

# Udderly brilliant

**PURPLE COW-shaped comedy is returning to the Southbank Centre later this month in the form of the third annual Udderbelly Festival, writes Martha de Lacey...**

An udderly brilliant (groan) raft of laughable acts - including Trigger Happy TV's Dom Joly, impression impresario Rory Bremner, king of the catchphrase Roy Walker and beat-boxer Shlomo - are taking up residence in the upside-down purple cow tent, located just outside the centre beside the London Eye, for twelve weeks.

Kicking off on April 21, the festival promises fun for all the family, with a wide variety of age-appropriate acts ranging from a comedy club for kids and the Not So Grim Fairy Tales, to drunken antics on Arthur Smith's Pissed-Up Chat Show and thoroughly naughty midnight chuckles with Andrew Maxwell's Fullmooners.

In between, you'll find youthful anecdotes from 20-year-old Daniel Sloss, wide-eyed guitar gags from Izy Suttie (aka Peep Show's Dobby) and shrieky diatribes from Gina Yashere.

There's also heaps of musical story-telling by Sarah-Louise Young's Cabaret Whore, and mind-boggling magic tricks from Pete Firman and Paul Daniels. And for anyone who thinks their royal wedding invitation got lost in the post (ours too), there's



the Alternative Royal Wedding Reception on 29 April. Wear your best frock. The purple cow will also be hosting a string of spectacular Free Run shows - the acrobatic urban extreme sport which combines parkour, martial arts and stunts.

Tickets are all under £20 and the festival runs until July 17. There's even a terrific food and drink garden on site, so the laughter really never has to stop.

For more information, visit: [www.underbelly.co.uk](http://www.underbelly.co.uk)

# Book a place

**CALLING ALL wannabe Wildes and potential PG Wodehouses: an enterprising new Peckham art space is hosting an array of literary workshops and events, ideal for anyone who wants to awaken their creatively wordy streak but doesn't want to do it alone, writes Martha de Lacey...**

The Literary Kitchen, situated in the artist's corner of Peckham, is a "writing space, performance space and literary hub, which offers everything a budding or practising writer needs" in a friendly, group environment.

Creative writing courses, workshops, events and drop-in activities such as Crochet & Chit Chat are all on offer at the New Museum Of Ideas in 194 Bellenden Road, and a new term begins in the middle of April.

Creative Writing For Beginners (April 19) is the best place to start: a ten-week course for twelve students, held every Tuesday evening and costing £220. Perfect for anyone whose fictional prowess is a little rusty around the edges.

The next level up is the Intermediate Writer's Workshop, also a ten-week course, which begins on April 20.

Alternatively, the kitchen offers



an intensive weekend Beginners' Bootcamp (April 23-24) for those who wish to condense their learning into one easy-to-swallow mouthful, and there are also one-off events such as the Deconstructing Screenplay day on April 17, in which screenwriter Carl Oprey will talk you through the film *Casablanca*.

Andrea Mason, the writer/artist who founded Literary Kitchen as a wandering pop-up venture in 2009, is thrilled finally to have a permanent home for her literary shop.

She's especially tickled that her Peckham space is one which just happens to have its own literary past: it was the location for the butcher shop in the 2001 film adaptation of Graham Swift's 1996 novel, *Last Orders*.

Literary Kitchen was recently awarded a 2011 UCL Bright Ideas Award.

For more information, visit: [www.literarykitchen.blogspot.com](http://www.literarykitchen.blogspot.com)

# Funnies for a fiver

**GREENWICH IS putting the chuckles into Tuesday, April 26, with an evening of new material from some six of the circuit's best comics, writes Martha de Lacey...**

Glaswegian Kevin Bridges and Lancaster-born Jon Richardson, who have both featured on *Have I Got News For You*, take the stage alongside American Londoner Rich Hall, actress and comedian Andi Osho and young Jack Whitehall (pictured), former host of *Celebrity Big Brother*.

A mystery special guest will also be popping in.

The "Work In Progress" event gives the comics the opportunity to road-test brand, spanking new gags on your waiting ears, and you the chance to let them know what you really think. Tickets for the 8pm show are only £5 and should be booked in advance.

For more information, visit [www.up-the-creek.com](http://www.up-the-creek.com) or call 020 8858 4581.



# Silver's back

**SOUTHWARK'S SILVER festival marks its fifth year, with a programme packed with interesting events for pensioners across the borough, writes Charlotte Galt...**

Whether you want to exercise your legs, your mind, or your opinion, there's something for everyone. April 8, 12pm marks the opening, a social event with refreshments and a chance to get help with that census form if you haven't already completed it. Held at InSpire, the Crypt at St Peter's church, just off Walworth Road.

There are craft sessions, advisory surgeries, and a chance to trace your family tree or learn how to write your memoirs, allotment gardening, a 'Recycled Teenagers' dance class at Peckham Pulse and even a belly dancing taster session for those feeling more active. If it's a more



traditional event you're after, try Scone with the Wind, an afternoon of film and cream tea at The Blue, or Southwark Swing, a chance to learn dance steps to a jazz orchestra in the beautiful Rivoli Ballroom.

*Silver Festival runs from April 8 - 24. For more information pick up a brochure in libraries, ring 020 7525 2000, or see: [www.southwark.gov.uk/silver](http://www.southwark.gov.uk/silver)*