

Gareth Berliner in association with Discerning Nights  
presents:

# A Stand Up for the Mystery Hour

For bookings & enquiries, contact Daniel Nicholas:  
[dan@discerningnights.co.uk](mailto:dan@discerningnights.co.uk)



## TOUR PACK

# WHAT IS IT?

discerningnights.co.uk • garethberliner.com

## The marketing blurb:

### WHO WILL YOU SEE? IT'S A MYSTERY!

Fresh from the Edinburgh Fringe, a special mystery guest presents their full-length stand-up show.

Who will it be? We can't tell you that! But we can tell you it will be an acclaimed comedian from the UK and international circuit - they may have even made an appearance on TV!

The man in charge is renowned Aussie theatre technician and band roadie Trevor Lewis. He's been working with some of the biggest names in comedy for over a decade, so whether the guest is a star of today, or a star of tomorrow, you know you're in a safe pair of hands ...

Previous performers include Marcel Lucont, Marlon Davis and Ruth E. Cockburn.



“I loved ‘A Standup for the Mystery Hour’ at The Comedy Store in Manchester. Loads of laughs and surprises. What a great night. “

- DOLLY ROSE CAMPBELL ('GEMMA' IN CORONATION STREET)

## What's really going on:

This show is an exercise in misdirection. In reality, acclaimed comedian **Gareth Berliner** is playing the character of Aussie roadie Trevor Lewis.

Having been a roadie for decades and a technician at some of the world's leading festivals, Trevor has now set his sights on showcasing the talent of all the comedian friends that he's met throughout his career.

Setting it out as a mystery, the audience will be expecting a comedian to turn up. However, 10 minutes into the show, **Trevor gets a phone call from the 'booked' comedian** saying they are too drunk to do the show and are cancelling.

A panic-stricken Trevor relays this information to the audience, and attempts to fill the time through **crowd work, stories and improv** whilst waiting for a local replacement comedian to turn up.

This includes inviting audience members to the stage to entertain in their own way - previously audience members have got on stage to share jokes, poems and short stories.

To Trevor's relief, **a local comedian** turns up at the end of the show with 10 minutes to go, and performs a short set.

The result is an hilarious and inclusive hour, which will leave the audience wondering if the whole thing was deliberate, or whether they really did experience a unique moment where a technician has to cover for 50 minutes.

# WHO IS GARETH BERLINER?

discerningnights.co.uk • garethberliner.com



Gareth is a Producer, Director, Actor, Writer and Stand-Up Comedian, who has Crohn's Disease.

He started doing stand-up professionally in 2005 and has since produced and written 5 solo stand-up shows, alongside his regular appearances on the comedy club circuit.

He has also provided UK tour support for the likes of Tom Stace and Hal Cruttenden.



In 2012, Gareth began producing and working on productions with actress Kiruna Stamell. Together with GRAEae Theatre and Amit Sharma, the pair received Arts Council funding for a devised piece called '**The Long And The Short Of It**', based on their life experiences as disabled people and as a disabled couple, which led to successful touring.

In 2014, Gareth and Kiruna developed another piece of theatre, again securing Arts Council funding. Entitled '**One of Us Will Die**', this was a Rom-Com theatrical piece which toured via the Disability Arts Network and was performed at Da Da Fest in Liverpool.



The duo received further Arts Council funding for a new piece of children's theatre in 2014, which was devised in collaboration with Red Earth Theatre and performed at The Mac in Birmingham, Zed Arts and several other theatres on tour. This was called '**Pirate and Parrot**' and explored friendship and disability.

More recently, Gareth has secured the recurring role of 'Macca' in long-running television show **Coronation Street**, and has since gone on to appear on television in **Eastenders**, **Doctor Who**, **The Bastard Executioner** and more.



He is also a member of **Abnormally Funny People**, which showcases disabled performers whilst addressing societal attitudes toward disability. As an artist, Gareth is keen to promote disability accessibility in all his work, as well as it ensuring it is inclusive.

# WHO IS THE SHOW FOR?

discerningnights.co.uk • garethberliner.com

## Who is the show for?

- Comedy / festival audiences
- Those who enjoy event / immersive experiences such as escape rooms, secret cinema etc.

## Key selling points:

- The mystery surrounding who the comedian will be - “could it be someone off the telly?”
- 

## Audience feedback so far:

‘a bit like Andy Kaufman’

‘like hanging out with your funniest mate’

‘start to finish pure comedy’

‘quite clever and surprising, really entertaining’

‘fun, energetic, different’

‘awkward, funny, original’

‘Crocodile Dundee meets the twilight zone’

‘surreal and very funny’

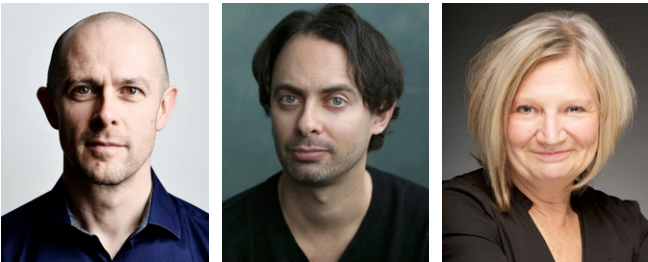


# HOW WAS THE SHOW DEVELOPED?

discerningnights.co.uk • garethberliner.com

The show has been developed throughout 2019, with support from **Arts Council** funding.

Research and development took place at 3 midlands venues; Attenborough Arts Centre, The Arena Theatre in Wolverhampton and the MAC in Birmingham. Preview performances took place at each of the 3 venues, two of which were during Birmingham Comedy Festival and Funny Things Festival.



**Directing** the show has been acclaimed comedy theatre director Kevin Shepherd, with outside eye work from the award-winning comedian Alexis Dubus (alias Marcel Lucont), and Britain's Got Talent star Janice Connolly (alias Mrs. Barbara Nice).

The show did a full run at the **Edinburgh Festival Fringe** in August 2019.



“Fantastic... We don't get a lot of shows that attract such a varied audience”

- JOHN KIRBY - PROGRAMMER, ATTENBOROUGH ARTS CENTRE

“The audience were really engaged in the performance. Those who were aware of the ruse didn't let the gag slip and enjoyed the ride; while those who had no idea got behind Trevor, even stepping up to keep the show going until the guest arrived.”

- BIRMINGHAM COMEDY FESTIVAL



## Tech requirements:

**Crew on the road:** One

**Sound:** Access to a sound desk required.  
Gareth can play theme music through via 3.5mm jack.  
Ideally this should be close to the stage.  
Mic and Mic stand are also required.

**Lighting:** Spotlight, as well as house lights.

**Get in:** 2 hours before the show, get out is 30 minutes.

**Show Length:** 60 minutes

## How to book the show:

The show is produced by Discerning Nights.

You can book the show by contacting Daniel Nicholas,  
email [dan@discerningnights.co.uk](mailto:dan@discerningnights.co.uk)



Discerning Nights

Discerning Nights programme and produce curious content, offering high quality experiences that offer a fresh new way of seeing live performance. They're interested in exploring the boundaries between different art forms, and figuring out how to knock them down in fun and unusual ways.

Visit [www.discerningnights.co.uk](http://www.discerningnights.co.uk) to find out more.

