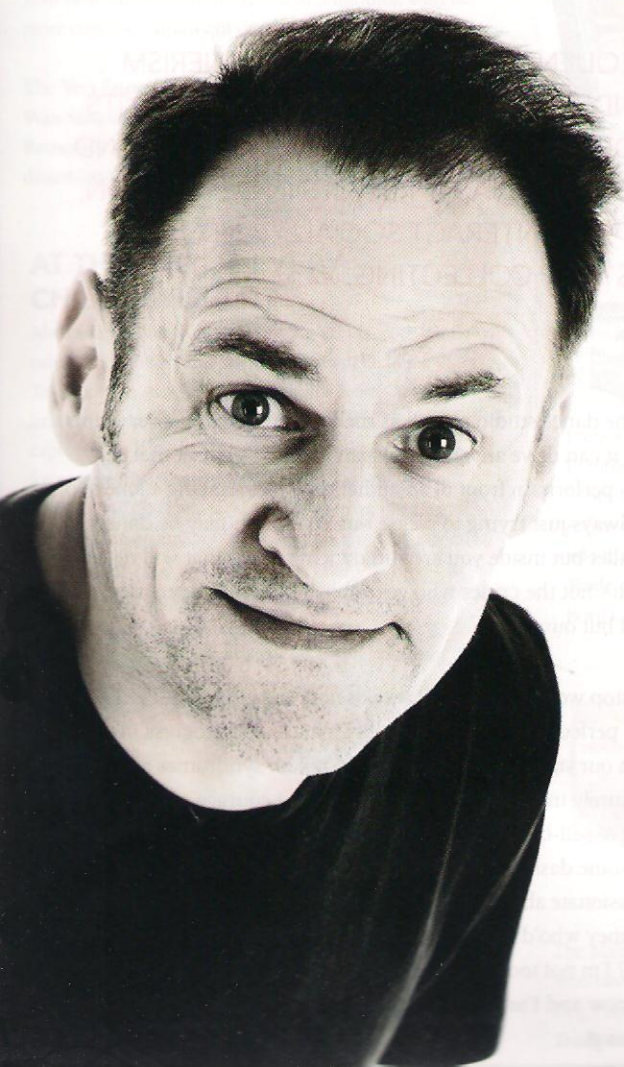


Ladies & Gentlemen... The Eden Comedy Club presents...

GEOFF WHITING

THE EDEN COMEDY CLUB WILL BE KICKING OFF ON 20TH SEPTEMBER WITH THE ULTIMATE STAND-UP COMEDY NIGHT. ONE QUARTER OF THE SENSATIONAL LINE-UP IS GEOFF WHITING, AN ESTABLISHED AND POPULAR COMPERE, AS WELL AS A STRONG AND VERSATILE ACT. HAVING PROWLLED THE STAND-UP CIRCUIT FOR THE PAST 14 YEARS, HE HAS APPEARED AT THE EDINBURGH FESTIVAL, ON TELEVISION AND RADIO AND AT EVERY NOTABLE COMEDY CLUB IN THE UK. HE IS ALSO AN ESTABLISHED TV WARM UP.



We catch up with Geoff to get a better understanding of what makes him tick as a comedian. With such an unusual career choice, looking back, when was the exact moment he decided that he wanted to do comedy for a living?

"I was made redundant in 1997 from a job as a food salesman and had always wanted to give stand up comedy a shot and this made my mind up for me and the rest as they say is history. I quickly found my style and thought I could make a successful go of it, which I may humbly say, I did". What's Geoff Whiting's style by the way and what should a Maltese audience expect? "I am very interactive with the audience and working off the responses they give to me to create laughs. My material is observational, all about the every day things that frustrate or amuse me. That said, I draw the line at jokes about serious illnesses, disability, 'kiddy fiddling', religion and incest to name just a few that are commonly used by many comics. It's simply not my style." What about fellow comedians? Some have reputations that well precede them, ever encountered any diva-ish behaviour backstage? "There are a few comics who have an 'attitude' about them suggesting that you should give them plenty of space in the dressing room but no 'bully' in particular as such...we really are a virtuous lot...well, sometimes".

Is there anyone you would like to work with in the future that you haven't already? "Yes, I have never worked with Eddie Izzard or Lee Evans and would love to work with either. I'm sure that would be a great experience though by far my all time favourite comedian remains the late, great Peter Sellers...I grew up on his comedy in its various forms and think he was literally a genius."

If you could bring one person from history back to life, who would it be and why? "George Orwell. I have read his books and would love to have a coffee with him and talk about his work. Great man George, I'm sure he'd be an

interesting conversationalist."

We understand that you suffered from a morbid fear of flying...how did that come about and how did you get over it? "I just never felt comfortable with the concept of flying and had a go in my younger days on a return trip to Germany which only confirmed my views! I did not fly again for 20 years but eventually realised I was missing too many opportunities as a comic and in the end forced myself onto a flight and got through that (somehow) and just continued to book overseas work and get on with it really. I don't enjoy one moment of it, can't for the life of me see the attraction, but have become pragmatic I suppose." Is there anything interesting (read gossip) about you we should know about? "Oh yes! I used to play in Bands and released several records in the 80's and did a UK tour supporting Hazel O'Connor, playing to 2,000 people per night. I was part of the Surrey Youth Theatre in 1978 and played alongside Michael Ball in their production of 'Under Milk Wood'. I went to school with newsreader Michael Mates (ITV) and comedian Jeremy Hardy, so that makes me even more famous by proxy."

The best day of your career... "It was in March 2011, when I became the first British comedian to ever play Club 99 in Bucharest Romania, six years after it opened. Quite a gig, that was!" As a stand up comedian, your worst nightmare would be... "Plane, train cancelled or car broken down...so not reaching a gig and letting the audience down. It has happened twice only so far but there is no worse feeling than sitting there knowing you simply will not make that show."

Geoff will be compering the Eden Comedy Club's first Stand Up Comedy night on the 20th September at 8pm, introducing the big name comedians with his flair and fun antics: Mark Felgate; Mark Restuccia and Hattie Hayridge (aka Holly from Red Dwarf). The show is taking place at the Eden Cinemas and tickets can be bought online at www.edenculture.com.mt