

## Laurence Clark: Spastic Fantastic!

Following his sell-out show **12% Evil**, a hit at the Edinburgh Festival Fringe 2007 and the Adelaide Comedy Festival 2008, Laurence Clark, a comedian with cerebral palsy, is returning to Edinburgh with his new show **Spastic Fantastic!**

**"Any vaguely sentient being ought to leave this stupendously funny and thought-provoking show with their sides split and their minds buzzing. Laurence Clark has a wit drier than the Navajo desert, a control of timing that would put Seiko to shame and scores upon scores of fizzingly funny one-liners." (praise for 12% Evil) The Stage**

This new show flies in the face of a society that seems more concerned with political correctness and language than actually listening to disabled people:

*"Having seen a few stand-up comics in my time, I reckon I must be one of the few who, until now, haven't constantly used the word 'spastic' in their act. But if anyone's got that right then surely it's me? It's a nasty, unpleasant word that seems to have dogged me my entire life. My first school was actually at the time called the 'Percy Hedley School for Spastics'. They even had it written on a big sign by the entrance to remind all us students as we came in each morning! The teachers, doctors, care staff... pretty much everyone there would commonly refer to me as a spastic."*

So earlier this year Laurence Clark attempted to reclaim the word 'spastic' through the power of stand-up comedy and hidden camera stunts. He says:

*"Black people, gay men and lesbians have all reclaimed negative terms that were used about them in the past. It's about humour, irony and seizing power by taking ownership of words that were once used destructively. In other words, it isn't what you say so much as who's saying it to whom!"*

Laurence first found fame when Cherie Blair called him a sit-down comedian. Thankfully, Laurence's gags are much funnier, transcending this incident to become a critically-acclaimed and in-demand fixture on the comedy circuit. Taking no prisoners, Laurence's in-your-face style challenges his audience to accept his unique viewpoint and delivery style:

*"I reckon my audiences will either be rolling in the aisles or stunned into a perplexed silence by my story. I can't wait to find out which it will be!"*

**ENDS**

## **MORE PRAISE FOR LAURENCE CLARK**

"Clark has really hit his stride this year with a show that is genuinely laugh-out-loud funny. I cannot think of another comic here who provokes so much thought and so much laughter at one and the same time." **The Scotsman**

"At the end of a Laurence Clark performance, apart from being a bit tired from laughing, one has come to understand some of the travails of his world - and one has become very fond of the man himself." **Adelaide Advertiser**

Laurence will be at:

**Venue:** Pleasance Courtyard, Below

**Time:** 16.45 (17.45)

**Dates:** 31<sup>st</sup> July – 24<sup>th</sup> August (previews 31<sup>st</sup> Jul – 2<sup>nd</sup> Aug, no performance 11<sup>th</sup> or 12<sup>th</sup>)

**Tickets:** Previews £5, £7 (£6 conc), £8.50 (£7 conc), £9.50 (£8 conc)

**Bookings:** [www.pleasance.co.uk](http://www.pleasance.co.uk) / 0131 556 6550 or [www.edfringe.com](http://www.edfringe.com)

### **PR Contacts**

Madelaine Bennett

[madelaine@prosperocommunications.co.uk](mailto:madelaine@prosperocommunications.co.uk)

07977 290416

Ben Williams

[Ben@prosperocommunications.co.uk](mailto:Ben@prosperocommunications.co.uk)

07929 881040

**High resolution images can be downloaded from [www.laurenceclark.co.uk](http://www.laurenceclark.co.uk).**