



RUSSELL HOWARD, star of BBC TWO's Mock The Week, will return to venues across the UK this year as he embarks on a 60-date national tour with his new show, Dingleedodies. The *if.comedy* and *Barry Award* nominee will kick off the tour with five Edinburgh dates at the Assembly Rooms. This will be his seventh successive appearance at the Festival Fringe, and his fifth solo show in Edinburgh, where he has sold out all his previous four Fringe runs.

RUSSELL, the recently announced successor to AL MURRAY – THE PUB LANDLORD as host of Paramount Comedy's Edinburgh & Beyond, sold out last year's Edinburgh run in its entirety before his first performance, with seven dates in larger capacity venues being added due to ticket demand. He then set off on a national tour which was extended to 66 dates, selling 38, 000 tickets in the process.

Still unfashionably fond of humanity, RUSSELL's tireless energy and joyful enthusiasm for his craft make him a prolific stand-up favourite. Come and have your cobwebs blown away in an unashamedly exuberant whirlwind (not an actual whirlwind).

In addition to his near-constant touring, an extremely busy year has seen RUSSELL: appear on Live At The Apollo (BBC ONE) alongside some of the biggest names in comedy - including JACK DEE, JO BRAND, JIMMY CARR and JOAN RIVERS; retain his place as a permanent team member on BBC TWO's returning hit show Mock The Week; return as a guest on Would I Lie to You (BBC ONE) and Never Mind the Buzzcocks (BBC TWO) after impressive debuts; and guest on Rob Brydon's Annually Retentive (BBC THREE). On top of that, RUSSELL has had continued success with his Sunday morning BBC 6 Music show (due to return in the New Year), which went into the iTunes top ten when released as a podcast. This autumn will see Russell Howard Live, his first ever DVD, released by 4DVD on 17th November.

Ends

What the press said about Russell Howard's last tour - Adventures:

"One of the most sought-after acts in British stand-up."
Dominic Cavendish, *The Daily Telegraph*

"Russell Howard is packing them in everywhere... he is a stand-up natural."
Bruce Dessau, *Evening Standard*

"You'll find more laughs here than many comedians manage in an entire career."
Christopher Collett, *Metro*

"He is a huge talent."
Dominic Maxwell, *The Times*

"A highly talented stand-up who invariably holds the audience in the palm of his hand."
James Rampton, *The Independent*

For more information and press tickets, please contact: Ben Nolan or Dan Lloyd. Tel: 020 7598 7222 [London office] or 08700 70 50 50 [Edinburgh office] Email: benn@avalonuk.com or dani@avalonuk.com

www.russell-howard.co.uk

What the press said about:

...Adventures

"It makes for a dynamic, fluid show as he flits distractedly around the topics - plus you can't help but share his gusto for life. This appealing energy is backed up by a great use of obscure, sometimes archaic language and imagery, delivered with the unconvincing posture of an Edwardian gentleman or street-cool kid, either of which he might adopt with a charming lack of conviction... Howard has got some sterling set pieces of laugh-aloud brilliance."

Steve Bennett, Chortle (Four stars)

"Howard makes his anecdotal, story-telling humour look simple, but instead carefully builds each gag layer by layer. He circles the punchline, digressing on equally bellyaching tangents, yet never losing sight of the biggest laugh. The subject matter is uncomplicated, but stories of family, friends and everyday life are exalted from the standard comic routine by Howard's vivid and boundless imagination."

Laura Oliver, Edinburgh Evening News (Four stars)

"He has a real knack for making familiar territory appear as if it were virgin ground. This is due to his vivid turn of phrase ('There are so many people who want to dance on Bush's grave they will have to scatter his ashes in Ibiza') and his boundlessly energetic and enthusiastic storytelling style."

Christopher Collett, Metro (Four stars)

"Howard's non-judgemental analysis of human behaviour is free from the cynicism generally associated with observational comedy, and his charmingly innocent performance joyfully embraces the unexpected oddities of life... Lashings of brilliantly funny anecdotes and quirky observations that make this show both uplifting and entertaining."

Hannah Thomas, Fest (Four stars)

"Brilliant – an absolutely exceptional stand-up."

Teri Williams, Three Weeks (Five stars)

...Wandering

"There's a crazy edge to his humour, but it's his willingness to share that makes him such an engaging comic. He really wants to tell you stuff. He treats his audiences like old friends, and like an old friend he can't wait to tell you everything that's happened since the last time you met. He even turns a grim tale about being mugged into an upbeat anecdote."

William Cook, The Guardian

"One of comedy's true rising stars...In his bubbly live performance he's in his element, striking up an instant rapport with the audience and finding jokes where others don't even think of looking."

Bruce Dessau, Evening Standard

"Howard makes his well-crafted stand-up seem like a series of random thoughts in an entertaining conversation."

Stephen Armstrong, The Times

"Up and coming and infectiously chirpy stand up."

