

# CREATIVE CAREERS

## Getting started in museums and galleries

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### Comedians Interpretive Material to Tour

#### Contact details for further information

Lead partner Sunderland Museum & Winter Gardens (SMWG)  
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The Comedians exhibition opened at Sunderland Museum & Winter Gardens before touring to Plymouth and Sheffield. Resources that were developed at Sunderland and could travel on to the other venues were sent to the partners with the exhibition images. Here's what travelled with the photographs of the comedians.

### PART ONE - Preparatory material to tour, sent to partners in advance

Sunderland will produce the following for each partner:

#### CD 1 – Graphic design:

1. Labels (Quark express)
2. Large print guide (Quark express)
3. Graphic panels - NPG panel and acknowledgements panel (Abode In Design)
4. Vinyl introductory text (Abode In Design)
5. Quotes and jokes vinyl text (Abode In Design)
6. Vinyl questions for comments board and vinyl labels for interactives (Abode In Design)
7. Poster (Abode in Design)
8. Flier (Abode in Design)
9. Family trail

Sunderland wrote the text panels and captions for the exhibition.

#### CD 2 – Photographs and loans list:

1. Photographs of the exhibition at Sunderland

The NPG will supply images for marketing, as usual.

#### Adapting the exhibition for each venue:

We have written the labels to ensure each partner has the freedom to arrange the works as they desire – the text relates to each individual work rather than themed in content or design. However, below is our rationale for the layout should you wish to follow suit.

#### Layout rationale:

The photographs are arranged broadly chronological in order to chart the history of comedy. Within this, we have grouped works where comedians have significantly worked together, e.g. Victoria Wood and Julie Walters. The arrangement has also considered the third element of aesthetics to create a visually interesting and hopefully appealing display.

## **PART TWO: Exhibition material to tour, arriving with the NPG works**

1. NPG photographs, softwrapped. Ryman fittings
2. Labels for each photograph
3. NPG panel
4. Acknowledgements panel

Sharing resources keeps costs down and is more sustainable.

Sheffield produced a listening post for the exhibition with audio clips of famous comedy sketches.

- Please note the introductory text will **not** tour, as we produced this in vinyl; see CD 1
5. Listening post interactive—produced by Museums Sheffield
  6. Comedy props/dressing up interactive – hats, wigs, clown noses, glasses etc
  7. Comedy club material – should venues wish to create performance area

- a. Shelving unit for props
- b. Mirror, strip light to go above mirror
- c. Microphone, floor standing
- d. Glitter ball
- e. Red curtain and pole (to create backdrop to 'stage' area)
- f. Spot lights x3
- g. Canned laughter interactive (see additional note for installation details of this push button device)

Sunderland produced a comedy club area in their exhibition space with props and furniture.

8. DVD: Paul Merton introductory film, subtitled
9. LCD screen, brackets to wall mount screen, DVD player and parabolic speaker (to show Paul Merton film)
10. Podcast

**Each partner needs to provide:**

1. Any screening required
2. Stage area, if desired. We build screens and laid a carpet to create an enclosed 'Comedy Club' area. We chose not to have a raised platform/stage, due to accessibility, but the 'stage' area was well defined through the backdrop of a red curtain and a floor-standing microphone in the centre. We provided our own seating and tables to complete this area.
3. Comments slips. We used simple blank cards, which gave visitors the greatest flexibility to write or draw a response to the questions posed
4. An electrical supply is required for the following:
  - a) TV screen with Paul Merton introductory film
  - b) Spot lights x3 (if used in Comedy Club/performance area)
  - c) Glitter ball (if used in Comedy Club area. Runs on motor to rotate it)
  - d) Strip light above mirror (if used in Comedy Club area)
  - e) Canned laughter interactive (see separate note for install details)
  - f) Listening post (just plug in –no set up required)

**Additional material that partners could consider:**

1. Film footage. We decided it was important to show comedians 'in action' and also bring a local dimension to the exhibition. This was achieved through showing a film of classic North East stand-up comedians performing in the 1970s
2. Promotional material of comedy clubs in the locality
3. Additional gallery seating

Sunderland showcased regional comics with an area in the exhibition showing films of North-East comedians.

***All the best with the exhibition; we hope you enjoy it!***

***From the Sunderland Museum & Winter Gardens team***

**Notes for canned laughter interactive - installation**

Requires 2 x mains power sockets & suitable enclosure building with 4 x 30mm holes for buttons. (It was built into a false wall at Sunderland Museum).

Speakers can be placed out of sight.

Push buttons (provided) operated.