



Company Number 5283795

Jason Cook: Joy
Tour 2008/09

Lee Martin for Gag Reflex Management presents...

Jason Cook: Joy

Jason Cook returns with the follow up to his 2007 smash hit show **"My Confessions"**.

After performing **"My Confessions"** in Edinburgh to critical acclaim, 5 Star reviews and sold out houses, Jason has completed his first World Tour playing to packed out theatres and rave reviews. He also received the "Best International Show" award at the New Zealand Comedy Festival. He's now ready to start his second tour to continue the fantastic momentum generated by "My Confessions".

"It's rare to be touched, to the very core, by a comedy performance... a hilarious, dark, and emotional show by British stand up Jason Cook (you can call him Jase)... there were tears welling up in many-a punters eyes, and for good reason." – New Zealand Herald

The best reviews he received though were from audience members who had been to the show and taken his advice at the end, very simply "Phone your dad". People e-mailed from all over the world wanting Jason to know how much the show had moved them. One gentleman hadn't spoken to his Dad in two years, but the show prompted him to get back in touch and build bridges.

"It was incredible, thinking that the stuff I say can actually connect with people to that extent" says Jason

Once again Jason Cook brings something unlike any other stand up on the circuit: a stand up act that actually makes you *feel* something. This year Jason brings **"Joy"**. A show about joy, about how it is all around us, we just have to know how to look for it. And of course, there is a twist at the end.

"I was writing the show and it was nearly finished, then something happened which made me re-evaluate everything the show and ultimately the meaning of the word 'Joy' is all about"

Jason once again puts his own life, even the bad bits, under the microscope with one guarantee: total honesty.

"...brutally truthful piece of comedy delight." – Timeout

"I learned that with "My Confessions", as long as you stick to the truth then what you're saying has more weight. Some people say its easy just telling true stories, but when the stories are very dark and bleak you have to work your comedy socks off to get a show that is funny as well."

One of the things that set "My Confessions" apart from other shows was its emotional ending, with audience members of all ages and genders leaving the theatre in floods of tears.

“This is powerful, visceral comedy that grabs your feelings and wrenches them from one direction to another. “ - Chortle

“I’m not sure if that’s a good advert for your show, having your audience leaving with mascara running down their faces, but I’d be crying with them and it was the most magical feeling in the world. You know that they are feeling what you are feeling and it’s rare to get that kind of connection with your audience” muses Cook, disappearing up his own *rse.

But **“Joy”** is different.

“I’ve written this one so that by the end, I’m hoping, the audience will be so full of joy we’ll be grinning like morons together. We’re going to talk about all the things that give us joy, from the daftest little sniggers to things that just make your heart sing”.

He even has a warning for his show on every poster and flyer **“May contain moments of unadulterated happiness. If cynical, please stay away”**

“If the hardcore comics can have a warning about how offensive they are, I don’t see why I can’t have one about how joyful this show is”

The Edinburgh Fringe run sold out. Selling out a run of dates is impressive, even more so in the Edinburgh festival, where competition is fierce and the fringe itself announced that ticket sales were down 10 percent from last year. But for Jason? He had to put on an extra show to meet with demand.

The sheer volume of people returning from last years show was immense. Due to Jason's conversational style and ability to improvise with an audience while keeping the narrative moving, every show is unique and many punters were taking him to one side to say "I was at the show last year where you thought the guys son was his wife", or "I was at the one your dad came to"

Last year’s tour had to be extended due the overwhelming demand including a three night sold out run at Soho Theatre.

So look out World, he’s back. And this time, he’s very happy indeed.

“.. a genuinely life-affirming hour.” – The Herald

“Joy” Press Quotes

“An emotional experience second to none in fringe stand up..... When the comic in question has created a show so emotionally involving that tears are in your eyes for almost its entire duration, you know that you're experiencing live performance of the most raw and fascinating variety.

To describe Jason Cook's show, Joy as stand-up comedy would not be doing it justice. He has crafted a set that has all the emotional twists and turns of a great movie, avoiding the sort of material that is a staple in Fringe comedy..... His warm Geordie delivery is impeccable, and the occasional moments of genuine sadness lend the show's conclusion an uplifting impact that this reviewer has never before experienced in Fringe comedy.”

 - FESTMAG

“Cook's ultimate hope being that we'll all eventually emerge into the light, blinking and smiling and realising that we'd better appreciate the upsides of being alive while we've got the chance. And that's literally what happens, when the venue doors are thrown open an hour later.

As a prelude to this beautiful shared moment of mass epiphany, we're taken on an expertly guided tour of emotional territories that many comedians would struggle even to give directions to..... And there's the rub: this show is massively, chokingly sad at times, but it's never even slightly depressing - it's been pivoted with such care on the exact balancing point between optimism and regret."

★★★★★ - THE METRO

"Wonderfully directed by Jason's father, Tony, this is an exquisitely balanced show which on the one hand has more laugh out loud jokes than his previous piece and yet also manages to take you on a more profound emotional journey..... You won't find another show on the Fringe this year which is as consistently funny and as genuinely honest, heartfelt and moving as this one. A total triumph. "

★★★★★ - TIMEOUT

"...while we pile out onto the street having hugged strangers and armed with paraphernalia that would suggest we've all had a swinging old time, our eyes are simultaneously stinging with fresh tears. There really can't be another show like this on the Fringe This hour is not so much a rollercoaster of emotion as a tsunami of feeling as wave after wave of heart-massaging material comes at you from this wild-eyed livewire.... It will be rare at this Fringe or anywhere else to find an hour-long show that plays with the emotions on so many levels. Not one for the cynically challenged, this is a joy to behold and a pleasure to have witnessed."

★★★★★ - THE LIST

Date	Venue	Details
7 th October	Leicester Square Theatre, London	
11 th October	The Lescar, Sheffield	www.sheffieldcomedyfestival.co.uk
21 st October	The Frog and Bucket, Manchester	0161 2639805 0844 847 2265 www.frogandbucket.com
18 th November	The Stand, 5 York Place, Edinburgh. £7/£5	0131 558 7272 www.thestand.co.uk
13 th February	XS Malarkey, Fallowfield, Manchester	www.xsmalarkey.com
4 th March	Lincoln Drill Hall, Lincoln	
6 th March 09	The Sage, Gateshead	

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