



Jill Edwards

Runs stand-up comedy courses based at Komedia in Brighton since 2005 and also puts on comedy night Comic Boom. In more than 20 years she has trained top comedians including Jimmy Carr, Shappi Khorsandi, Seann Walsh and Romesh Ranganathan

What is your favourite place in Sussex?
Brighton's Komedia. Every time I walk into that amazing downstairs space to set up a comedy class or a Comic Boom night it feels like coming home. And Middle Farm – let me talk to their animals.

What do you love most about living in Sussex?
The glorious and eclectic mix of places to hang out. Brighton is a town in love with comedy. To me, Worthing feels like a visit to the 1950s.

What advice do you have for your 12-year-old self?
You're not going to be a vet. You're going to be a stand-up comedy coach and run a comedy club. And adopt a pig. It's all going to be awesome.

What is your most valued possession?
My box of comedy memorabilia. I've been in the comedy business the whole of my adult life. My favourite reminders of the best moments (to date) are in that box.

What is your biggest regret?
Giving up tap dancing when I turned into a teenage dumpling.

What is your biggest fear?
I'm currently in denial that I probably really do need glasses.

What is your proudest achievement?
Making up a job nobody else was doing or took seriously in the UK over 20 years ago and ignoring everyone who said, "You can't teach stand-up comedy."

Which five people (living or dead) would you invite to your fantasy dinner party?
Rosa Parks and Quentin Crisp inspired me with their courage when I was a kid. Stephen King inspired me with his writing. Plus my hilarious much-missed dad and his scandalous best mate Brian, who welcomed all and judged no one.

Anything else?
You could check out all the exciting fresh new comedy talent emerging from Brighton and discover a whole new generation of comedians before you see them on TV at Brighton's Komedia. Or you could learn how to have a go at stand-up yourself. Visit komedia/brighton.co.uk or jill-edwards.co.uk.