrayal of the all-American man. In this fine and funny farce, he plays a bridegroom-to-be who escapes a police raid on a poker game by seeking refuge in a Turkish baths. But it's Ladies Night at the baths, compelling him to disguise himself as a woman.... Introduced by broadcaster Chris Serle and a live piano accompaniment from Daan van den Hurk.



What Happened to Jones

Keaton Speaks!

Hosted by Polly Rose

THURS 15 FEB 1130hrs Watershed

£11.00 (£8.50/ £5.00)

Cert 12A

Keaton researcher and admirer Polly Rose focuses on three films exemplifying the best of Keaton's speaking roles - two in acclaimed comedy shorts from the 1930s, the third as the lead in a British television drama from 1954. The choices include GRAND SLAM OPERA (1936), featuring Buster's dance homage to Fred Astaire, described by Film Daily on its release as "a laugh riot - easily the best comedy Keaton has ever delivered!"



Keaton Speaks!

Leading Women: Up In Mabel's Room

With Lucy Porter

THURS 15 FEB 1345hrs Watershed

£11.00 (£8.50/ £5.00)

Dir: E. Mason Hopper, USA, 1926,
76mins, Cert 12A

Actor/comedian Lucy Porter introduces this silent romantic farce in which Marie Prevost meets, falls for and marries Harrison Ford (Hollywood's first of that name) only to divorce him after she discovers he's secretly bought some daring female underwear which she believes is for another woman. She is mistaken, of course, but is it too late to win him back? With Daan van den Hurk accompanying on piano. Digital presentation courtesy of the UCLA Film & Television Archive.



Up In Mabel's Room

Photo credit: Courtesy of the Wisconsin Center for Film and Theater Research

**Live from New York
- Silent Comedy Spooktacular**

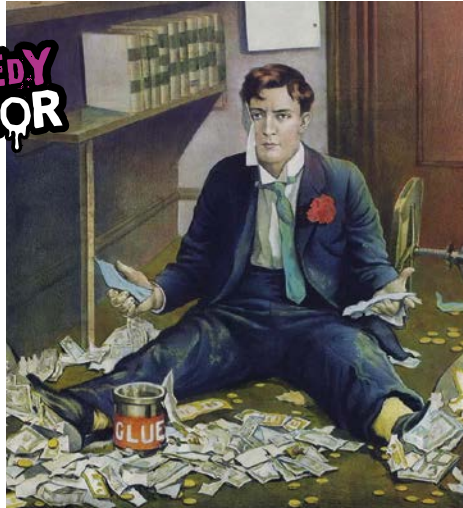
THURS 15 FEB 1600hrs
Watershed

11.00 (£8.50/ £5.00)
Cert 12A

Halloween is past, but Ben Model and Steve Massa bring it back with a live performance of three surreal and scary shorts. A Fraternity Mixup (1926) where Alice Ardel and Gale Henry spend the night in a spooky girl's school where they are visited by an escaped gorilla. In Local Showers (1916) poor Musty Suffer has a toothache and gets an appointment with the dentist from hell. Finally, The Haunted House (1921) sees Buster Keaton investigating the strange goings-ons in the titular abode. This creepy trio is curated and hosted by Ben Model, accompanying live on piano, and film historian Steve Massa.

Also available to be streamed live.

**COMEDY
HORROR**



Silent Comedy Spooktacular

**Laurel & Hardy:
Last Dance of The Cuckoos**

With Marcus Brigstocke, Andy Hollingworth & Matt Holt

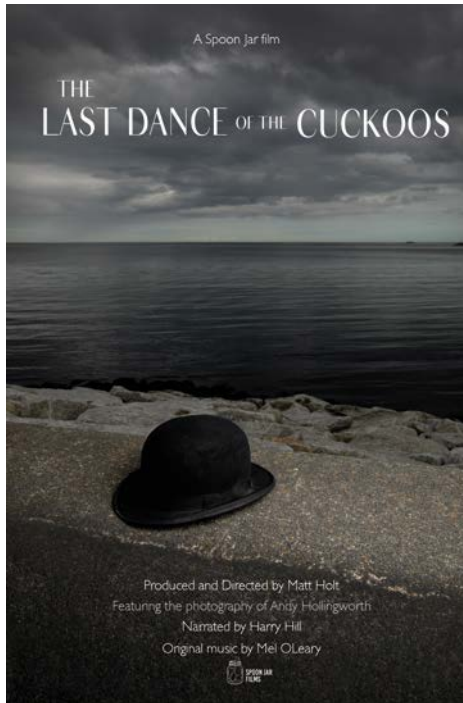
THURS 15 FEB 1800hrs
Bristol Beacon: Lantern Hall
£15.00 (£12.00/£8.00)

Dir: Matt Holt, UK, 2023, 35mins

Comedian, actor, broadcaster and writer Marcus Brigstocke introduces the South-West premiere of a truly charming film in which photographer Andy Hollingworth takes Stan Laurel's touring hat from Stan's birthplace in Cumbria to the County Cork harbour town which gave Laurel & Hardy such a joyous welcome in September 1953. Both always recalled it as the greatest day of their lives. Plus a screening of their favourite Stan & Ollie short and all followed by an 'in conversation' with Andy and Matt.



