

## Toby Hadoke

*"Pick of the week. Very, very funny"*  
The Guardian

### About

Toby Hadoke is the resident compere of the highly regarded XS Malarkey Comedy Club. He started the club from scratch in 1997 and it has gone on to win a number of major awards as Best Comedy Club, whilst Toby himself won the inaugural Les Dawson Award at the Northwest Comedy Awards and Best Offstage Contribution at the 2008 Chortle Awards. He's no slouch onstage either; his first one-man show, *Moths Ate My Doctor Who Scarf*, enjoyed a West End stint and continues to tour internationally (a multi-date UK run spawned appearances at the New Zealand Comedy Festival, Canada, Florida, LA and Chicago). His BBC radio adaptation of it was nominated for a Sony Award. His follow up show, *Now I Know My BBC*, was very well received at Edinburgh 2010.

His quick wit and charming audience banter make him a disarming compere who can liven up a lacklustre crowd or tame a feisty one, without him ever losing his unique comedy styling as a self-deprecatory and amusingly vexed curmudgeon it's impossible to dislike. Quick witted and a verbal craftsman, he's also politically informed and a great improviser. He's been hired as resident MC for a number of successful nights, and currently fulfills that role at New Stuff, every second at last Sunday of the month at The Comedy Store, Manchester and at The 99 Club in Leicester Square every Wednesday.

He has headlined gigs up and down the country for many years, and his gifts as an actor have generated cult followings as a regular writer/performer for "The Unbroadcastable Radio Show" (at The Comedy Store) and "The Asylum" (The Frog And Bucket). He has acted on stage, TV and radio, written for national newspapers, and presented the 7<sup>th</sup> Dimension on BBC Radio 7. His first book was published in 2010 and he is an in-demand voice over artist.

He's not a terribly good swimmer though, but you can't have everything.



### Appearing At

The Frog and Buckets  
The Comedy Store  
Downstairs at the Kings Head  
99 Clubs  
Crack Comedy  
The HiFi - Leeds  
Last Laugh - Sheffield  
XS Malarkey (resident compere) - Manchester  
Baby Blue - Liverpool  
Jesters - Bristol

### Biography

1997 - present - regular compere, XS Malarkey Comedy Club  
2001-2004 - semi-regular comedian, MEN At Work, Comedy Store (Manchester)  
2003 - Winner, Les Dawson Award  
2003 - 2009 - writer/performer/deviser The Unbroadcastable Radio Show, Comedy Store (Manchester)  
2005 - present - regular compere, New Stuff, Comedy Store (Manchester)  
2006-2009 - regular compere, Limelight Comedy Club, Crewe  
2006 - *Moths Ate My Doctor Who Scarf* (Edinburgh Fringe, continues to tour into 2011)  
2006 - present - Robin Ince's Book Club (occasional guest)  
2008 - Nominee, Sony Award  
2008 - Winner, Chortle Award  
2009 - *Totally Looped* - touring improv show (numerous appearances as special guest alongside Marcus Brigstocke, Phill Jupitus, Sanjeev Bhaskar and Hattie Hayridge)  
2010 - *Now I Know My BBC* (Edinburgh Fringe, more dates to come in 2011)  
2011 - regular compere, The 99 Club, Leicester Square (Wednesdays)

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#### **TV Warm Up**

Regular Warm-up for University Challenge since 2007 (BBC TV at Granada Studios)  
Jeremy Lion (sitcom pilot)

#### **TV Acting** (selected)

Holby City (guest lead)  
Casualty 1907 (guest lead)  
A & E  
The Forsyte Saga  
Phoenix Nights  
Coronation Street

#### **Radio**

The Seventh Dimension – BBC Radio 7 (two month stint as stand-in presenter for regular host Nicholas Briggs)  
Extensive punditry on BBC Five Live, plus hosting and guest appearances on BBC GMR  
Acting roles in many Sunday plays, comedy series and classic serials.

#### **Writing**

Running Through Corridors – (Mad Norwegian Press, co-written with Robert Shearman, 4 volumes)  
The Comedy Sketch Book (writing links for Angus Deayton) (Objective Productions for BBC 1)  
The Comedy Christmas (Objective Productions for BBC 2)  
Moths Ate My Doctor Who Scarf (BBC 7 – Sony Nomination: Best Drama)  
The Unbroadcastable Radio Show (pilot – BBC Radio 4)  
Numerous articles in The Guardian, The Independent, SFX, and a regular column in Doctor Who Magazine.

