





# GIANTS IN COMEDY JUST FOR LAUGHS AND COMIC RELIEF ADD JONATHAN ROSS, ROSIE JONES AND MICHELLE DE SWARTE TO THEIR STELLAR LINE UP FOR JUST FOR LAUGHS LONDON

# TAKING PLACE FROM 2-5 MARCH 2023 AT THE O2

London, UK - 06 February - Global leader in comedy, Just For Laughs, in collaboration with leading live entertainment company, AEG Presents and The O2, the world's most popular music, leisure and entertainment venue, are thrilled to announce that television royalty Jonathan Ross, comedian Rosie Jones and actress Michelle De Swarte have joined the Just For Laughs LONDON festival line up, which is taking place from 2nd - 5th March 2023 at The O2 complex. Tickets, including the 4-day festival pass\* are now on sale and are available from www.jfllondon.com.

All three will be participating as part of two special Comic Relief shows hosted by the charity's co-founder, Richard Curtis, and comedian Sue Perkins at Just For Laughs LONDON. Money raised by the two shows will help support people struggling with the cost-of-living crisis and tackle issues such as homelessness, mental health problems, and food poverty here in the UK and around the world. When buying their ticket or festival passes, there will also be an opportunity to add an additional donation to Comic Relief, as well as the option to donate on-site.

Richard Curtis said: "At Comic Relief, we believe in the power of comedy and entertainment to drive positive change across the world. That's why I'm delighted to be hosting this special show at the very first Just For Laughs Festival in London, with AEG and The O2. I am incredibly excited about sharing the stage with my good friend and Comic Relief supporter Jonathan Ross and can't wait to see Sue Perkins, Rosie Jones and Michelle de Swarte take to the stage with Proud Every Day. Comic Relief has raised more than £1.5billion in the last 35 years and now more than ever we are passionate about providing support to those who need it most. This will be a truly special event, one for all but especially those die-hard comedy fans."

Bruce Hills, President of Just For Laughs, said: 'We are honoured to be partnering with Comic Relief as part of our inaugural Just For Laughs LONDON festival and to be helping raise donations for Red Nose Day. We







are really hoping that our collaboration with Comic Relief will be one that will continue to grow alongside our festival for many years to come.'

Television royalty, comedian, actor, writer, producer and legendary talk show host **Jonathan Ross** will be joining Richard Curtis, for "Comic Relief – the Truth & Everything Except the Truth". The one-of-a-kind, unforgettable afternoon of comedy, memories and mishaps will see the two comedy greats join forces to discuss the history of Comic Relief. With more guests to be announced soon.

Film writer and director, responsible for films such as Four Weddings and a Funeral, Notting Hill, Bridget Jones' Diary, Mr Bean, Love Actually, The Boat That Rocked, About Time and most recently Danny Boyle's Yesterday, Richard is also the co-founder and vice-chair of Comic Relief, which he started after visiting Ethiopia during the 1985 famine. He has co-produced the Red Nose Day live night of TV for the BBC since 1988 and the charity has now made over £1.5 billion for projects in the UK and around the world during that time.

Comedian **Rosie Jones** and actress **Michelle de Swarte** are the first two guests announced as part of "Comic Relief: Proud Every Day with Your Glorious Host Sue Perkins" - an exclusive panel event that promises to be a celebration of what Comic Relief does best – tackling the most important issues while putting a smile on people's faces. For more than 30 years, Comic Relief has proudly supported the LGBTQ+ community, funding numerous projects both here in the UK and around the world.

Series regular in Katherine Ryan's Netflix series *The Duchess,* Michelle de Swarte also plays the lead role of Natasha in HBO/Sky series *The Baby* from Sister Pictures and most recently starred in last week's episode of Live at The Apollo. Michelle also has had her own semi-autobiographical comedy series commissioned by the BBC with Various Artists Limited. that will begin filming in Summer 2023.