Andy Hollingworth & Matt Holt



Last Dance of The Cuckoos

© Andy Hollingworth Archive

**The Thinking Woman's Guide
to The Goodies**

With Samira Ahmed and Graeme Garden

THURS 15 FEB 2030hrs
Bristol Beacon: Lantern Hall
£16.00 (£12.00/£8.00)

Broadcaster Samira Ahmed quizzes Graeme Garden on whether it is time to re-appraise the hit 1970s/80s TV series The Goodies - co-created and performed by Graeme with Tim Brooke-Taylor and Bill Oddie. Back then, the series was often seen as 'kids stuff'. But with the help of hand-picked extracts, Samira Ahmed argues that the series has been overlooked as a catalyst for social change - making groundbreaking challenges to prevailing attitudes of the time by defying gender stereotypes and boldly addressing still topical issues, including censorship, apartheid and more.



Photo credit: Lorena Pino Montilla



Samira Ahmed



The Goodies

FEB 16 | FRIDAY

Laurel & Hardy – Year One

With Robin Ince and Marcus Brigstocke

FRI 16 FEB 0930hrs

Watershed

£11.00 (£8.50/ £5.00)

Cert PG

Slapstick patron Marcus Brigstocke joins an enthusiastic panel of Stan & Ollie admirers hosted by Robin Ince as they revel in the global effort which has gone into finding and restoring the films made by Stan and Ollie in 1927 - the first full year of a comedy partnership that would go on to enjoy enduring popularity. Includes screenings of DUCK SOUP (1927) and BATTLE OF THE CENTURY (1927). With live piano accompaniment by Daan van den Hurk.

Lloyd Hamilton: The Comedian's Comedian

With Graeme Garden

FRI 16 FEB 1140hrs

Watershed

£11.00 (£8.50/ £5.00)

Cert 12A

Charlie Chaplin once confessed Lloyd Hamilton was the comedy film actor he most envied and according to Buster Keaton, Hamilton was "one of the funniest men in pictures." So why is someone so admired by his peers virtually forgotten now, and is this deserved? Find out from Graeme Garden and an array of clips. With live piano accompaniment from John Sweeney.



Lloyd Hamilton



FEB 16 | FRIDAY



Lucy Porter

Leading Women: Kiki

With Lucy Porter

FRI 16 FEB 1330hrs

Watershed

£11.00 (£8.50/ £5.00)

Dir: Clarence Brown, USA, 1926,
1hr 48mins, Cert 12A

Concluding our Leading Women programme, dramatic actor Norma Talmadge was a fine comedy actor, too, as proved by this Paris-set romcom. In it, she plays a street waif angling for a singing and dancing job in a theatre and for the heart of its handsome manager (Ronald Colman). Her ruses involve sparky battles with his fiancée (Gertrude Astor), barricading herself into his bedroom and terrorising his valet (George K. Arthur). With live piano accompaniment from John Sweeney.



Norma Talmadge

Live from New York - Buster Keaton: Camera Man

With Dana Stevens & Polly Rose

FRI 16 FEB 1645hrs Watershed Cinema 3

£11.00 (£8.50/ £5.00)

Andrew Kelly hosts a live conversation direct from New York with Dana Stevens, author of the best-selling, rave reviewed, book Camera Man: Buster Keaton, the Dawn of Cinema and the Invention of the Twentieth Century' about the dazzling new insights it offers into Keaton's life and work by viewing his story alongside what was happening at the same time in entertainment, journalism, law, technology, social change, attitudes to addiction and more.

Also available to be streamed live.



