



Berk's Nest in association with Casarotto Ramsay & Associates present

Paul Mayhew-Archer: Incurable Optimist



National Tour: 19th March – 7th June 2019

Show and Q&A

TICKETS ON SALE NOW

"Very Funny – and moving too"

Richard Curtis

Straight off the back of his hugely anticipated Soho Theatre run in March 2019, award-winning comedy writer **Paul Mayhew-Archer** will be taking his show **Incurable Optimist** to venues all around the country, in an exciting UK Tour.

At 65 years old, and with an incurable illness, Paul decided to go to the **Edinburgh Festival Fringe 2018** to do something he'd never done before: perform a one-man comedy show. And it went brilliantly!

But then Paul knows a bit about comedy...

He's been writing it all his life - from puppet shows for his friends at the age of ten to **The Vicar of Dibley**.

He's produced hundreds of episodes of radio comedy including **I'm Sorry I Haven't a Clue**, **Weekending** (starring David Jason), **Delve Special** (starring Stephen Fry) and two award-winning shows written and performed by Andy Hamilton - **The Million Pound Radio Show** and **Old Harry's Game**.

In 1987, Paul wrote his first sitcom for radio, **An Actor's Life For Me** and it did so well that it transferred to BBC One where **Richard Curtis** saw it and asked Paul to work with him on a series about a woman vicar in a village full of lunatics – and the rest is history!

As if that's not enough, Paul has also script edited many TV series including **Spitting Image**, **Two Pints of Lager and a Packet of Crisps** and **Miranda**, and he's co-written episodes of **My Hero**, **Mrs Brown's Boys** and the TV film **Road Dahl's Esio Trot** starring **Dustin Hoffman** and **Judi Dench**.

But when he was 58 and the **Commissioning Editor** for **BBC Radio 4 Comedy**, Paul noticed that his handwriting was getting smaller and his arms weren't moving normally when he walked.

He was diagnosed with Parkinson's, but he didn't think of it as the end of the world. Instead he thought of it as an opportunity for jokes which he could share with others in the same leaky boat and make them all feel better. Two years ago, he made a documentary called **Parkinson's: The Funny Side** for which he won the **Grierson Award for Best Documentary Presenter of the Year**, last year he made his first appearance at The Comedy Store, and now he is taking his hugely successful show on tour.



Incurable Optimist is a show full of funny stories from a man who regards his entire life as a sitcom and Parkinson's is just the latest episode! It's a show about the therapeutic power of comedy and laughter from a man who simply adores making people laugh. Following the show, Paul will be answering the audience's questions, too! Directed by Katie Churchill for Berk's Nest.

Being in the same room as Paul will not give you Parkinson's. Paul is not contagious. But he is worth catching.

What the Press had to say about Paul Mayhew-Archer's Incurable Optimist:

'An entertaining hour with an engaging raconteur who refuses to take his illness too seriously.'

★★★★★ The Wee Review

'A frank, disarming and funny hour of masterfully delivered, self-deprecating humour.'

★★★★★ Fringe Review

'Embellishes the better side of British humour.'

★★★★★ Broadway Baby

'Charmingly funny and warmly delivered'

★★★★★ What's On

Tour Dates:

19th – 23rd March

sohotheatre.com / 020 7478 0103

London: Soho Theatre

Tuesday 26th March

www.oran-mor.co.uk / 0141 357 6200

Glasgow: Oran Mor

Wednesday 27th March

www.assemblyfestival.com/roxy / 0131 623 3030

Edinburgh: Assembly Roxy

Saturday 30th March

www.chippingnortontheatre.com / 01608 642350

Chipping Norton: Chipping Norton Theatre (on sale January 21st)

Friday 5th April

www.tivertontheatre.com / 07443 502523

Tiverton: Tiverton Arts Theatre

Sunday 14th April

www.improvtheatre.co.uk / 079 366 171 58

Bristol: Bristol Improv Theatre

Wednesday 17th April

www.forest-arts.co.uk / 01425 612393

New Milton: Forest Arts Centre

Thursday 25th April

www.gosforthcivictheatre.co.uk / 0191 284 3700

Newcastle: Gosforth Civic Theatre

Friday 26th April

www.otleycourthouse.org.uk / 01943 467466

Otley: The Courthouse

Saturday 27th April

www.selbytownhall.co.uk / 01757 708449

Selby: Town Hall

Wednesday 1st May

www.rondotheatre.co.uk / 0333 666 3366

Bath: Rondo Theatre

Saturday 4th-Sunday 5th May

www.komedia.co.uk/brighton / 01273 647100

Brighton: Komedia (no Q&A at Brighton shows)

Monday 6th May

www.whiterocktheatre.org.uk / 01424 462 288

Hastings: White Rock Theatre

