

rabbit faced story soup

written and performed by
LAURA SOLON



Direct from a totally sold out Edinburgh run, *Perrier Award* Winner LAURA SOLON (BBC ONE's Ruddy Hell! It's Harry and Paul, ITV1's Al Murray's Multiple Personality Disorder and Radio 4's Talking and Not Talking) returns to the Soho Theatre with her brand new multi-character narrative comedy. Performing a two week run of the critically acclaimed Rabbit Faced Story Soup she will be at the Soho Theatre between 6th and 17th October, before embarking on a 46-date national tour in Spring 2010.

So..... It's all gone tits down at Black Publishing. The company's on the brink of financial collapse and star author Harriet G. Scott has gone AWOL without completing her latest blockbuster. Tepid-shot publisher Diana Lewis is scrambled to find a writer to finish the book and save the company from crisis. Her obstacles include an American Super Agent, a lightly tanned boss, a call centre worker, a diversity officer, The French and a dead rabbit called Ian.

It's like *The Wire*. But with character comedy. And EVERYTHING from *The Wire* taken out.

LAURA SOLON won the *Perrier Award*, Edinburgh Festival Fringe's highest accolade, with her debut solo show in 2005, and has since established herself as one of the fastest rising writers and performers working in comedy. Series three of her Radio 4 series, Talking and Not Talking, is to be broadcast later this year, whilst her television work has seen her perform prominently alongside the UK's leading comic acts such as HARRY ENFIELD, JESSICA HYNES, AL MURRAY, DAVID TENNANT and PAUL WHITEHOUSE. She is currently developing a new scripted comedy for Radio 4 which will pilot later this year.

ends

***Laura Solon's Rabbit Faced Story Soup is at the Soho Theatre from Tuesday 6th to Saturday 17th October 2009 (not 11th & 12th). Box Office: 0207 478 0100 or www.sohotheatre.com
Spring 2010 Tour dates overleaf.***

What the press said about 'Rabbit Faced Story Soup' in Edinburgh

Faultless performance aside, Solon has written a script that's been polished until it flashes and gleams, and which evinces an Iannucci-like gift for steering a sentence off the main road and into a cul de sac of surrealism. She is frighteningly talented.

Nicholas Barber, Independent on Sunday

A masterclass.

Stephen Armstrong, Sunday Times

Solon's unfair advantage is that she can not only do it all - the writing, the performing, the characters, the accents - but do it all so well...Solon always finds her mark, and in the most entertaining way. Do see her if you can.

Mark Monahan, Daily Telegraph

For more information please contact: Jo Cross or Dan Lloyd at Avalon on 020 7598 7222 / joc@avalonuk.com or dani@avalonuk.com

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OTHER THINGS THE PRESS SAID ABOUT

...Rabbit Faced Story Soup (Edinburgh 2009)

Entertaining, character-driven yarn, full of wryly smart lines and performed with subtle aplomb... With her long-overdue comeback, Solon is striving for the simple, yet often elusive, aim of a classy, delightfully funny hour. Job done.

★★★★

Steve Bennett, Chortle

It's an entertaining and unusual tale, teeming with vivid characters. Its script is densely populated with acerbic one-liners: Solon has retained her facility for articulate defamation.

★★★★

Brian Logan, The Guardian

Reminds us what we've been missing.

★★★★

Dominic Maxwell, The Times

This is gag-driven, no-extra-fat character comedy... A real vindication of the faith that was put in her four years ago.

★★★★

Julian Hall, The Independent

Solon fits loads of characters into her one-hour slot and equal, painstaking thought has been given to each one. She also paints amazing comic imagery, with just one carefully chosen word turning a good line into a great one. Throw in a cute white rabbit called Ian and you've got a show that is imaginative, innovative and inventive.

★★★★

Micky Noonan, Metro

Rabbit Face Story Soup is tightly structured and thrillingly, almost bewilderingly dense...It's superbly written, incorporating a seemingly endless stream of intelligently surreal imagery and unexpected collisions of ideas that frequently brings to mind the work of Douglas Adams... A show that delivers some of the most satisfying narrative and comic punches that I've seen at the Festival this year.

★★★★

Tom Hackett, Fest

An even more impressive showcase for the 30-year-old's talent for understated character comedy than her award-winning debut... Solon's joke-rich writing is as sharp and nuanced as her performance, full of barbed observations and elegant turns of phrase, the finest of which must surely be her new name for stilettos: tart stilts.

★★★★

Steve Bennett, Mail on Sunday

Somebody needs to give this woman a TV show soon. There are more great one-liners and imagination in this one-woman, one-act play than in the entire annual output of BBC Three... The constant stream of gold-plated gags and well-drawn characters make it a delightful hour of entertainment.