Buster Keaton: Camera Man

FEB 16 | FRIDAY

★★★★★★

SILENT COMEDY GALA

Hosted by Hugh Bonneville

FRI 16 FEB 1930hrs

Bristol Beacon: Beacon Hall

£36.00 (£25.00/ £16.00)

Cert PG



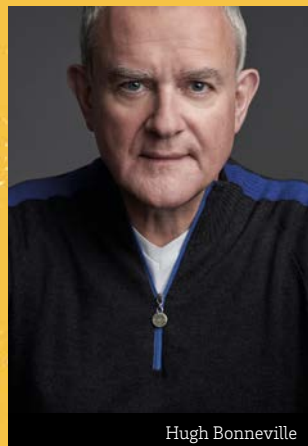
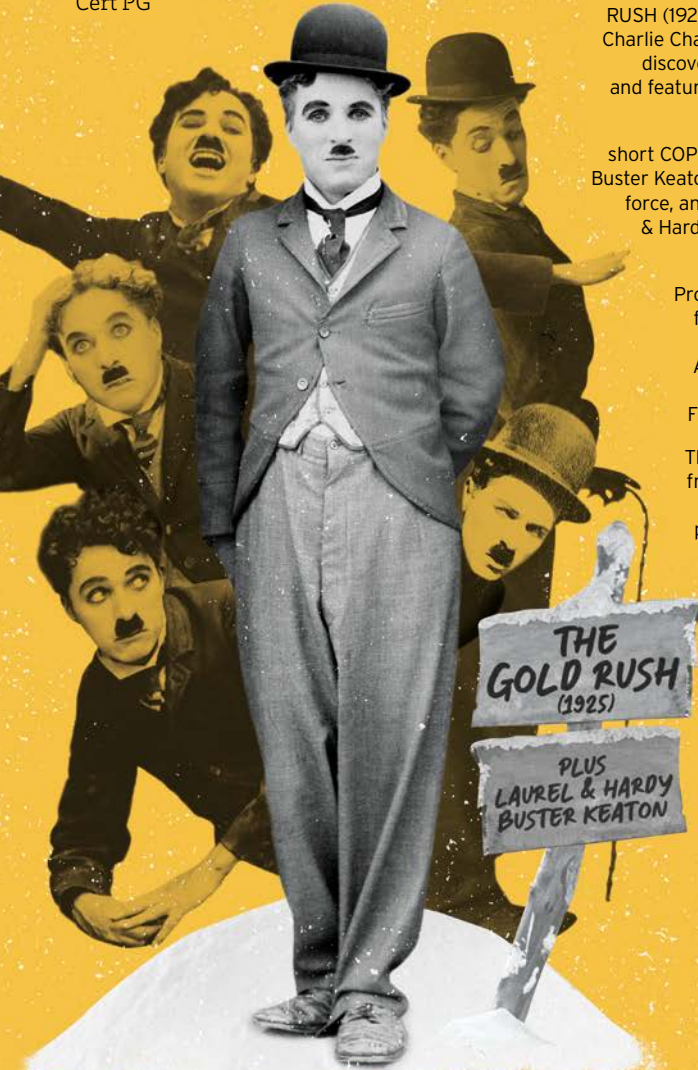
Star of DOWNTON ABBEY, THE GOLD and the PADDINGTON films Hugh Bonneville introduces a triple bill of laugh-out-loud silent comedy films back in the auditorium where Slapstick began, showing on a giant screen with live musical accompaniment.

Topping the bill at the Slapstick's 20th gala will be the double Oscar-nominated THE GOLD RUSH (1925), written and directed by and starring Charlie Chaplin as a lone Klondike prospector who discovers it is easier to find trouble than gold, and featuring a real bear and dancing bread rolls.

Joining it in the line-up will be the 1922 short COPS which finds an impressively acrobatic Buster Keaton being chased by a city's entire police force, and BIG BUSINESS (1929), starring Laurel & Hardy as hilariously incompetent Christmas tree salesmen.

Providing the live musical accompaniment for THE GOLD RUSH will be the 16-piece Bristol Ensemble, conducted by Günter A. Buchwald, with pianist John Sweeney accompanying COPS and Günter and Frank Bockius playing for BIG BUSINESS.

There will also be onstage entertainment from Cheryl Knight, giving excerpts from her Joyce Grenfell tribute show which proved such a hit at Slapstick 2023 and, in the foyer before curtain-up, at 6pm the Bristol-based Shanghai Shuffle jazz band performing tunes from the silent film era.



Hugh Bonneville

FEB 17 | SATURDAY

Painfully Funny!

When Stunts Go Wrong

With Christina Newland

SAT 17 FEB 0930hrs Watershed

£11.00 (£8.50/ £5.00)

Whether it was Harold Lloyd accidentally blowing a few of his own fingers off, death by ostrich attack, or a chariot accident during Ben-Hur, the actors and stuntmen of early motion pictures had a lot to complain about when it came to 'health and safety' or lack thereof. Join Christina Newland, lead film critic at the i Newspaper and contributing editor at Empire, in an hour long story-telling session about the hijinx, dangers, and sometimes not-at-all death-defying adventures in the early days of silent comedy and beyond. Age Advisory 15+

Saturday Morning Slapstick:

Abbott & Costello Meet Frankenstein

Hosted by Robin Ince

SAT 17 FEB 0945hrs Watershed: Cinema 3

£11.00 (£8.50/ £5.00)

Dir: Charles Barton, USA, 1948,

1hr 28mins, Cert PG

A fun-for-all-the-family RELAXED SCREENING of comedy horror classic in which one of the USA's most popular Slapstick comedy double acts takes delivery of new items for a horror museum only to find themselves besieged by dangers from Dracula, Frankenstein's monster and a werewolf. Starring Bud Abbott and Lou Costello alongside some of the best known horror film actors including Lon Chaney Jr, Bela Lugosi and Vincent Price.



