

Athlone Literary Festival



Press Release

Redundancy can be an opportunity to start the new career you've always dreamed of. Could you be the next Dara O Briain?

ABIE PHILBIN BOWMAN "Funny Business" Comedy Workshop
Saturday 25th September, 11.00am – 1.00pm



If the titles 'Jesus: The Guantanamo Years', 'Eco-Friendly Jihad' & 'Sex, Lies and the KKK', grab your attention then their creator Abie Philbin Bowman certainly will. Athlone Literary Festival will host a comedy workshop given by this controversial and hilariously funny young Irish man, who has been described as *"a rising star on the Irish stand-up scene"* by Time magazine.

The intensive comedy workshop will explore both the artistic and business sides of comedy. Speaking to the festival committee Abie promises, *"If you have ever dreamt of being your*

own boss, changing you career, speaking your mind, travelling the world & making people laugh then this workshop is for you."

Jarlath Duffy, Chairman of the Athlone Literary Festival, says *"Athlone Literary Festival believes that Abie gives the festival a contemporary controversial edge. The concept of using comedy as way to market yourself is extremely clever & enterprising."*

Philbin Bowman argues that the skills acquired through stand-up have much wider applications in the business world – from job interviews to industry presentations. Abie tells us, "I met a successful comedy writer recently, who got fed up with the money and transferred into banking. Within five years, using the same skill set, he had become a senior manager – he's 10 years younger than most of the guys at his level. The confidence, presentation and charisma you pick up in comedy are valuable commodities in the jobs market."

Abie said "All creative artists - writers, musicians, comedians - have two different jobs. The first is producing work of value and integrity. The second is convincing people to appreciate it. Sadly, that involves marketing. Part of my aim is to teach marketing to artists and comedians with integrity."

Catherine Ivers, Athlone Community Radio Community Development Officer added *"anyone who can develop the elusive skillset to make people laugh has a powerful tool that can help transform one's life situation for the better"*

Abie points out that the comedy workshop can also "put you in charge. Instead of relying on casting directors and comedy club owners to give you work, you can contact venues and festivals yourself with something to offer. Plus, the costs of touring solo are much lower, so economically it is far more sustainable. And your job won't get outsourced to China." It's not all good news, however. He acknowledges that cast parties are "pretty disappointing".

This talented writer and performer has sold out shows all over the world. He was the only Irish radio host to have interview the Ku Klux Klan on the night of Barack Obama's election. He has been endorsed by Osama bin Laden and boycotted by Ian Paisley's DUP and now he is coming to Athlone.

Outside of stand-up and radio, Abie has taught creative writing and comedy workshops at Trinity College Dublin, the Irish Centre for Talented Youth, the Irish Writers Centre, University College Dublin and Big Smoke Writing Factory.

This workshop is aimed at anyone interested in comedy writing or indeed anyone curious about how this rising comedic star Abie Philbin Bowman is "sealing his reputation as one of Ireland's most thought-provoking comedians" (Galway City Tribune). "It's all a big mistake," Abie explains. "I wanted to be a novelist. But tragically, I had a happy childhood." Comedy, it seems, can be a serious business.

Abie's *"Funny Business" Comedy Workshop* takes place on Saturday 25th September from 11.00am to 1.00pm at The Prince of Wales Hotel, Athlone. The cost of the workshop is €20/€15 conc.

To book email literaryathlone@gmail.com or ring 086 367 1039.

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