

CREATIVE CAREERS

Getting started in museums and galleries

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Diary Note

Wednesday 1 April 2009, 10am

Sunderland Museum & Winter Gardens

To celebrate **April Fool's Day**, press and photographers are invited to a special preview of the new exhibition ***Comedians: From the 1940s to Now***. Members of staff from the museum will be available for interviews/photographs.

To excite and engage local press will you organise a press call in advance or will you invite them to the private view?

Sunderland organised a press call for the *Comedians* exhibition on April Fool's Day.

Comedians: From the 1940s to Now **Photographs from the National Portrait Gallery**

Sunderland Museum & Winter Gardens

4 April – 21 June

An exciting exhibition, *Comedians: From the 1940s to Now* opens in Sunderland this week.

This fascinating exhibition of photographs from the National Portrait Gallery puts the spotlight on British comedy from the 1940s to the present day.

Both the public and private faces of comedy are revealed in a range of pictures exploring the many ways in which well known comedians have been portrayed.

With a film introduction by Paul Merton, the exhibition covers a wide range of comic genius, from stars of music hall and stand-up to TV and radio. Among the more than 60 comedians featured are Tommy Cooper, Ken Dodd, Lenny Henry, French and Saunders, Julian Clary and Russell Brand.

There will be a programme of free events running alongside the exhibition, culminating in a comedy festival for families and young people during the May half term.

Events will include a comedy school (Tuesday 26 - Friday 29 May), where visitors can learn the skills of stand-up. Anyone aged 11 or over is welcome to come along and work with improvised comedy group, Magic If.

There will also be a competition to find Sunderland's funniest joke (Wednesday 27 May) and a funny fun-run in Mowbray Park (Saturday 30 May).

Friday 29 May will see the culmination of the week's events with a performance of stand-up and improvised comedy by young people from City of Sunderland College and visitors who have taken part in the comedy school.

All events and entry to the exhibition are free.

ENDS

Media Contact: Katie Tel: (0191) xxx xxxx
Email: xxx@twmuseums.org.uk

Notes to Editors

Sunderland Museum & Winter Gardens is open Monday – Saturday 10am – 5pm and Sunday 2pm – 5pm. Free entry.

Sunderland Museum & Winter Gardens is managed by Tyne & Wear Museums on behalf of Sunderland Council.