Abbott & Costello



When Stunts Go Wrong



Christina Newland

FEB 17 | SATURDAY

Tim Vine's FEARMOTH

SAT 17 FEB 1130hrs
Bristol Beacon: Lantern Hall
£14.00 (£11.00/£8.00)

Dir: Tim Vine, UK, 2016, 82mins

A giant moth begins to attack the small town of Hazelpocket and the manager of the local Lightbulb shop is blamed. It doesn't help that he also has a fear of the dark (the manager, not the moth) and that his son has only one functioning eye. Adding an element of absurdity to Slapstick's Comedy Horror strand, Tim introduces his latest passion project. This is only the second public big screen showing of FEARMOTH. Written, directed and starring Tim Vine and supported by John Archer and Mona Al-Habib Nmeir. After the film Tim will be taking questions, many of which he won't be able to answer.



**COMEDY
HORROR**

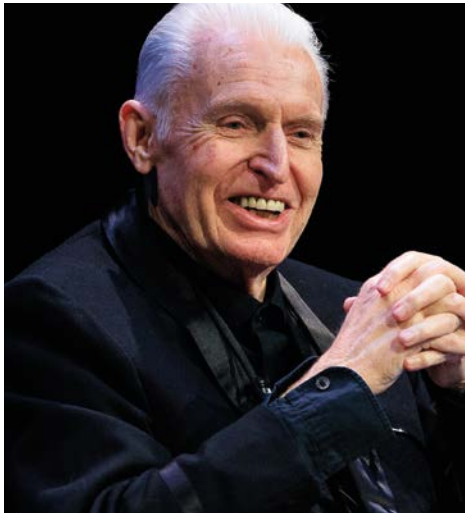
Tim Vine's FEARMOTH

Adam Hills & Mike McCartney Present: The Timeless Genius of Buster Keaton

SAT 17 FEB 1400hrs Bristol Beacon: Lantern Hall £12.00 (£10.00/£7.00)

Join for a laugh-out-loud afternoon as The Last Leg's Adam Hills teams up with The Scaffold's Mike McCartney to hand pick their favourite Keaton short films.

Passionate Keaton admirer, comedian, presenter and disability rights campaigner Adam Hills joins Mike McCartney who will be reminiscing from his childhood and sharing stories of his own comedy mischief from his time in chart topping band The Scaffold. Both revealing why they so admire the great stone face performer. A rare chance to celebrate this master of onscreen silent comedy, with live piano accompaniment from John Sweeney.



Mike McCartney



Buster Keaton

FEB 17 | SATURDAY

Tim Vine: The Physical Years

SAT 17 FEB 1600hrs Bristol Beacon: Lantern Hall
£16.00 (£10.00/£7.00)

Tim Vine shares video clips from his life and career where he falls over or does something physical in search of humour. As well as moments from Tim's TV appearances, this show includes previously unseen footage of Tim aged 18 being deliberately visual. Come along and enjoy an avalanche of joyous nonsense in a physical vein.



Tim Vine: The Physical Years

FEB 17 | SATURDAY



Harry Hill's The Last Caveman

With Harry Hill

SAT 17 FEB 1745hrs

Bristol Beacon: Lantern Hall

£17.00 (£14.00/£8.00)

Dir: Harry Hill, UK, 2023, 52mins

Step into the hilarious and heartwarming world of Harry Hill's THE LAST CAVEMAN, a cinematic experience that will leave you smiling! It's a lonely life being a caveman, especially if you believe you're the last one on Earth. Bear fights, love, death and new life as the last caveman finds out that maybe he's not as alone as he thought.

A chance to see The South West premiere of Harry's latest innovative onscreen project as he showcases his unparalleled talent and unwavering passion for silent comedy. Introduced by Harry Hill. Plus, Harry makes a special appearance as the Caveman, bringing the character to life right before your eyes! + Q&A.

AGE ADVISORY 8+:

Suitable for audiences aged 8 and above, making it the perfect family-friendly outing.



FEB 17 | SATURDAY

Sylvester McCoy: Who's Funny!