#### **Theatre**

Accidental Death of an Anarchist (The Maniac) - Edinburgh Fringe and tour  
A Midsummer Night's Dream (Snout) - Royal Exchange Theatre  
Sherlock Holmes in Trouble (EmCee) - Royal Exchange Theatre  
The Talented Mr. Ripley (Freddie Miles) - Duke's Theatre, Lancaster  
Two (Landlord and all male parts) - on tour

#### **Awards**

The Les Dawson Award for Services to Comedy – Northwest Comedy Awards 2003  
NOMINEE: Best Touring Show "The Unbroadcastable Radio Show" – North West Comedy Awards 2004.  
NOMINEE: Best Comedy Writing "The Unbroadcastable Radio Show"  
– North West Comedy Awards 2004 & 2005.  
NOMINEE: Best Off Stage Contribution – Chortle Awards 2007  
WINNER: Best Off Stage Contribution – Chortle Awards 2008  
NOMINEE: Sony Awards 2008 (Moths Ate My Doctor Who Scarf)

#### **Press "MOTHS ATE MY DOCTOR WHO SCARF"**

(100% Five Star Reviews at Edinburgh 2007)

"Witty, charming, eloquent, forthright, passionate – one of the most entertaining hours this side of Gallifrey" – Chortle  
"PICK OF THE WEEK: a confident performer with an effective one man show that wrong-foots you with its emotional kick" – The Times

"Very, very funny, rich and wonderful – likely to do for Daleks and Cybermen what Fever Pitch did for football" – The Guardian

"Hadoke has you charmed from the moment he sets foot on stage – this is a fantastic show"

– Hairline "Warm, gentle, and utterly hysterical." - British Theatre Guide "Hadoke has an incredible ability with language and a natural charm. Even if you've never heard of Cybermen, this show is still f\*\*\*ing funny."

- Three Weeks "It would be sad if this show was relegated to attendances solely from fans of Dr Who as it deserves to be seen by all fans of well realised comedy." - One4review.com

"Armed with a likeable self-deprecating style and impeccable timing, Hadoke's show is a masterpiece" – The Dubliner

#### **Press "NOW I KNOW MY BBC"**

t. 0161 432 9836  
e. [info@gagreflex.co.uk](mailto:info@gagreflex.co.uk)  
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"Pick Of The Fringe – a warm, witty, passionate and personal paean to the BBC" – Kate Fox, The Telegraph  
"A thoughtful stream of observations that lets us laugh and revel in the past without sinking into cloying nostalgia." – The Stage  
"A very strong and satisfying show in Reithian terms; entertaining and informative. Hadoke has successfully turned yet another of his loves into lots and lots of laughter." – The National Student  
"Now I Know My BBC is a delightful piece of work, as engaging and funny as it is thought provoking. It is informative and educational, but never preachy. It is nostalgic and romantic – but never sentimental. Above all, it is very, very funny. Miss it at your peril." – Elton Townend-Jones, [kasterberous.com](http://kasterberous.com)  
"The polemical side of the show is driven by passion that's often entertaining in itself, but with smart observations to back it up - this is a pretty damn enjoyable." – Steve Bennett, Chortle  
"Toby Hadoke is a lovely man who says lovely things about a fine British institution. He shamelessly defends the BBC, packing in a generous helping of giggles." – Three Weeks  
Show Reviews  
"Hadoke is charming and very likable with the ability to invoke emotion and laughter throughout the show." – The Public Reviews  
"Standing Canute like against a rising tide of reality TV, the show is fast paced as he channel hops to make his points in a style which is Griff Rhys Jones meets Boris Johnson - more amusing than anything you will see on the telly." – Kenneth Scott, [Edinburghreview.com](http://Edinburghreview.com)  
"Tickling stuff and draws to an unexpectedly heart-warming and profound conclusion." – The List

#### Press Quotes

"One of the local heroes of comedy – one of the regular highlights (of the night) is the genial and all-inclusive banter of Hadoke himself" – Ben Carlish, Metro  
"One of the circuits leading comperes - an expert ringmaster, tackles hecklers with relish and zeal. A comedy genius" – Helen Duff, Metro  
"His quick witted mix of left field topicality and observational asides ensures he's rarely short of work" – Mike Barnett, Manchester Evening News  
"Brilliant, had the audience in stitches" – Kevin Bourke, Manchester Evening News  
"A stage manner more engaging than Henry VIII, and a wit sharper than an executioner's axe. Good audience rapport and a slayer of hecklers" – The Big Issue  
"PICK OF THE WEEK" – William Cook, The Guardian  
(11 times as an individual, 10 times for *Moths Ate My Doctor Who Scarf*, 8 times for *The Unbroadcastable Radio Show*)

Toby's Blog

<http://www.tobyhadoke.com/blog/>

Toby's Website

[www.tobyhadoke.com](http://www.tobyhadoke.com)

Toby's Twitter Feed

<http://twitter.com/#!/TobyHadoke>

#### Vitals

Height - 5'9"  
Eye Colour - Blue  
Hair Colour - Brown  
Accents Natural Rp - Mancunian, Yorkshire,  
Edinburgh, Glasgow, Standard American, Canadian, South African, Australian, Standard Welsh, Cockney, Shropshire, Home Counties, West Country (good ear).  
Other skills - Cricket, Conversational French.

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