

CREATIVE CAREERS

Getting started in museums and galleries

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

Private View Schedule: Opening event Friday 3 April, 6 – 8pm

Having an event schedule will help ensure your event runs smoothly and to time.

It helps to make it clear to everyone what will happen and when so there's no confusion.

Refreshments to be set up at the back of the Pottery Gallery (white wine, fruit juice, water, snacks).

Chairs to be set up in Pottery Gallery.

Rostrum, PA system and projector to be set up in Pottery Gallery.

Coat rack to be set up in Museum Street.

Table and chair with TV and DVD player to be set up in Museum Street for DVD signing.

6pm **Photographer arrives (Neil Wasp)** - to be greeted by Katie Abram/Grace Dunne

6pm **Guests begin to arrive** – to be greeted by Communications staff Katie Abram and Grace Dunne

Sheriff and Sheriff's Lady (Newcastle), Cllr Michael Cookson and Mrs Dorrie Cookson – to be greeted by Bill Griffiths

Mayor of Sunderland, Cllr Mary Smith – to be greeted by Helen White

Mayor and Mayoress of South Tyneside, Cllr Alex Donaldson and Mrs Brenda Donaldson (TBC) – to be greeted by Ian Thilthorpe

Sandy Nairne, Director, National Portrait Gallery (and Laura Down) – to be greeted by Juliet Horsley

Ray Laidlaw (and Alan Fox) – to be greeted by Jo Cunningham

- 6.30pm** **Alec Coles, Director, Tyne & Wear Museums**
Welcome guests
- 6.32pm** **Sandy Nairne, Director, National Portrait Gallery**
To speak about the exhibition and the partnership between NPG and SMWG
- 6.35pm** **Cllr Mel Speding, Member with Portfolio for Culture and Leisure, Sunderland Council**
Vote of Thanks (to follow from Helen White)
- 6.37pm** **Ray Laidlaw**
To introduce a selection of clips of local comedians including Alan Fox, and to announce the launch of Alan Fox DVD available from reception (and Alan Fox to be signing copies in Museum Street)
- 6.40pm** **Selection of clips to be shown**
- 6.45pm** **Alec Coles, Director, Tyne & Wear Museums**
To remind guests not to take drinks up to gallery
- 6.46pm** **Guests view exhibition**
- 6.46pm** **Alan Fox to sign DVDs in Museum Street**
- 7pm** **Photographer departs**
- 8pm** **Guests depart**

Briefing Notes

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

4 April – 21 June 2009

This exhibition of over 60 photographs of some of Britain's most well known comedians has been selected from the collection at the National Portrait Gallery.

Tyne and Wear Museums staff originated the idea for the exhibition and made the selection. Portraits were chosen to reflect the diverse range of comic genius which is very much part of the British way of life. Radio, television and live comedy stars all feature from early variety show personalities like Max Miller to more up to date comedians like Russell Brand – both controversial figures in their time.

Some images were chosen because of their striking visual qualities, sometimes serious, sometimes quirky the portraits explore both the public and private faces of their sitters.

The exhibition also includes a unique 'Comedy Club' - an interactive area where visitors can dress up, step up to the mike and do a stand up set if they are brave enough! Costumes, props, scripts and even canned laughter are all provided.

A small cinema in the exhibition gallery will be showing 'North East Comedy Classics' a DVD featuring clips of North East comedians in the 1970s. Many visitors will be familiar with names such as Bobby Thompson and Bobby Knoxall. This has been generously provided to us, free of charge, by Mawson and Wareham (Music) Ltd.

The exhibition is part of the programme, *People, Places and Portraits*, which aims to broaden access to the National Portrait Gallery's collection for children, young people and communities, through specific projects at local level. The project has been funded by Strategic Commissioning (DCMS and DCFS) and this is the seventh year of partnership working between Tyne and Wear Museums and the National Portrait Gallery. This year the emphasis for learning has been to focus on young people 11-19 years old. The programme of learning events and activities reflects this.

The exhibition will tour to other Strategic Commissioning Partners later in the year:

Plymouth City Museum & Art Gallery - 15 August to 10 October 2009

Graves Art Gallery, Sheffield - November to January 2010 (tbc)