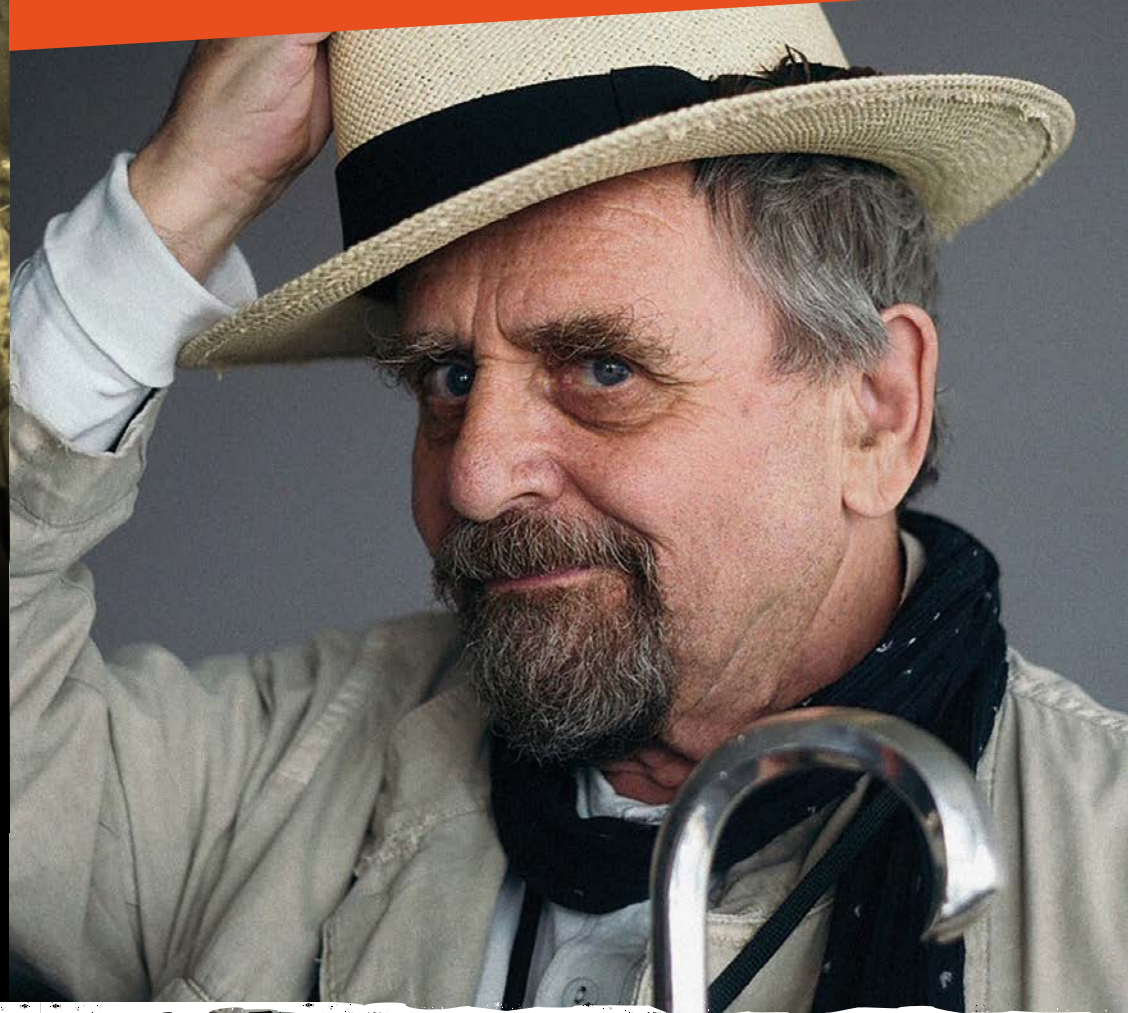
SAT 17 FEB 1945hrs

Bristol Beacon: Lantern Hall

£16.00 (£12.00/£8.00)



Celebrating Sylvester McCoy, an actor probably best known now as the darkly clown-like 7th incarnation of The Doctor in the BBC TV series DOCTOR WHO. Sylvester made his screen debut in 1965 playing silent characters in the cast of the Bristol-made VISION ON and has been displaying his flair for physical/ visual comedy ever since, including in stage portrayals of Stan Laurel and Buster Keaton. Join Matthew Sweet as he quizzes Sylvester about his career, comedy heroes and favourite stage and screen memories ahead of the handing over of the Slapstick Legacy Medal - honouring performers who keep slapstick traditions alive.