British comedian, writer and actress, Rosie Jones is a must-see act on the UK comedy circuit. Having fronted two travelogue series' of her own for Channel 4, *Mission: Accessible* and *Trip Hazard, Rosie* can also be seen on countless hit television shows including *Live At The Apollo, The Jonathan Ross Show, 8 Out Of 10 Cats, Cats Does Countdown, The Last Leg, Joe Lycett's Got Your Back, Mock The Week, Hypothetical, The Ranganation, Jon Richardson's Channel Hopping, Dating No Filter and The Last Leg Tokyo to name a few! Rosie is also an established writer and actor, having written on hit Netflix series <i>Sex Education,* she also both wrote and starred in *Disability Benefits* (C4). Rosie made her prime-time debut in *Silent Witness,* and most recently starred as recurring guest role Paula in BBC's *Casualty.* 2022 saw the release of Rosie's second children's book, *The Amazing Edie Eckhart: The Big Trip,* published by Hachette Children's Group. Esteemed author Jacqueline Wilson described Rosie's first publication in the series as a "brilliant book - fresh, funny and ultra cool".

More details on the full slate of programming for <u>Just For Laughs LONDON</u>, a four-day festival being held between March 2-5, 2023, inclusive at The O2 can be found below at <u>www.jfllondon.com</u>.







\*Access is granted on a first come, first served basis and subject to availability; seats at shows are not guaranteed.

### **FESTIVAL VENUES INCLUDE:**

### THE O2 ARENA

Located at the heart of the world's most popular music, comedy, entertainment and leisure venue.

## **INDIGO AT THE 02**

Sitting under the roof of an iconic London landmark, indigo at The O2 is a 1800 - 2800 capacity entertainment venue located at the front of The O2's Entertainment District.

### **O2 BLUEROOM**

O2's exclusive lounge for good vibes pre and post show.

### **FORTUNA SPIEGELTENT AT THE 02**

Tented area located in The Quadrant just outside the main entrance of The O2. A stylish space for drinks and small plates.

## **ALL BAR ONE AT THE 02**

**PRESS MATERIALS:** To download high-resolution approved images of festival artists, click here.

## ABOUT JUST FOR LAUGHS GROUP

Global leader in comedy and home to the #1 Comedy Festival in the World, Just for Laughs Group has been launching and championing top comedic talent - from Jerry Seinfeld, Kevin Hart, Amy Schumer, Ali Wong, Hasan Minhaj, Trevor Noah, Rowan Atkinson, Jimmy Carr, Little Britain and countless others for close to 40 years. Founded in 1983, the company is a vertically integrated international powerhouse in the creation of multiplatform comedic content. Every year, millions of spectators are entertained at its worldwide festivals, from Montréal – the biggest comedy event in the world – to Toronto and Vancouver, Canada; Austin, U.S.A.; London, UK; and Sydney, Australia; featuring thousands of Canadian and international comedians - from well-established artists to aspiring up-and-comers. With concentrated growth on television development and production, the Group's digital and televised content is shown in over 150 countries and followed by an online audience of over 14 million. In addition, the Group produces touring shows, stages its own musicals, provides talent management services for Quebec artists and is the originator of the ComedyPRO and JPR Pro industry conferences together with the daytime, fan centric, ComedyCON event. For more information, visit hahaha.com.

# **ABOUT AEG PRESENTS**







AEG Presents is AEG's live-entertainment division, a collection of companies dedicated to all aspects of live contemporary music performance, touring and a variety of programming and multi-media production. AEG Presents is behind festivals such as California's famed Coachella, Los Angeles' Camp Flog Gnaw Carnival, London's BST Hyde Park and All Points East, Paris' Rock en Seine and a myriad of tours, live shows and venues around the world including the world's most popular venue The O2 in London, LA's Staples Center and many more. AEG Presents is a global leading force in live entertainment, promoting memorable sell-out UK tours for the biggest artists in the world including Justin Bieber, Shawn Mendes, Nick Cave, The Rolling Stones, Elton John and countless more, as well as discovering and growing emerging talent. AEG Presents also promote major festivals and outdoor events such as American Express Presents BST Hyde Park, All Points East at Victoria Park and the Eden Sessions, a series of live music concerts held since 2002 at Cornwall's spectacular Eden Project. In addition to working with some of the world's most major music artists, AEG Presents is fast emerging as one of the UK's top comedy promoters, already working with the likes of Jonathan Van Ness, Bert Kreischer, Bianca Del Rio, My Dad Wrote A Porno and Russell Peters.

