

PRESS RELEASE

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Llangollen to Become Welsh Capital of Comedy?

The four nights of stand up comedy at this years Llangollen Fringe could be the start of an annual 'Festival of Comedy' attracting some of the biggest names on the British Comedy scene to the small north Wales town.

Fringe organisers are awaiting the results of ticket sales before committing themselves to turning Llangollen into the capital of stand up but, with some 3 weeks to go it is looking extremely positive.

"We've more or less always had one night of stand up comedy during the festival and audiences have always been excellent. I know the adage is to leave the audience wanting more but in this case our audience has been demanding more so we've gone with four nights this time.

It seems obvious to us that the next stage would be to organise a full blown stand up comedy festival all in its own right later in the year, so the results of this years Fringe could have a real economic impact on Llangollen in more ways than one!" said Programming Director Roger Goodman.

This years mini festival kicks off on Sunday 20th July with the first ever all Welsh language night of mirth at the Fringe getting it all underway, headlined Tudur Owen, who will be leaving his alter ego, S4C's very own PC Leslie Wynn, back at the station. He will be joined on the Fringe stage by Gethin Thomas and Daniel Glyn, who between them have written more than 300 comedy scripts for radio and television, including Radio Cwm Cwat, Y Rhaglen Wirion 'Na, Hotel Eddie and Dyna Bechod.

Monday 21st sees Reginald D Hunter taking the night off from Have I Got News for You to bring his own special brand of humour to Llangollen. The American is known as 'the coolest man in comedy' who has that killer combination of great gags and intelligent material - in short, he's the complete comic. At last years Edinburgh Fringe he sold out an amazing 27 consecutive nights! He will be joined by Tudur Owen, proving he's just as funny in English.....

The new Kenneth Williams or even Frankie Howard will be on stage on Tuesday 22nd, in the guise of Paul Foot. This award winning comic has more TV appearances to his name than you can shake a stick at, including being a regular reporter on the Out to Lunch Series 3 (BBC Radio 2), The Fallout, Rob Brydon's Annually Retentive, The World Stands Up, Edinburgh and Beyond, Big Brother's Big Mouth, Brain Candy and Comedy Nation.

He will be joined by one of the top comics in the UK today in Hal Cruttenden. The ex Eastender has already this year hosted a new series of 'The World Stands Up' for Paramount following appearances late last year on 'Rob Brydon's Annually Retentive' for BBC3 and 'The Omid Djalili Show' on BBC1, for which he also wrote many sketches. His other television credits include, 'The 11 O'Clock Show', 'Brain Candy', 'Live at Jongleurs', 'The Comedy Store' and 'The World Stands Up'.

And last, but by no means least, the final evening sees another TV comic who has worked as a newspaper summarizer pundit type thing for BBC News 24 and as warm up for Friday Night with

Jonathan Ross, Never Mind The Buzzcocks and Shoot The Messenger - Alistair Barrie.

Also on the bill will be Canadian Glenn Wool, who has played comedy festivals all over the world, including the Edinburgh Fringe and the one and only Keith Donnelly, who describes himself as a human theme park and perpetual motion machine!

The Fringe have also extended the comedy theme to The Hand Hotel, with the creation of the Fringe Comedy Club which runs for three nights from Thursday 24th July, with James Campbell himself being joined by Tom Adams, Pete Cain, Wendy Wason and Andrew O'Neill, guitarist Simon James and female duo Ember.

"We never really expected to get such a high calibre line up when we began working on this new idea in association with our new Director of Comedy James Campbell. Tickets have been sold all over the country for this one, which is a very good indication to us that a stand alone festival would be a great benefit to Llangollen," said Roger.

Tickets can be purchased on-line at www.llangollenfringe.co.uk or by calling 01978 860600.

Released on behalf of the Llangollen Fringe Festival. For further information contact Nigel Davies on 01490 412608.