FEB 17 | SATURDAY

Phantom of The Paradise

Hosted by Harriet Taylor

SAT 17 FEB 2145hrs Bristol Beacon: Lantern Hall £8.50 (£6.50/£5.00)

Dir: Brian De Palma, USA, 1974, 1hr 32mins

Step into a world where music, mystery, and mayhem collide in "Phantom of Paradise," a cinematic masterpiece that transcends time and genre. A film that defies conventions and dances on the edge of fantasy and reality. It is the hauntingly beautiful tale of Swan, a music tycoon with a sinister agenda, and Winslow Leach, the disfigured composer seeking redemption. With an amazing soundtrack and avant-garde visuals, this cult classic pushes boundaries and celebrates the magic of the unconventional. Introduced by Harriet Taylor, producer, writer and director of SWITCH. This event is brought to you in partnership with SWITCH and Queer Vision Film Festival.

**COMEDY
HORROR**



Phantom of Paradise



Harriet Taylor

FEB 18 | SUNDAY

Big Jim and The Figaro Club

With cast member Sylvester McCoy, David John & producer Colin Rose. Hosted by Andrew Kelly

SUN 18 FEB 0930hrs Watershed £11.00 (£8.50/ £5.00)

Cert PG

It has been called 'the lost great sit-com', 'an unsung masterpiece', 'a delight' and 'ahead of its time' but now you can enter the world of this lamentably short-lived Made In Bristol series - set in a 1950s seaside town where a building firm foreman Big Jim and his team are forever finding new and hilarious ways to avoid doing any work! Cast members Sylvester McCoy, David John and series producer Colin Rose share anecdotes and clips from the production, their memories of working with Bob Hoskins and Sir Tony Robinson, and explain why slapstick comedy played such an important role in every episode.



Big Jim and The Figaro Club

FEB 18 | SUNDAY

Onscreen: Brazil with Terry Gilliam

SUN 18 FEB 1200hrs Bristol Old Vic £22.00 (£18.00/£14.00)

Dir: Terry Gilliam, 1985, USA, 132mins, Cert 15

Slapstick's dive into political dark comedy continues with a screening of Python Terry Gilliam's uproarious, Orwell-influenced, satire of bureaucracy, technology, surveillance and more in the company of its Oscar-nominated and double BAFTA-winning director. There's a gag and sharp point to be found in almost every visionary frame as well as stellar performances by a cast which includes Jonathan Pryce, Robert de Niro, Michael Palin and Bob Hoskins. Introduced by Terry Gilliam and followed by a short post-screening onstage chat + Q&A.

**COMEDY
HORROR**



Brazil

Cult Figure: Kenneth Williams

SUN 18 FEB 1430hrs Bristol Old Vic: Studio £12

Actor/impressionist Colin Elmer, who has played the unique and much beloved Kenneth Williams in many touring stage productions, including Round The Horne, brings his one-man show to Bristol - telling the star's story, using Williams's own writings, anecdotes about him and re-enactments of routines and catch-phrases.



Colin Elmer



Kenneth Williams

FEB 18 | SUNDAY

Adam Hills' Desert Island Comedy Flicks

Hosted by Robin Ince

SUN 18 FEB 1530hrs Bristol Old Vic From £15 - £32

In a rare and unique live appearance Adam Hills MBE, Aussie-born stand-up, host of the award-winning Channel 4 series THE LAST LEG, disability champion and novelist, makes his Slapstick festival debut - sharing the comedy film titles he'd most want to have with him if he was ever marooned on a desert island. Hills is famous for his quick, sharp, dry, wit, mastery of pranks and his love of many styles of comedy. So #IsItOk to predict this event will be memorably hilarious? 'If you cannot enjoy Adam Hills you cannot have a pulse'. THE SCOTSMAN
Adam will be in conversation with comedian/author Robin Ince.

