

HARVEY GREENFIELD IS RUNNING LATE

A one-man, one-act comedy play by Paul Richards

A groundbreaking one-man piece of comedic theatre that asks a simple question: Is it possible to please everyone, all of the time? And at what cost to your family and health? In this fast and frenetic comedy, award-winning writer/performer Paul Richards explores our need to please, and why it's sometimes healthy to, every now and then, just sit in a shed and play Subbuteo by yourself, eating biscuits and listen to Meat Loaf.

Cast: Paul Richards as Harvey
featuring the voices of Alan Hay and Kate Madison

Written by Paul Richards
Audio design by Alan Morgan

Production history (not including previews):
Swindon Fringe (April 2019)
Brighton Fringe (May 2019)
Barnstaple Theatrefest (June 2019)
Reading Fringe (July 2019)
Edinburgh Fringe (August 2019 – full run)

About the writer:

A comedy writer/performer based in Cambridge, Paul has written 25 shows (over a period of 12 years) that have been performed at the Edinburgh Fringe festival. His plays have been published in the UK and Canada, and have been performed all over the world. Well, mostly the UK, the US and once in South Africa.

Paul tours the UK frequently including, in 2017, a tour which saw him travel from the Portland Island (Weymouth) to the Shetland Islands (Scotland, and then up a fair bit) using public transport only, using his box drum as a suitcase. *50 Ways to Leave Your Drummer*; Paul's bizarre film/total and utter breakdown, in which he spent 18 months trying to get sacked by 50 bands, premiered at the Arts Picturehouse, Cambridge in November 2015. Those to have 'fired' Paul for the movie include Jethro Tull's Ian Anderson, John Otway, Frank Turner, Heaven 17, Nik Kershaw and comedian Arthur Smith. Paul then turned the concept into a late-night

stage-show, which ran for 22 nights at the Banshee Labyrinth during the 2016 Edinburgh fringe. *My Function Band Hell*; Paul's debut novel, is a love story about a suicidal bassist forced to play in a covers band on a cruise liner. It was released in November 2016 and follows his popular collection of short stories, *The Stationery Seller*.

Reviews:

THE SCOTSMAN (4 STARS)

Has the show started? Is everyone here? When's the door going to be shut? These are the questions asked by a frantic man on stage who may or may not be in character. Written and performed by Paul Richards, it follows the journey of an idiosyncratic 38-year-old man, Harvey Greenfield, as he becomes overwhelmed by other people's demands on his time. It is, we are told, based on a true story – apart from one bit. Like an alternative Ferris Bueller, rather than having a day off, Harvey is simply trying to get to work for a meeting, but keeps getting phone calls from his mum, girlfriend, the guy at the garage, the lawyer of a cyclist taking him to court, someone saying something about a funeral... A self-described “strangely ugly Hugh Grant type”, his naivety and inability to cope in the modern world is simultaneously charming and horrifying. He gives money to every weird charity that asks, gets into the kind of scrapes Just William would be proud of, and has a relationship with a competent and beautiful girlfriend that shouldn't work, but somehow does. The escalating web of chaos is skilfully scripted in the vein of a classic film comedy, while detours into Harvey's childhood chart his development from a painfully nervous teenager to someone who is almost able to function. This is a transformation of Hollywood proportions but, as the pressure builds and Harvey's mind starts to melt, the piece highlights the more serious consequences of taking on too much to a point where it impacts on your mental health. “Which bit's not true?” an audience member asks after the show's finished, as two others wipe away tears. “The ending, obviously,” says Paul, or Harvey – which presumably means everything else is, and it's sadly all too recognisable.

THE SWINDONIAN

Harvey Greenfield is Running Late. Literally running. Almost without rest. And late for everything. He's a man who can't say no and he's in a number of terrible fixes as a result. After last years' “Short Plays for Marvellous People” Paul Richards returned to the Swindon Fringe with his new one-man show. The very first public performance, no less. And, just like last year, Richards seems to have comic energy to burn. He makes Lee Evans seems narcoleptic by comparison. And he uses up every last iota of that energy in a show that features him running on the spot for the best part of 50 minutes interrupted only by the occasional spot of table football. Throughout he interacts with a soundtrack of music and voice-overs as the people in his life pull him in every direction at once. The result is mostly laugh-out-loud, but punctuated with sorrow. Harvey Greenfield is a man who tries to please everyone and, as a result, pleases no-one. Least of all himself. It can only end badly. But that doesn't stop it hurting when it does. Ingeniously written and powerfully performed.

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