For more information, visit AEG today at <a href="www.aegpresents.com">www.aegpresents.com</a> AEG's European headquarters are located in London. Follow us on Twitter and Instagram @AEG Presents

## **ABOUT THE 02**

The  $O_2$  is the world's most popular music, entertainment, and leisure venue. Spanning over 800,000 sq ft, the iconic destination has been visited by over 100 million people since opening in 2007. Playing host to over 300 events a year, The  $O_2$  is home to The  $O_2$  arena, which was recognised as Billboard's 'Venue of the Decade' for the 2020's, and club-sized music venue indigo at The  $O_2$ . A full day-out destination, The  $O_2$  encompasses a number of interactive activities including roof walk climbing experience, Up at The  $O_2$ ; Icon Outlet, London's leading premium outlet shopping destination with up to 70% off RRP on over 60 designer brands including adidas, Calvin Klein, Levi's, Nike, Superdry, and Tommy Hilfiger; interactive football experience TOCA Social; 'gaming battleground' BOOM BATTLE BAR; London's largest cinema with 19 screens, Cineworld; the 12-lane boutique Hollywood Bowl; Oxygen Free jumping trampoline park; immersive dining experience Mamma Mia! The Party; interactive photo experience Selfie Factory, and over 30 bars and restaurants within the destination's entertainment district. The  $O_2$ 's offering is constantly evolving to reflect the consumer-led convergence of retail, leisure and entertainment. Conveniently located just 15 minutes from central London, The  $O_2$  is easily accessible via road, tube, bus or boat.

### **ABOUT COMIC RELIEF**

# **About Comic Relief**

Comic Relief uses the power of humour and popular culture to engage people to help others and raises money to support organisations working towards a just world free from poverty.







Our mission combines Comic and Relief. We believe that helping others can be easy and fun, even in the face of the challenges we face every day.

Everyone should be able to have a decent standard of living and to live life with dignity and respect – but right now, in the UK and around the world, poverty and injustice restrict too many of us. We know that a better world is possible. We provide funding to fantastic organisations who are closest to the communities who can make change happen. We support work that will help to alleviate poverty's consequences, tackle related injustices, and address the link between climate change and poverty.

For information about Comic Relief and the work it carries out, please visit <a href="www.comicrelief.com">www.comicrelief.com</a> or follow <a href="www.comicrelief.com">@ComicRelief</a> on social media for the latest content, news and information.

Comic Relief is the operating name of Charity Projects, registered charity in England & Wales (326568) and Scotland (SC039730).

## **About Red Nose Day**

Red Nose Day is back on Friday 17 March 2023.

Once a year, we all come together to help those who need it most — and we have a great time doing it. So, this year, whether you bake a cake or sponsor your mates, buy a Red Nose or donate on your phone, let's make Red Nose Day the best day ever. Together we can help people going through the toughest times of their lives and help them break free from the effects of poverty, in the UK and around the world.

Whatever you're able to do this year - you'll be part of something incredible and most importantly you'll be helping to change people's lives for the better. Visit <a href="www.comicrelief.com/rednoseday">www.comicrelief.com/rednoseday</a> or follow @ComicRelief on social media for the latest Red Nose Day content, news and information. Red Nose Day is an initiative of Comic Relief.

### **About American Express® Experiences:**

Through the American Express Experiences programme, whether it's film, music, theatre, dining or sports, American Express gives Cardmembers early access to purchase the best seats for incredible shows. In addition, as a Cardmember you can also enjoy exclusive on-site benefits at some of these events. Amex Experiences is just one example of the powerful backing that American Express provides its customers. To find out more simply search *American Express Experiences*.

# **About American Express:**

American Express is a global services company, providing customers with access to products, insights and experiences that enrich lives and build business success. Learn more at american express.com and connect with us on social media @American Express

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#JFLLONDON2023

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