The Laugheologists

SUN 18 FEB 1700hrs

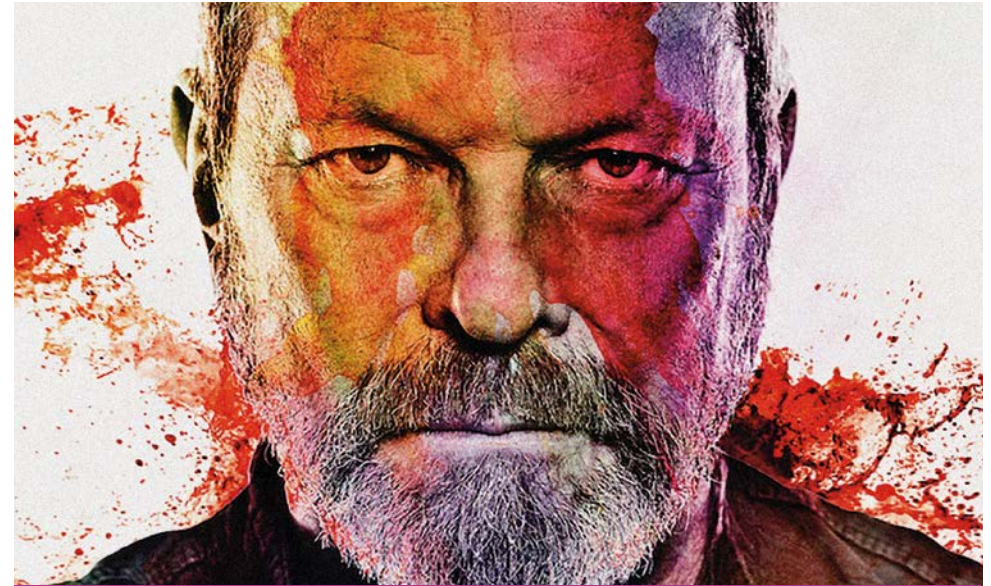
**Bristol Old Vic: Studio
£10**

Taking Mark Twain's advice "Never let the truth stand in the way of a good story", humourists Barnaby Eaton-Jones and Robert Hammond offer up an illustrated lecture delving into comedy's history and introducing a hilarious cast of overlooked, and possibly spoof, comedians who never quite made it.



The Laugheologists

FEB 18 | SUNDAY



Terry Gilliam

The Dark Comic Genius of Terry Gilliam

The Aardman Slapstick Award for Visual Comedy

SUN 18 FEB 1800hrs Bristol Old Vic £35.00 (£24.00/£15.00)

Film and comedy enthusiasts have long marvelled at Terry Gilliam's artistic, inventive imagery, and his ability to craft extraordinary worlds since his early days contributing animated content to the groundbreaking Do Not Adjust Your Set (1968) and the iconic Monty Python series (1969-1974). After co-directing Monty Python and the Holy Grail (1975) Terry created a series of highly acclaimed feature films including: Time Bandits (1981), Brazil (1985), The Fisher King (1991), 12 Monkeys (1995), Fear and Loathing in Las Vegas (1998) and The Man Who Killed Don Quixote (2018). As one of cinema's great visionary talents, it is perhaps befitting that Terry Gilliam is the well-deserved recipient of 2024's Aardman Slapstick Award for Visual Comedy, honouring his enduring onscreen legacy. In this live conversation, Terry reflects on this remarkable body of work along with a dazzling array of clips A celebration of Gilliam's unparalleled impact on dark comedy in the cinematic landscape.

The Laurel & Hardy Cabaret

SUN 18 FEB 1930hrs

Bristol Old Vic: Studio £15

Lucky Dog Theatre Productions return to Slapstick with a follow-up to their internationally loved and award-winning 'Hats Off To Laurel And Hardy' with a new show recreating favourite Stan and Ollie movie sequences plus sketches and song and dance routines performed by the duo during their 1940s/50s theatre tours, including on their visit to Bristol Hippodrome.



The Laurel & Hardy Cabaret

FEB 18 | SUNDAY

Robert Lindsay
The Aardman Slapstick Comedy Award

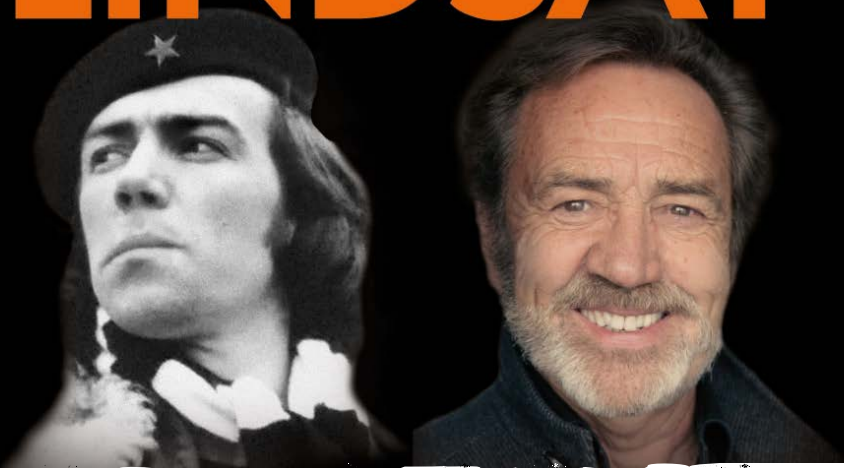
SUN 18 FEB 2030hrs
Bristol Old Vic
From £15 - £35

Robert Lindsay's comedy credentials are impressive, thanks to long-running roles in acclaimed series' such as My Family and Citizen Smith and cameo appearances in a wide range of sitcoms, including Absolutely Fabulous, Extras, The Office and Victoria Wood's Xmas special. Here, he shares favourite stories from his outstanding career in comedy before receiving the Aardman Slapstick Award for Comedy. Hosted by journalist/broadcaster Matthew Sweet.



