

COMEDY: BOOM TIME!

Victoria Nangle talks to comedy coach and the brains behind Comic Boom **Jill Edwards** about this top night

“Here’s what’s standing out for me about Comic Boom at the moment,” starts comedy coach Jill Edwards, whose previous students have included Jimmy Carr, Shappi Khorsandi, Shazia Mirza, and Hal Cruttenden. “Newer acts we’re developing are breaking through, getting nominated for awards or triumphing in high-profile competitions.” The name most recently that jumps out under that category is Angela Barnes, recent winner of the revived BBC Comedy Award, but she’s not the only one.

Seann Walsh, now resident compere and regular sight on TV turning up on *Mock The Week*, *Stand Up For The Week* and more, started out doing shorter spots at Comic Boom, as did Ian Stirling and Nick Helm who were nominated for Chortle’s Best Newcomer Award. It’s hardly surprising that after 20 years training top name comics, Jill Edwards has an eye for the cream of the crop. “I scour the country and local clubs to find all those great genuinely talented new comics that really stand out,” Jill explains, “and I put them on in exciting fast-paced shorter spots. I strive to bring fresh exciting original comics that audiences haven’t seen yet in Brighton to Comic Boom. You did “see them here first!”

Comedians love the regular night too, as this month’s headliner Simon Evans (*Michael McIntyre’s Roadshow, Live At The Apollo*) explains: “Comic Boom is a terrific club, even by the high standards of the venue it’s in – one of the best in the country. The mix of experienced acts and newer comics, whose eagerness and enthusiasm is infectious, really works. The audience reaction at Comic Boom is as good as it gets.” Rather emphatic.

This is a very special night though, with comics and audience alike contributing to that.

“One of the things I love most about running Comic Boom is that there’s always an excellent atmosphere dominated by the sheer sense of fun coming from both comics and audiences alike,” says Jill. “They feed off each other and the party fun atmosphere escalates through the night. We have the best regular audience and we love them. A Comic Boom night often feels more like a very friendly, warmly enthusiastic and slightly bonkers party than a comedy club.”

This month’s supporting line-up includes Jo Neary (Perrier nominee) and Benny Boot (NBC’s *Last Comic Standing* UK finalist), as well Nick Hodder, Aidan Goatley, Jim Holland and Sophie Buijsen. Names to make a note of. Names to say you ‘saw them way back when...’

Comic Boom, Komedia, 28 July (next Thursday), £9/7, www.komedia.co.uk/brighton



Simon Evans



Joanna Neary