

PRESS RELEASE (17/9/08)

MARK ALLEN'S PET PROJECT

The Hen and Chickens Theatre, 109 St Paul's Road, London, N1 2NA

1st - 4th October 2008

9:30pm (1 hour)

Tickets £7.00 (£6.00 concessions)

Box Office 020 7704 2001

On Saturday 4th October, we are being asked to celebrate World Animal Day. One of the aims of this day is to get humans to reflect on the role that animals play in their lives. This is excellent timing because almost exactly a year ago, Mark Allen decided to get a cat called Ella. What better way to reflect on humans' relationship with the animal kingdom than to have a good old think about the past year and exactly what his cat has done for him?

Unfortunately, after consideration, Mark has come to the conclusion that Ella - like all pets - is essentially pointless. When humans started off surrounding themselves with animals, it was because they actually did stuff. You could ride them or they could carry heavy things or at the very least you could milk them or eat them. You can't do any of that with a pet. If you attempt to ride a cat or milk a rabbit, it will be frowned upon in polite society. So why do we invest so much of our time, emotion and money on these frivolous housemates?

Mark Allen's Pet Project aims to get to the bottom of this very question. Fresh from a successful run at this year's Edinburgh festival, the show will be performed for four nights in London, culminating in the final show on World Animal Day itself. There may even be balloon animals to celebrate.

Join Mark as he reveals his findings about why we talk to animals, why we donate more money to a donkey sanctuary than we do to Age Concern and why some people love animals so much, they dress up as them and stroke each other at conventions.

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.

Mark has been writing and performing stand up comedy for over eight years and 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.

"A comic with something new to say" (The Guardian)

For further information and images please contact Mark Allen via email: contactmarkallen@hotmail.com or call 07887 601 011.