Sharon Lougher, Metro

"Russell Howard has a rare rapport with audiences. The comic is in the midst of a national tour with his infectiously likable Wandering."

James Rampton, The Independent

"After a wonderfully successful Fringe last year, the Wandering lad has been popping up all over telly and radio. He'll be fabulously famous very soon."

Brian Donaldson, The List

"If you're in the mood for some freewheeling stories, anecdotes and a young comic with enough energy to power a small country, Wandering is the show you're after...a superbly funny ride."

Guardian

"A tremendous hour with no filler and a lot of killer material."

The Herald

...Edinburgh & Beyond 2006

"[Russell Howard's] irrepressible enthusiasm, boundless confidence and super elasticised improvisational mind ensure he's on the cusp of a major breakthrough."

Mark Wareham, Mail On Sunday

"Russell Howard is destined for major greatness."

Bruce Dessau, Evening Standard

...Skylarking

"The future of British comedy...hysterically funny."

Metro

"Howard has become one of our best young comics."

The Times

"He's a natural comic; not just in the sense that he radiates wit but in that the personality behind the mic is his, not just that of the show's."

Three Weeks

...Russell Howard – Edinburgh 2004

"He's a perky, playful character, full of almost childlike delight at the world and its workings and with a pesky mischievous streak to boot."

Chortle

"He is a great, laid-back stand-up comedian, who's brilliant with the audience, and he ensures that everyone feels comfortable, even when he's on slightly squeamish material, and he makes everyone laugh. Everyone. He deserves to be nominated for all sorts of prizes."

Three Weeks

"Howard is one of the hottest comedians in the country."

The Mirror

RUSSELL HOWARD

A regular on our TV screens, RUSSELL has: appeared alongside some of the biggest names in comedy in the latest series of Live At The Apollo, BBC ONE's flagship stand-up show; starred in four series of BBC TWO's Mock the Week and has been a permanent team member for the last three series; featured in ITV1's Tough Gig and as a panelist on BBC ONE's Would I Lie to You; appeared as a guest on Never Mind the Buzzcocks and been instantly booked for the following series; and presented backstage coverage for ITV's *The Brit Awards* and *The British Comedy Awards*.

RUSSELL was nominated for the *if.comedy* Award at 2006's Edinburgh Festival Fringe, and received a prestigious *Barry Award* nomination at last year's Melbourne Comedy Festival. Voted *Best Compere* in the 2006 *Chortle Awards*, RUSSELL has: twice hosted Paramount Comedy's Edinburgh and Beyond UK tour – the first act ever to be asked back for a second year; and been invited to the influential *Just For Laughs* Comedy Festival in Montreal and included in the festival's New Faces of Comedy show, as the only British comedian alongside 19 Americans.

RUSSELL presents his own BBC 6 Music show, which will return in early 2009/. The show was made available to download as one of the BBC's coveted weekly podcasts, and went straight into the iTunes top ten podcasts chart when released. Also on radio, RUSSELL has co-hosted two series of BBC Radio 2's Saturday comedy show Out To Lunch and was resident guest on the third series; was a regular panelist on two series of Banter (BBC Radio 4); and performed his stand up on JOHN OLIVER and ANDY ZALTZMAN'S satirical comedy series Political Animal (BBC Radio 4).

Tour Dates

	Venue	Box Office
AUGUST		
Wednesday 20 th	EDINBURGH Assembly Rooms	0131 623 3030
Thursday 21 st	EDINBURGH Assembly Rooms	0131 623 3030
Friday 22 nd	EDINBURGH Assembly Rooms	0131 623 3030
Saturday 23 rd	EDINBURGH Assembly Rooms	0131 623 3030
Sunday 24 th	EDINBURGH Assembly Rooms	0131 623 3030
SEPTEMBER		
Thursday 18 th	LEEDS City Varieties	08456 441 881
Friday 19 th	OXFORD Playhouse	01865 305 305
Saturday 20 th	BASINGSTOKE Anvil Arts	01256 844 44
Sunday 21 st	SOUTHEND Palace Theatre	01702 351 135
Wednesday 24 th	BARNSTAPLE Queens Theatre	01271 324 242
Thursday 25 th	CROYDON Ashcroft Theatre	020 8688 9291
Friday 26 th	DARTFORD Orchard Theatre	01322 220 000
Saturday 27 th	JERSEY Opera House	01534 511 115
Sunday 28 th	SALFORD Lyric Theatre	0161 876 2020
OCTOBER		
Wednesday 1 st	LEAMINGTON SPA Royal Spa Centre	01926 334 418
Thursday 2 nd	LLANDUDNO Venue Cymru	01492 872 000
Friday 3 rd	ALDRESHOT Princes Hall	01252 329 155
Sunday 5 th	EDINBURGH Kings Theatre	0131 529 6000
Monday 6 th	LINCOLN Engine Shed	0871 4244 555
Wednesday 8 th	CAMBRIDGE Corn Exchange	01223 357 851
Thursday 9 th	SWANSEA Grand Theatre	01792 475 715
Friday 10 th	READING Hexagon	0118 960 6060
Saturday 11 th	SALISBURY City Hall	01722 434 434
Sunday 12 th	IPSWICH Corn Exchange	01473 433 100
Wednesday 15 th	LEEDS City Varieties	08456 441 881
Thursday 16 th	BRIGHTON Dome	01273 709 709
Friday 17 th	NORTHAMPTON Royal and Derngate	01604 624 811
Saturday 18 th	BOURNEMOUTH Pavilion	0844 576 3000
Sunday 19 th	SWINDON Wyvern Theatre	01793 524 481
Wednesday 22 nd	MANCHESTER Opera House	0870 401 9000
Thursday 23 rd	HULL City Hall	01482 226 655
Saturday 25 th	SHEFFIELD Oval Hall	0114 223 3751
Sunday 26 th	BIRMINGHAM Alexandra Theatre	0844 847 2388
Tuesday 28 th	BELFAST Elmwood Hall	028 9097 1197
Wednesday 29 th	YORK Grand Opera House	0844 847 2322
Thursday 30 th	TELFORD Oakengates Theatre	01952 382 382
Friday 31 st	STAFFORD Gatehouse Theatre	01785 254 653

