



TRAVEL P18



CINEMA P20

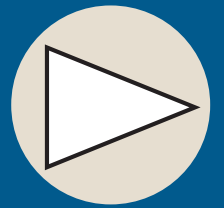


MOTORS P22

GAZETTE

OUT & ABOUT

Never be out of the loop on what's happening in Dublin! Let Out&About be your guide to all that is stylish, cultural and essential across the city and beyond this week



Comedian Greg Proops is appearing at the Nut Hut with his Smartest Man In The World podcast and at the Vodafone Comedy Festival on July 27

COMEDY: IMPROVISER, COMEDIAN, PODCAST GENIUS RETURNS TO DUBLIN STAGE

Smartest stand-up in town

■ ROB HEIGH

BELOVED comedian, actor and podcaster Greg Proops is making a welcome return to Ireland in the coming weeks, with appearances at the Galway Arts Festival and the Vodafone Comedy Festival at the Iveagh Gardens on July 27.

The shows are a return to the Whose Line Is It Anyway format of improvisational comedy for Greg, who will grace the stage with Stephen Frost, Steve Steen, Andy Smart and Ian Coppinger.

He is also bringing his hugely popular and essential podcast, The Smartest Man In The World, to the Nut Hut on July 27, in which Greg hilariously dissects a huge array of subjects as varied as world politics, baseball and classic funk bands in his own inimitable style.

Currently in his home city of San Francisco, Greg took a few minutes to talk to The Gazette, and we started by asking what it was like to be coming back to improv in Ireland.

"It's great fun. Frosty and the others are mad; we drink a lot and laugh like donkeys. I did a three-day tour of Ireland with Ian and Andy a few years back. Andy and Frosty and Steve I have worked with for 20 years. Since I was 11.

"It's super easy to get back into the improv groove. I play all the time in the US with [Whose Line stalwart] Ryan Stiles in an [improv] group. Plus, I riff my podcast for the most part."

An acclaimed stand-up as well as renowned improviser, Greg is set to tape a new comedy special – literally this week.

"I'm taping the special this Sunday. I hope it will go well. We are doing it at a vintage Hollywood restaurant called Musso and Franks. Humphrey Bogart and William Faulkner drank there. Now me."

The Smartest Man podcast, a weekly online radio show in the form of an extended conversation in front of a live audience has had a profound impact on Greg's career. Hundreds of people come to the recording of the shows, which have come from as diverse locations as the Edinburgh Festival, La Java in Paris and a cruise liner on the Carribean. It has grown by word of mouth and recommendations since late 2010, and the relationship it has established with his followers is something Greg says he is very grateful for.

"It feels groovy. It is the reason I became a comic. Now at this late date, I realise I am connecting [with my audience] in a much deeper way, which is why I always meet and chat with people at the live shows. The audience has given me everything and I am moved beyond measure."

The success of the podcast is something that Greg says is having an effect on his stand-up material.

"I am sitting while doing stand-up a bit more. I am trying to spiel more and hack less. If anything, I am more free to more revealing about my life, which I never was before. As Bill Hicks once said, 'Less jokes and more me.'"

Tickets for the Vodafone Comedy Festival are available at ticketmaster.ie. Log on to gregproops.com.

Pets

CAN YOU GIVE IZZIE A NEW HOME?

THE Gazette Newspaper has teamed up with Dogs Trust to help find homes for unwanted and abandoned dogs. Our Dog of the Week is Izzie, a five-year-old crossbreed who has been at Dogs Trust for quite a while now. She is an absolute sweetheart of a dog, if a little shy and nervous at times. She will need a home with experienced dog owners, and preferably older kids. Izzie just loves her walks and especially loves playing with her ball and other toys, though not the squeaky kind! She loves cuddles and being brushed and will make a fabulous addition to the right family. If you think you can give this gorgeous girl all the cuddles and love that she so deserves, call 01-8791000 for more information. Dogs Trust are based in Finglas, just off exit 5 on the M50. Map and directions can be found on their website www.dogstrust.ie