★★★★

Neil McEwan, Edinburgh Evening News

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...Laura Solon's 2005 Perrier Award winning show

Solon's twisted imagination means that the show is jam-packed with delights. Her performance(s) are expertly differentiated... And there are countless killer one-liners.

The Guardian

A strikingly original, darkly funny series of monologues... Studded with finely wrought one liners, this is the year's most impressive debut.

The Times

...Talking and Not Talking

Any sketch show — any comedy show, with the exception of the ever-brilliant Bleak Expectations in fact — would struggle to compete against Solon.

Chris Campling, The Times

Sometimes observational, at other times strangely surreal, the sketches all benefit from being created by a writer who has placed the English language in a cocktail shaker and poured out an intoxicating mix of wit and words.

Jane Anderson, Radio Times

Seemingly poised for stardom for creating instantly memorable and grotesque comic characters, one might dub Laura Solon the next Catherine Tate. What makes her different is that she specialises in brilliantly written verbal comedy, displayed at length in this latest Radio 4 series. Almost every sketch is a showcase for ultra-deft characterisation and surprising gags. There's a real sense of superior craftsmanship, making her seem more like a successor to the tradition of Fry & Laurie than anyone more contemporary. Her various alter egos allow Solon to mix it up a bit, with some characters offering delicate observational comedy (check out the divorcee entrepreneur perched forever on the verge of tears) and others diving headlong into the surreal (her demented Teutonic heiress, forever plotting coups in the company of a china model lion, is a blindingly original highpoint). Following her memorable cameos in Harry And Paul, Solon's surely going to be bringing this stuff to TV soon; this release shows exactly why she deserves it.

James Kettle, 'The Guide' The Guardian

Laura Solon has a streak of genuine originality...The joke lies partly in the speed of delivery – Solon rarely pauses; and she is one of the few comics around prepared to use silly voices to get a laugh...I wonder whether radio light entertainment is the right place for Solon: she's a little too clever and a little too dark. I don't suppose they'd let her present the Today programme?

Robert Hanks, 'The Week in Radio' The Independent

Very interesting it is too: the scripts are dark, sharp and entirely devoid of punchlines, but still manage to contain more laughs than most comedy half-hours.

Lisa Mullen, Time Out

If you're in search of a laugh on Radio 4, then Talking and Not Talking, Laura Solon's new comedy sketch show, is – whisper it – rather good. A bit Catherine Tate, a bit Green Wing. You know: funny.

Miranda Sawyer, The Observer

Is she the new Catherine Tate? Alan Bennett? Victoria Wood? Nobody seems sure. But one thing is certain: Perrier Award-winning comedian Laura Solon is destined for great things. In her new sketch show Talking and Not Talking she lays into the smug moneyed middle classes with laser-guided precision. She's a remarkable talent; BBC2 undoubtedly beckons.

Maxton Walker, 'G2' The Guardian

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...Laura, Ben and Him

This rapid-fire sketch delivers the comic goods. Laura Solon, Ben Willbond and Him - aka Marek Larwood - dish up a refreshingly daft election of sketches from a smart running gag about Narnia to a sly spoof of all those ambulance-chasing lawyer ads you get on daytime TV. Mitchell and Webb should be made to watch and take notes.

Ceri Thomas, Evening Standard / London Lite

Whatever else these funny, well-observed sketches are about their subject is the middle class, its faults and its prejudices. There is the horsey woman who keeps a pony in the office, the clown who is suing over health-and-safety issues and the character with Narnia in his wardrobe (when the council would not even give him permission for a conservatory). It is written by Marek Larwood and the Perrier Award-winners Laura Solon and Ben Willbond. Their pedigree shows.

Sally Kinnes, 'Culture' The Sunday Times

It's obvious why this trio have a clutch of awards between them, as the combination of funny looking characters and silly humour is a definite winner. Laughter lines in episode one come from the clown who points at his red nose and says 'from drinking', the tradesman who remarks 'the best thing about being a bed-wetter is that I don't find it hard to get up in the morning', and the man who has made a 'slag trap' from a cardboard box filled with ciggies and a bottle of Hooch. It's naughty but nice.