CELEBRATING THE ONSCREEN COMEDY OF

**ROBERT
LINDSAY**



A BIG THANK YOU TO ALL OUR SUPPORTERS!

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

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Venue Partners



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The Festival Team

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

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:** Rustin Allison

Digital Content: Guy Manchester, Jacob Hurley **Technical Manager:** Ewan Dunford **Operations Manager:** Sue Lion

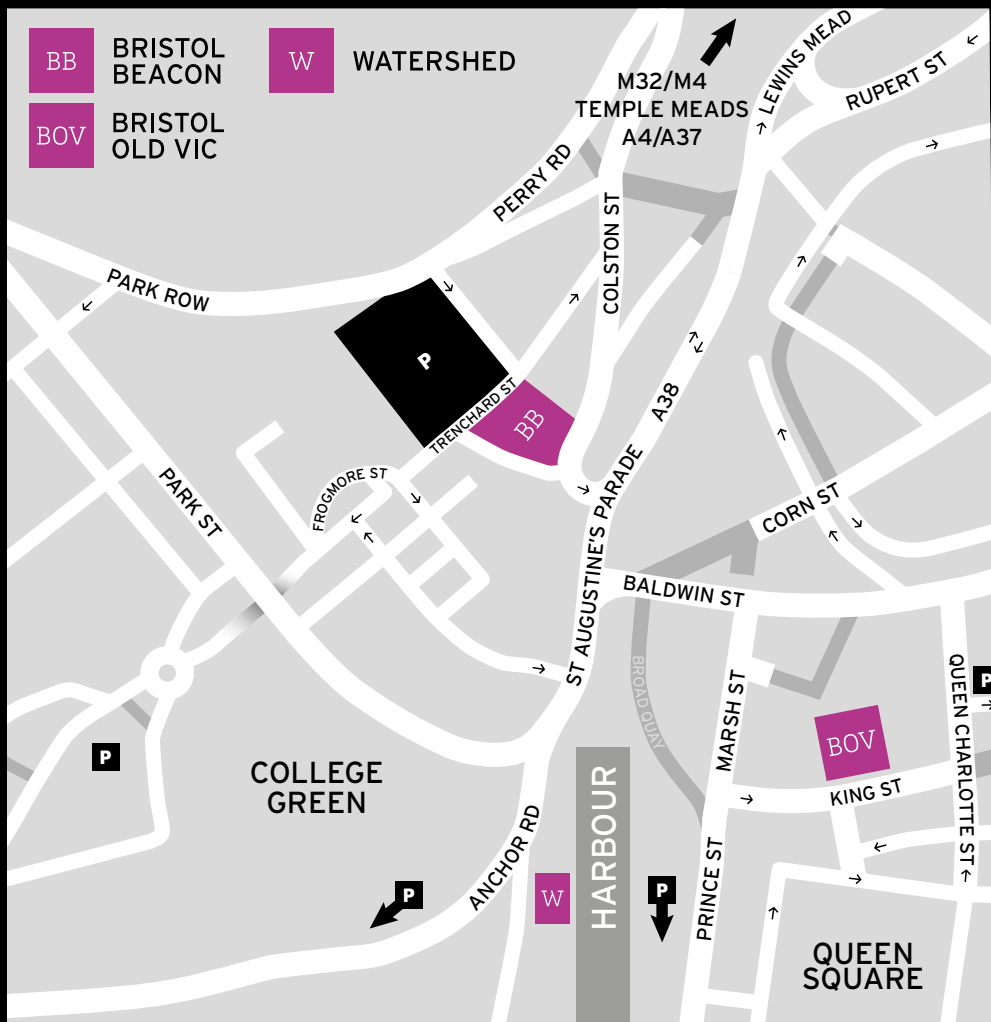
Guest Liaison: Chris Kidd, Jacob Hurley **Stage Manager:** Gemma Brooks **Musical Director:** Günter A. Buchwald

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

Design & Branding: Limepark Studios **Advertising:** Out of Hand Ltd **Filming/Editing:** UWE, Aardman Machine Room, Megan McGregor, Jacob Burley **Trailer:** Jacob Hurley **Ident:** Bram Twheam (Aardman Animations)

Advisors: Polly Rose, Michael Daniels, Andrew Kelly, Sean Clarke

And all of our fantastic volunteers!



Venues: Ticket Information

Bristol Beacon, Trenchard St, Bristol BS1 5AR
0117 203 4040 | bristolbeacon.org

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

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



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