

WORLD'S MOST FAMOUS PRANKSTER SIMON BRODKIN RETURNS TO THE EDINBURGH FESTIVAL FRINGE AS LEE NELSON WITH HIS HIT STAND-UP SHOW, SERIOUS JOKER

"Never less than ingenious" **Dominic Maxwell, The Times**

"As comic inventions go, Simon Brodtkin's south London council estate geezer Lee Nelson is up with the best."
Simon Horsford, The Daily Telegraph

"You should be ashamed of yourself" **Sepp Blatter, disgraced ex FIFA president**

Simon Brodtkin will return to the Edinburgh Festival Fringe this August with his hit stand-up show, *Serious Joker*, which has proved so popular the nationwide tour has been extended through the rest of the year, including a performance at London's Indig02 on 2nd December.

During a year that saw him make the acquaintance of some of the world's most newsworthy and notorious figures, including **President Donald Trump**, **Simon Cowell**, and **Sir Philip Green**, Channel 4 secured exclusive, unrestricted access to **Simon** in 2016 as he lifted the lid on the months of meticulous planning and preparation that go into pulling off globally-reported and applauded stunts. *Britain's Greatest Hoaxer* aired on the channel in February 2017 and showed Simon throwing swastika-emblazoned golf balls at Trump, getting four 'yeses' as a rapping rabbi from the *Britain's Got Talent* judges and renaming **Sir Phillip Green's** £100million yacht 'BHS Destroyer'.

Simon created one of 2015's most iconic images when, in character as Premier League footballer **Jason Bent**, he showered the then FIFA President **Sepp Blatter** in bank notes live on TV in front of the world's press. **Simon** has also given **Kanye West** a taste of his own medicine in solidarity with **Taylor Swift**, joining the rapper onstage during West's Glastonbury headline set. He also famously joined the England football team ahead of their flight to the 2014 World Cup in Brazil.

Simon has written and starred in *Lee Nelson's Well Good Show* and *Lee Nelson's Well Funny People* on BBC Three. As **Lee** he has hosted and twice appeared as a guest on *Live at the Apollo* (BBC One), and has also performed on shows including *Sunday Night at the Palladium* (ITV) and *The John Bishop Christmas Show* (BBC One), as well as releasing a live stand-up DVD. In 2015-16 **Simon** toured the country as **Lee** with his fourth sold-out stand-up tour *Suited & Booted*, which was twice extended. **Simon's** additional TV credits include *Channel 4's Comedy Gala* on two occasions, *Absolutely Fabulous* (BBC One), and *Children In Need* (BBC One). He has taken six solo shows to the Edinburgh Festival Fringe, where he won the *Writer's Guild Award* for Best Newcomer.

For a full list of tour dates see: www.leenelson.com

EDINBURGH FESTIVAL FRINGE LISTINGS INFORMATION LEE NELSON – SERIOUS JOKER

Venue: Pleasance Cabaret Bar
Dates: 2nd-27th Aug (not 14th, 15th, 16th)
Time: 9.20pm
Website: www.leenelson.com

For more information please contact: Charlotte Robertshaw on charlotter@avalonuk.com / 0207 598 7222
Or edinburghpress@avalonuk.com

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ABOUT AVALON

Avalon is a multi-award winning talent management, live promotion and television production group with offices in the UK and the USA.

The talent management arm has discovered and represents many artists which are household names, both in the UK, the USA, and around the world.

Through Avalon Promotions the group produced *Newman and Baddiel: Live at Wembley*, the UK's first arena comedy show; *Jerry Springer: The Opera*, the first West End show to win all four UK 'Best New Musical' awards; and has continued to produce live shows globally, as well as promoting more winners and nominees of the prestigious Edinburgh Comedy Award than any other company.

In 2017 Avalon was named the top true independent television production company in the UK and has produced numerous ground-breaking television shows including: Emmy and Peabody award winner *Last Week Tonight with John Oliver* (HBO), multi-award winning and Emmy-nominated *Catastrophe* (Channel 4/Amazon Prime), RTS and Rose d'Or winning *Not Going Out* (BBC1's longest running sitcom currently on air), BAFTA and RTS-nominated *Taskmaster* (DAVE), multi-BAFTA award winning *TV Burp* (ITV1), *Russell Howard's Good News* (BBC2), *Fantasy Football League* (BBC/ITV) and *Workaholics* (Comedy Central USA).

Avalon Television, Liberty Bell Productions, Flame Television and Topical Television form the television arm of the company and other shows currently in production include: *Last Week Tonight with John Oliver* (HBO), *Not Going Out* (BBC One), *Man Down* (C4), *Unspun with Matt Forde* (UKTV), *Stand Up Central* (Comedy Central), *Dave Gorman's Modern Life is Goodish* (UKTV), and *The Russell Howard Hour w/t* (Sky 1); whilst the catalogue is sold worldwide by Avalon Distribution.

For Avalon news visit: www.avalonuk.com/press or @Avalon_Press.