Adrian Lobb, 'We Love Telly' Daily Mirror

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TOUR DATES

January		
Friday 29 th	CAMBRIDGE The Junction	01223 511 511
Saturday 30 th	CHORLEY Little Theatre	01257 264 362
Sunday 31 st	WARWICK Arts Centre	02476 524 524
February		
Tuesday 2 nd	CARDIFF St Davids Hall	029 2087 8444
Thursday 4 th	FAREHAM Ashcroft Arts	01329 223 100
Friday 5 th	READING South Street Arts	0118 960 6060
Saturday 6 th	WADHURST (Sussex) The JV Barn	01892 783 775
Wednesday 10 th	NORWICH Arts Centre	01603 660 352
Friday 12 th	ABERDEEN The Lemon Tree	01224 641 122
Saturday 13 th	BERWICK-UPON-TWEED The Maltings	01289 330 999
Monday 15 th	LEICESTER Y Theatre	0116 2557 066
Thursday 18 th	BATH Rondo Theatre	01225 463 362
Friday 19 th	ALDERSHOT West End Centre	01252 330 040
Saturday 20 th	SOUTHSEA Kings Theatre	023 9282 8282
Thursday 25 th	BLACKBURN King George's Hall	08448 471 664
Friday 26 th	LONDON Battersea Arts Centre	020 7223 2223
Saturday 27 th	WYCOMBE Swan Town Hall	01494 512 000
Sunday 28 th	MAIDENHEAD Norden Arts Farm	01628 788 997
March		
Wednesday 3 rd	LONDON 606 Club	01892 783 775
Friday 5 th	NEW MILTON Forest Arts Centre	01425 612 393
Saturday 6 th	WINDSOR Firestation Arts Centre	01753 866 865
Sunday 7 th	LONDON Leicester Square Theatre	0844 847 2475
Tuesday 9 th	DURHAM The Gala Theatre Studio	0191 332 4041
Wednesday 10 th	LEEDS The Library	0113 244 0794
Thursday 11 th	DERBY Darwin Suite	01332 255 800
Friday 12 th	SALISBURY Arts Centre	01722 321 744
Saturday 13 th	NOTTINGHAM Lakeside	0115 846 7777
Sunday 14 th	YORK Hyena Lounge Comedy Club	0871 704 2054
Monday 15 th	TIVERTON New Hall	01884 250 066
Thursday 18 th	LANCASTER Grand	01524 64 695
Friday 19 th	SELBY Town Hall	01757 213 758
Saturday 20 th	GLASGOW Tron Theatre (Gilmore Hill G12)	0844 395 4005
Sunday 21 st	NORFOLK Kings Lynn	01553 764 864

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Monday 22 nd	CHELTENHAM Town Hall	0844 576 2210
April		
Thursday 1 st	TONBRIDGE Queen's Hall Theatre	01580 711 856
Friday 2 nd	FOLKESTONE Quarter House	01303 858 500
Saturday 3 rd	COLCHESTER Arts Centre	01206 500 900
Thursday 8 th	NORTH DEVON Croyde Hall	01271 890804
Friday 9 th	NORTH DEVON Molland Village Hall	01769 550643
Saturday 10 th	DIDCOT, Cornerstone	01235 515144
Friday 16 th	SWINDON Arts Centre	01793 614 837
Saturday 17 th	CHELMSFORD Cramphorn Studio	01245606271
Friday 30 th	TAUNTON Brewhouse	01823 283 244
May		
Saturday 1 st	TORRINGTON Plough Arts Centre	01805 624 624
June		
Friday 4 th	LYDNEY EAST Village Hall	01594 842180
Sunday 6 th	BRENTFORD The Watermans Theatre	020 8232 1010

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AVALON PROMOTIONS

Avalon Promotions Limited is one of the leading promoters of live comedy in the UK. Productions include: NEWMAN & BADDIEL in the first comedy show ever to be staged at Wembley Arena; FRANK SKINNER's record-breaking performance to an audience of 6,000 at the Battersea Power Station; Jerry Springer – The Opera at the National Theatre, at the Cambridge Theatre in London's West End, on national tour and at New York's Carnegie Hall; HARRY HILL at the Palace and Dominion Theatres in London; and Dave Gorman's Googlewhack Adventure at the Sydney Opera House, at the Edinburgh Festival Fringe, on national tour and at the Village Theatre, New York (nominated for *Drama Desk Award 2004*).

The last 12 months has seen Avalon Promotions: present multi-award winning comics JENNY ECLAIR, RICHARD HERRING, RUSSELL HOWARD and FRANK SKINNER on sell-out runs; produce AL MURRAY, THE PUB LANDLORD live at the O2 and RUSSELL HOWARD at Wembley Stadium; introduce some of the fastest-rising stars in comedy such as KRISTEN SCHAAL & KURT BRAUNOHLER and ISY SUTTIE; produce stage shows, such as Frank Skinner's Credit Crunch Cabaret and Grumpy Old Women Live, which has toured the UK three times and performed a highly successful run in Australia; and present 20 acts at the Edinburgh Festival, where it has promoted a total of five *Perrier Award* winners and 18 *Perrier Award/Edinburgh Comedy Award* nominees in just 21 years.

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