

REVIEW : Jasper Carrott and Alistair McGowan,
Theatre Royal Winchester, 24 October 2016

Laughs Galore With Jasper and Alistair



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(25 October also Sold Out)

This show should come with a health warning. Jasper Carrott won't know this, but he is solely to blame for me almost pegging out in the early 90s here in the South, when I was laughing so much during one of his live shows that I could hardly breathe. My oh my, he did it again to me last night during the snoring routine. If you're going to the second sold-out show, you will understand.

Jasper has this knack of being able to continue – and add to – a sketch so that it gets funnier by the second; you're still laughing at the first bit after 30 seconds and he's adding to it all the time, so it just gets worse. During that sketch in the second half, I had tears of joy running down my face, my head felt like it was going to burst and I was laughing so much that, once again, I could hardly breathe.

The show was staged in two lots of 30 minutes each – and I think that was a good idea to split the bill and timing. I desperately wanted to see Alistair McGowan do his impressions, because on telly he appears in such short bursts that I have always wanted more. He's one of my favourite comedians – and he didn't disappoint.

Alastair's extraordinary observation extends to many famous faces from the present and past – and not just to their voices, but to their mannerisms as well. He then puts those people into different and unexpected scenarios.

There are many voices that you would never expect to hear. I loved his John Le Mesurier (Wilson in Dad's Army). He even does women – Sarah Millican and Jo Brand were both there – and his rendition of Moira Stuart reading the news was just extraordinary. As was his Brian Perkins. And in sport Andy Murray, Rafa Nadal, Roger Federer, Novac Djokovic... the list just goes on and on.

The best thing of course is that 25 years has passed since me seeing Jasper live for the first time, so there are plenty of new things for him to talk about – like Twitter – as well as the traditional material that you may be familiar with. There were plenty of gags from both around the usual subjects... age, parking, young people, children bringing home new boyfriends, caravans, why sentences begin with the word 'So', Eastleigh, Wolverhampton... these fare-game subjects were all lined up by both against the wall and shot down in flames.

But there was plenty of new material as well. Jasper even had some new 'insurance claim' gags and mixed in some new 'short' songs in with the old favourites at the end. I even went out and snatched a sugar sachet afterwards. You'll see if you're lucky enough to have a ticket for tonight.

Anarchy! Or should that be anchovy...

(Jasper Carrott touring with Alastair McGowan until March 2017)

Kevin Gover Winchester Evening News