



Newsletter

October 2011

Hello and Welcome to Universal Comedy's Autumn Update!

So here's what we've been up to since we last chatted and a flavour of what's coming up for the rest of the year. As always, we would love to hear from you. We can publish your comedy creations (keep them clean!) or get in touch if you would like to volunteer and find out more about our events. Remember we are here to help and we offer a rolling programme of workshops in accessible venues and flexible to your ill health needs.



We'll be taking to the stage with three Comedy Showcase events as part of SMHAFF and the Lanarkshire MHAFF.



Tuberous Sclerosis Conference

A huge thanks to everyone who came along to the Tuberous Sclerosis Annual Conference held at The LTCAS, Saturday 27th August 2011.

UC Comedians Raymond Mearns and Viv Gee were joined by Comedy Graduate Davie Collins and demonstrated how taking part in comedy courses and performing at events has helped improve their outlook. Davie told the audience: "Instead of dreading my next hospital appointment and waiting on the outcome of tests, I was looking forward to headlining The Clinic Event at the Edinburgh Festival!"

Lynn Shields, TS Adviser said: "The Team from Universal Comedy were excellent. Their Outreach Clinic at our recent Scottish Get Together helped everyone to see the funny side of life, which understandably can be very challenging while caring for someone or personally coping with a complex condition like Tuberous Sclerosis. Members have reported how much they have benefited and now potentially feel able to look at situations with a far more positive outlook."

Comedy Graduate Scheme

In response to demand and feedback from our participants, we are launching our brand new Comedy Graduate Scheme. This course will entail scriptwriting, filming/editing, learning how to upload sketches onto the internet and social networking sites. You will learn what commissioning agents such as the BBC and the Comedy Unit are looking for, and there will be placements within

industry led organisations for the lucky few.

Places are limited to people who have already completed a course. If you have completed a course and are interested in developing your ideas/skills/confidence further, then please get in touch on 0141 564 1200.

see me...○○○



Universal
Comedy
presented:

The Clinic: Edinburgh Fringe

For the third year in a row our team of Comedy Graduates took to the stage at The Gilded Balloon to showcase their extraordinary comedy skills.

Performing to a packed theatre, The Clinic was supported by See Me and aimed to challenge the stigma and discrimination around mental ill health.



Crosshouse Hospital, Kilmarnock

Universal Comedy has teamed-up with Crosshouse Hospital in Kilmarnock to offer workshops and courses for young people in hospital and outpatients.

This exciting new course will introduce new learning targetted at younger people including creating comedy using writing, mobile phones, videoing/filming, editing,

and internet. **Workshop dates Thursday 20th & Friday 21st October, Rainbow House, Irvine.** Please contact the office to book.

Edinburgh Comedy Taster Workshop

If you live in or near Edinburgh and have ill health, then please join us at our FREE Taster Workshop Wednesday 26th October **2.00 pm–4.00 pm, St George's West, 58 Shandwick Place, Edinburgh.** Booking is essential.

If you are interested or would like more information,

contact Linda: 0141 564 1200 or email linda@universalcomedy.co.uk

Self-referral Workshops and Courses

For people in West Central Scotland, Edinburgh & The Lothians.

Remember, if you or someone you know suffers from ill health/mental ill health or recovering, we have an on-going series of FREE Comedy Taster Workshops and Comedy Courses available to people who are interested.

Programmed to be flexible and sensitive to your ill health needs, the workshops will help you meet new friends, learn new skills and take your mind off any problems.

If you are interested or would like more information,

contact Linda: 0141 564 1200 or email linda@universalcomedy.co.uk

Exhibition & Workshops at Partick Library



Writer's Workshops

Open to everyone, our new Writer's Workshops will help you learn more about comedy writing techniques from script-writing and sketches to sitcoms and poetry... anything goes!

This friendly forum will be hosted by one of our professional Comedy Tutors who can pass on industry tips and offer practical examples of published and commissioned pieces. We intend to run the Writers Workshops once a month, but don't let that stop you from getting together outwith designated workshops to work on your ideas, and working on plans to promote your work.

Please contact us at the office on 0141 564 1200 if you would like to get involved.

Comedy Workshops for Staff

Remember, you can check your staff into exciting comedy clinics. We have delivered workshops to many health, social care and employability organisations.

On Thursday 21st September Universal Comedy hosted a three hour workshop in partnership with South Lanarkshire Council. Fourteen staff across Adult Care and Learning Services attended and raved about a hugely enjoyable session: "It was really good, have never laughed so much at a team training day" and "It made me realise how silly things can escalate into major things if you don't deal with them."

Hosted by a professional comedy tutor and stand-up comedian, the workshops can help improve communication, presentation, and cohesion and show you how to use comedy to diffuse tension, boost motivation and morale... What are you waiting for? Call 0141 564 1200 to book a staff workshop.

Some dates for your diary:

Comedy Showcase Event, Burnbank Centre, Hamilton

Thursday 13th October, 7.00 pm

Comedy Showcase Event, The Dram! Woodlands Road

Thursday 20th October, 7.00 pm

Participants will include new graduates from Glasgow West CHP SMHAFF

The Clinic at The Glasgow International Comedy Festival

Thursday 15th March 2012, 7.30pm

Scottish Youth Theatre, Old Sherriff Court, Brunswick St, Glasgow

Universal Comedy Benefit Night

The Stand Comedy Club, 333

Woodlands, Glasgow

Headline act to be announced!

Wednesday 16th May 2012,

7.30 pm

If you would like to come along to any of our shows, please get in touch on 0141 564 1200 .

Christmas Get Together: You're Invited!

We would love to see all our Comedy Course participants and Graduates at our annual Christmas Party. This year the festive get together is planned for **Thursday 8th December, 4.00 pm** at **The Dram!** Woodlands Road, Glasgow. If you would like to join us for a mince pie and drinks then please contact us at the office 0141 564 1200... *Ho! Ho! Ho!*

About Universal Comedy

Universal Comedy is a charity and social enterprise. Based in Glasgow, we work across Scotland offering Comedy Workshops and Developmental Training Courses to anyone experiencing long-term ill health, mental health difficulties and employability challenges.

Working in partnership with Health, Social Care and Employability organisations we use comedy as tool to improve learning, confidence, self-esteem and motivation.

Participants meet new friends, attend and perform at our small showcase and festival events and many move on into learning, volunteering, further education and employment.

If you would like to find out more about us please contact the team on 0141 564 1200.

Contact Universal Comedy

Universal Comedy

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