



Comedian: Joe Rowntree

BY JAMES MULLINGER 20 MAY 10



GQ Comedian - Joe Rowntree

Joe has been one of my favorite acts since I first gigged with him back in 2006. Hugely underrated, he has the unique ability to take a cold room and reduce it to fits of laughter. Equally at home in a small backroom of a pub or a large purpose built club, it's no wonder The Comedy Store booked him to tour Dubai where he stormed the show every night.

Presumably much of his natural charm, charisma and stage presence stems from his background in motivational speaking and his day job as a TV presenter on shows such as Sky One's *Brainiac*. On the live tours for the latter he has performed on such vast stages as the Hammersmith Apollo. It surely won't be long before he is performing solo on that very stage. Here are some of his best gags:

1. "Mum's going through the change and she's been getting quite depressed. It's been hard for me as well, having to call her Dad..."
2. "I've been thinking a lot recently about how best to mentally baffle and bewilder an English border collie. Train sheep how to whistle?"
3. "I went out with my flat mate last night, I told her straight - you're flat-chested."
4. "I was wondering if artists imitate artists in what they do? For example Van Gogh, undoubtedly a genius, he relied on his eyes for his art but he cut off his ear. Does a musician who relies on his ears gouge out an eye in some crazy, ironic imitation of an artist imitating an artist - Gabrielle! Dreams can come true, the one about 20/20 vision, didn't did it? Too busy dreaming about pirates..."
5. "I'm raising money for charity by organising a club night for the sufferers of epilepsy and Parkinson's - it's called 'Movers and Shakers'."
6. "I spent an entire evening trapped inside a long, mobile accordion. When the acid wore off it turned out I was on a bendy bus."