



Award winning comedian and star and co-creator (alongside TIM KEY and MARK WATSON) of BBC Four's comedy quiz show We Need Answers ALEX HORNE is to embark on a 35-date national tour from 15th January 2010. Wordwatching, which is also set to be published as a book by Virgin on 14th January 2010, played to critical acclaim at the Edinburgh Fringe Festival and follows ALEX'S quest as he attempts to answer some pressing questions: Can one man deliberately invent a successful new word? Is it possible to break into the dictionary? What is a pratdigger?

On 25th January 2006, the *Perrier Best Newcomer Award* nominee and *Chortle Award* winning comedian/wordsmith, ALEX HORNE celebrated his TKDay - his 10,000th day alive - and decided to mark the event by doing something truly remarkable. Already a successful joke writer, ALEX wanted to take the next logical step: he wanted to create a brand new verbal concept and successfully implant it in the English language.

In 1791, Dublin theatre owner James Daly proved it was possible. When a colleague wagered he couldn't come up with a word that would catch on by the end of the weekend, Daly hired a group of street urchins to write "quiz" – a previously unknown sequence of letters – on the walls around the Irish city. Within 24 hours the word was common currency. People didn't know what it meant so presumed it was some sort of *test*.

Could ALEX replicate this feat (bearing in mind that story is almost certainly untrue)?

Nowadays, verbal gardening isn't so easy. Urchins are harder to find, more expensive to hire and most walls are already caked in their graffiti. But after much careful planning, daring stunts and almost a thousand days of sneaky verbal trickery, ALEX is making progress. His new words have appeared in nearly all the national newspapers, on Sky News, BBC TWO's The Daily Politics and in an interview with GEORGE ALAGIAH witnessed by 250 million people on BBC World. Even TKDay (*noun: one's 10,000th day, a major turning point in one's life*) is beginning to catch on.

Come and see him spread the word further in his most ambitious show yet, a multi-media neologicistic bonanza tracking the highs and lows of this secret linguistic campaign.

ends

What the press has said about Wordwatching:

Beautifully structured, endearingly honest... He not only entertains, amuses and impresses, but he makes you want to join in. Don't be a pratdigger, go and see this show.

Kate Copstick, The Scotsman

A gentlemanly sort with a potentially impressive handlebar moustache, he displays a meticulousness bordering on obsession. Neither this, nor his love of sophisticated software, hinders or distracts from his rolling flow...Take the tech away and you'd still have a tautly written, charmingly delivered show... This is almost word perfect.

Mickey Noonan, Metro

For more information, press tickets or an image, please contact: Jenny Stewart or Dan Lloyd. Tel: 020 7598 7222. Email: jenny.stewart@avalonuk.com or danl@avalonuk.com

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TOUR DATES

DATE	VENUE	BOX OFFICE
January		
Friday 15 th	Berwick The Maltings Theatre	01289 330 999
Tuesday 26 th	Norwich Arts Centre	01603 660 352
Thursday 28 th	Derby Assembly Rooms	01332 255 800
February		
Wednesday 3 rd	Edinburgh The Stand	0131 558 7272
Thursday 4 th	Aberdeen The Lemon Tree	01224 641 122
Thursday 18 th	Ebbw Vale The Beaufort Theatre	01495 355 800
Friday 19 th	Cambridge The Junction	01223 511 511
Saturday 20 th	Leeds The Library	0113 244 0794
Sunday 21 st	York The Hyena Comedy Club	0871 704 2054
Wednesday 24 th	Wycombe Swan Town Hall	01494 512 000
Friday 26 th	Newbury Arlington Arts Centre	01635 244 246
Saturday 27 th	Whitby Hilarity Bites	01325 362 364
Sunday 28 th	Hull The Otherside Comedy Club	0845 838 1558
March		
Wednesday 3 rd	Milton Keynes The Stables	01908 280 800
Thursday 4 th	Bristol The Comedy Box	0117 902 0344
Sunday 7 th	Kings Lynn Arts centre	01553 764 864
Wednesday 10 th	Brighton Komedia	0845 293 8480
Friday 12 th	Colchester Arts Centre	01206 500 900
Sunday 13 th	Darlington Hilarity Bites	01325 362 364
Tuesday 15 th	Scarborough The Otherside	0845 838 1558
Wednesday 16 th	Glasgow The Stand	0131 558 7272
Saturday 27 th	Chelmsford Cramphorn Theatre	01424 462 288
April		
Saturday 3 rd	Bath Rondo Theatre	01225 463 362
Thursday 8 th	Lydford Village Hall, Somerset	01963 240 417
Friday 9 th	Regil Village Hall, N. Somerset	01275 472 648
Saturday 10 th	Hastings White Rock Theatre	01225 463 362
Friday 16 th	Edington Village Hall, Somerset	01278 722 524
Saturday 17 th	Wootton Courtenay Somerset	01643 841 067
Tuesday 20 th – Saturday 24 th	London Soho Theatre	020 7478 0100



WHAT THE PRESS HAS SAID ABOUT ALEX AND...

...Wordwatching

Quirky, candid and engaging.

Suzanne Black, The List

This is enormously captivating fun, with strong timing and brilliant humour. Well worth the honk.

Ian Phillips, The National Student

A master of the gentle, charming comedy set

The List

It's an admirably pointless task, and one that's amusingly told. He deserves kudos for originality, too, as you don't get many stand-up shows dedicated to neologisms these days... Worth a few quid of anybody's honk.

