



PRESS RELEASE (9/6/08)

Good Sense Of Humour presents

MARK ALLEN'S PET PROJECT

EDINBURGH FRINGE 2008

SMIRNOFF UNDERBELLY (DELHI BELLY), 56 COWGATE (VENUE 61)

3-23 August

1.35 pm (1 hour),

Tickets £9.50 (£8.50) / £8.50 (£7.50) Box Office 0844 545 8252

Mark Allen has an uneasy relationship with animals. So far he's been bitten by two hamsters, hospitalized by a dog and shat on by countless pigeons (though not all in the same incident). You'd think that these turbulent experiences would put him off pets, but last year Mark decided to buy a cat. It was only when he found himself trying to hold conversations with it that he realised just how ludicrous the relationship between animals and humans has become.

This was the beginning of a bizarre journey. What started as a perfectly innocent investigation into the UK's obsession with pets soon spiraled into the realms of the massively weird when he stumbled across the murky world of the furies...

When Mark discovered a group of people who like animals so much that they dress up as them and stroke each other at conventions, he had to find out more. The problem is; the furies are wary of outsiders and tend to conduct their mutual petting behind closed doors. So Mark went undercover. Dressed as a giant dog.

After nine months of investigation, research and the occasional tummy rub, Mark is now ready to reveal his findings.

Pet Project is Mark's third solo stand up show. In 2006, he performed *Quite Good Britain* in London, Edinburgh, Brighton, Manchester and Washington DC. In May 2007, to coincide with the 300th anniversary of Great Britain, Mark performed an updated version of *Quite Good Britain* for a sell out four-night run at the Hen and Chickens Theatre, London. In the same year, he also performed his second solo show *Mob Logic* in Edinburgh and Brighton, before again transferring for a successful sell-out run at the Hen and Chickens in London.

Mark has been writing and performing stand up comedy for over eight years and now performs regularly on the UK comedy circuit for promoters such as Off the Kerb and Mirth Control. His TV credits include pilot shows for Talkback Productions and the BBC, as well as having several comedy sketches screened on the last two series of ITV1's 'Shoot the Writers'. He was also recently featured in Pulse Film's documentary series "*Citizen Smith*" on BBC4.

"Witty and absorbing" Time Out

"Allen is a comic with something new to say" The Guardian

For further information and images please contact Claire Holdsworth
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