NOVEMBER			
Saturday 1 st		BOLTON Albert Halls	01204 334 400
Sunday 2 nd		TUNBRIDGE Assembly	01892 530 613/018
Thursday 6 th		BRISTOL Colston Halls	0117 922 3686
Friday 7 th		LONDON Hammersmith Apollo	08448 444 748
Saturday 8 th		LONDON Hammersmith Apollo	08448 444 748
Sunday 9 th		NEWCASTLE Theatre Royal	08448 112 121
Monday 10 th		NOTTINGHAM Royal Concert Hall	0115 989 5555
Wednesday 12 th		PORTSMOUTH Guildhall	023 9282 4355
Thursday 13 th		WYCOMBE Swan	01494 512 000
Friday 14 th		DORKING Halls	01306 881 717
Saturday 15 th		BRIDLINGTON Spa Centre	01262 678 258
Sunday 16 th		BLACKBURN King Georges Hall	01254 582 582
Wednesday 19 th		LEA Cliff Hall	01303 253 193
Thursday 20 th		BEDFORD Corn Exchange	01234 269 519
Friday 21 st		KINGS LYNN Corn Exchange	01553 764 864
Saturday 22 nd		PETERBOROUGH Broadway Theatre	01733 316 100
Tuesday 25 th		CRAWLEY Hawth Theatre	01293 553 636
Wednesday 26 th		CARDIFF Wales Millennium Centre	08700 40 2000
Thursday 27 th		CHELTENHAM Town Hall	01242 227 979
Friday 28 th		ABERDEEN Music Hall	01224 641 122
Saturday 29 th		BRADFORD St. George's Hall	01274 432 000
Sunday 30 th		WARWICK Arts Centre	02476 524 524
DECEMBER			
Wednesday 3 rd		LIVERPOOL Royal Court	0870 787 1866

AVALON PROMOTIONS

Avalon Promotions Limited is best known for its presentation of live comedy. The last year has seen FRANK SKINNER, JENNY ECLAIR, LEE MACK, RUSSELL HOWARD, RICHARD HERRING, Edinburgh and Beyond, and Grumpy Old Women Live on sell-out tours around the UK, with Grumpy Old Women Live also embarking on a hugely successful tour of Australia.

Avalon also produced and promoted Jerry Springer – The Opera at the National Theatre, at the Cambridge Theatre in London's West End and on national tour. Among many others, Avalon Promotions has staged: HARRY HILL at the Palace and Dominion Theatres in London; Dave Gorman's Googlewhack Adventure at the Sydney Opera House, the Edinburgh Festival, on UK tour and at the Village Theatre, New York (nominated for *Drama Desk Award 2004*); AL MURRAY's West End runs of My Gaff My Rules, A Glass of White Wine For the Lady (twice nominated for the *Olivier Award for Best Entertainment*) and ...And Another Thing; Richard Herring's Christ on a Bike, ménage à un at the Arts Theatre London; Are You Dave Gorman? at the Westbeth Theatre, New York (nominated for *Drama Desk Award* and winner of *Time Out's Best Comedy 2001*); Baddiel & Skinner Unplanned at the Shaftesbury Theatre London; Frank Skinner Live at the London Palladium; and Grumpy Old Women Live at the Lyric Theatre. In 1993 Avalon Promotions presented NEWMAN & BADDIEL to a sold-out audience of 12,000 in the first comedy show ever to be staged at Wembley Arena. This was followed by FRANK SKINNER performing to a record-breaking audience of 6,000 at the Battersea Power Station.