Steve Bennett, Chortle

A refreshingly honest set of fun and games will have you honking for more!

Paul McInnes, Guardian Online

Alex Horne's comedy stand up is a distinctive mix of the geeky and the quietly rebellious. He's obsessed with words and how we use them, has a penchant for puns and is a virtuoso of the vowel and consonant... This clever show works on several levels and its enthusiasm for words is infectious.

William McEvoy, The Stage

This is concept comedy in the vein of Dave Gorman: a gentle, feelgood exploration of one man's unusual pursuit, which successfully keeps the audience intellectually stimulated as well as amused... you will be tickled, intrigued and perhaps even inspired to join in – which has got to be well worth your honk.

Tom Hackett, Fest

Alex Horne's show Wordwatching is an amusing account of his quest to introduce various new words and usages into the English language... It's a show worth a few quid of anyone's hard-earned honk.

Ian Shuttleworth, Financial Times

...Birdwatching

Rather like a rare bird - his ostensible subject - he is a fragile delight, covering any subject with a daft, surreal charm.

Stephen Armstrong, The Sunday Times

Much more of a progressively inclusive family comedy than your typical stand up, and the feel good factor is unrivalled... It's well worth your while witnessing Horne's sharp eye, quick wit and excellent audience rapport, as he effortlessly moves the boundaries of the genre itself.

Duska Radosavljevic, The Stage

Quick, intelligent, and capable of generating wholesome laughs without falter.

Rupert Thomson, Fest

Horne is as quick-witted and engaging as they come

Nicholas Barber, The Independent on Sunday

The gentle premise offers a platform for some sharp gags and surprisingly insightful philosophising

James Kettle, The Guardian



The hobby is a springboard for apparent but expertly controlled chaos, delivered around his immaculately timed and surprisingly technological whimsy

Stephen Armstrong, The Sunday Times

"Horne's wide-eyed appetite for knowledge shines through and uncovers the naturally ridiculous elements of his findings... And who on the Fringe can wield a better PowerPoint presentation?"

Brian Donaldson, The List

"Quirky, quick-witted and affable."

Dominic Maxwell, The Times

"Horne is that rarest of creatures, the funny geek. He has a scientist's curiosity coupled with the gentle humour and enthusiasm that characterises the best lecturers. Combining these traits with his beloved PowerPoint, Horne's show tells of the year he spent locked in polite Oedipal combat with his Dad seeing who could spot the most birds. It is charming, warm and cosy rather than packed with killer lines, but that isn't necessarily a bad thing."

Jonathan Trew, Scotland on Sunday

"Horne's observations are at once funny and fascinating."

Sharon Lougher, Metro

...When in Rome

"A beguiling blend of the smart and stupid...a real delight."

The Times

"This is the most inventive show I've seen this year."

The Observer

"Horne has superb timing and fascinating delivery... Pure comedy gold."

Metro

"A quick witted and genial comedian."

The Independent

...Every Body Talks

"A real delight."

Dominic Maxwell, The Times

"A subtly-structured piece of gentle genius which explores non-verbal communication, complete with pie charts, graphics and an odd picture of Ken Dodd."

Bruce Dessau, Evening Standard

"One white male who really should have received a (Perrier) nomination is Alex Horne, who was a newcomer nominee last year and whose new show, Every Body Talks, is more ambitious in imagination and complexity. Stand-up purists may balk at the quantity of props, but this is the most inventive show I have seen this year."

Stephanie Merritt, The Observer

"The concept is ambitious, the execution delightful and the atmosphere charming. Put simply, Every Body Talks is unlike anything else you will see on the Fringe. Which is exactly why you should go."

Steve Bennett, Chortle



...Making Fish Laugh

"Extremely well-conceived and executed, this makes for a fine hour laughing about laughter."

Steve Jelbert, The Independent

"This delightfully daft lecture elevates him into a new league."

Bruce Dessau, Evening Standard

"Being blinded by science has rarely seemed this fun."

Nick Awde, The Stage

"This is a hugely impressive debut. Conditions for laughter at the fringe? Alex Horne's gig."

Alex O'Connell, The Times



ALEX HORNE

Nominated for the *Perrier Best Newcomer Award* in 2003 for Making Fish Laugh, his interactive Edinburgh Festival Fringe debut stand-up show; ALEX HORNE has established a reputation among critics, comics and audiences as a thoughtful and original stand-up, writer and solo performer.

To date ALEX has brought five solo show to the Edinburgh Fringe, including 2004's *Chortle Award* winning Every Body Talks, and 2005's When In Rome which went on to be ALEX'S first national tour. In 2007 ALEX performed Birdwatching to critical acclaim at the Fringe. The show went on to tour nationally in 2009 coinciding with the release of ALEX'S debut book Birdwatchingwatching (Virgin Books). 2007 also saw the Edinburgh debut of We Need Answers, a new comedy quiz show developed and hosted alongside MARK WATSON and TIM KEY. Following the success of the live show, two series of We Need Answers were commissioned by BBC Four, the second of which is currently on air.

ALEX'S other recent credits include The Percy Edwards Showdown (BBC Radio 4), The Verb (BBC Radio Three) and Loose Ends (BBC Radio 4).

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 on a 10-date sell-out arena tour; 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, Jerry Springer – The Opera at the Sydney Opera House, and Grumpy Old Women Live, which has toured the UK four times and performed a highly successful run in Australia; stage; 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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