

A SKETCHY AFFAIR

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Season 1

A collection of 25 original comedy sketches by

Jason Fité

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Introduction

A long, long time ago in a distant age known as the twentieth century, a young boy came to the conclusion that something very odd was going on in the world. Although all the adults he encountered seemed very sure that they knew exactly what they were doing, how the world worked and generally believed they knew what life was all about, the boy gradually realised that this was not entirely true. In fact, in most cases, it wasn't even slightly true. Life, the boy concluded, didn't really make that much sense – it was inconsistent, bewildering and possibly random. Despite what most adults claimed, it was downright unreliable, confusing and often seemingly quite absurd. If there was genuinely a purpose and pattern to existence it remained tantalisingly elusive.

So, the boy had a choice; he could give in to existential despair (even though he didn't know what that was at the time) or he could embrace the uncertainty and the madness and see how that worked out. Part of this involved an attempt to find the funnier side of life and to take what joy he could from that. He attempted to find the humour in the bleakest and most tragic of situations which quite often made them seem more bearable.

He also decided that it was unwise to trust people that seemed too sure of themselves and those who used their status or expertise to try and impose their own beliefs upon others. He discovered there a great many of these people in the world and they tend to be very keen to share their views with you and to give you unrequested advice.

I guess this is a somewhat convoluted and circuitous description of how and why this collection of comedy sketches came into being. To cut a long story short (too late) developed a 'dark' sense of humour and a tendency to write about painfully serious situations in a very light and occasionally flippant way.

One of the results is the following collection of sketches. The sketches were written as part of the313show which began life in 2012 as a podcast and then developed into a life stage show where we somewhat ambitiously performed two hours shows at numerous London venues. Gradually, the313show morphed into the comedic beast that is A Sketchy Affair.

Okay, enough semi-biographical seriousness and coffee-infused late-night ponderings... here's the 'funny stuff'...

Jason

Kingston Upon Thames

July 1st 2020

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The Sketches

- 1: One Wedding and a Very British Romcom, Actually*
- 2: Going Downtown on Abbey: Ep.1*
- 3: Michael Bay's Reimagiterpretation of Jane Austen's Pride and Prejudice*
- 4: The Actor's Art with special guest, Dame Judi of Dench*
- 5: Chekhov for Beginners*
- 6: The Whack Job*
- 7: The Actor's Art with special guest, Audrey Hepburn*
- 8: Mystic Babs: Ep.1*
- 9: Speedstalking*
- 10: The Actor's Art with special guest, Nigel Heaton*
- 11: Going Downtown on Abbey: Ep.2*
- 12: Infestation*
- 13: Mystic Babs: Ep.2*
- 14: The Actor's Art with special guest, Sir Bartholomew 'Barthy' DeBart-Bart*
- 15: Customer Don't Care*
- 16: Jay Bond at the Job Centre*
- 17: The Actor's Art - special preview of 'Life is Shit'*
- 18: Death of a Salesman*
- 19: Jay Bond at the Post Office*
- 20: Hostage*

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21: Mystic Babs: Ep.3

22: Office Satanism

23: Phones on a Train

24: A Little Stain

25: Going Downtown on Abbey: Ep.3

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One Wedding and a Very British RomCom, Actually

VOICEOVER

It's February - it's cold, wet and grim out there, so just when you thought things couldn't be any more bleak and depressing, here comes the latest British RomCom.

Yes, the same country that brought you those great romcom writers, William Shakespeare, Jane Austen and Oscar Wilde, now brings you One Wedding and A Very British Romcom, Actually, the funniest film you will see this Valentine's Day.

INT. BEDROOM - EARLY MORNING

HARRY wakes up and looks at his watch in panic and then realises he is handcuffed to the bed.

VOICEOVER

Meet Harry, the clueless but lovable bridegroom, he's quite middle-class in a bland inoffensive way, and he's slightly bemused because he's marrying his childhood sweetheart... in three hours...!

It's the one day where everything needs to go right, but just about everything goes wrong!

HARRY

I really don't know what's going on; a poodle has swallowed the wedding ring, the church is double booked with the local Asian hip-hop ensemble and my best man has just been arrested for impersonating a nun, and the wedding's meant to be in three hours! Bugger!

INT. BEDROOM - EARLY MORNING

LUCY is having her make-up done by her inebriated friend.

VOICEOVER

Now, meet Lucy, the girl he's going to marry. She's just a little bit neurotic but not in a deranged scary way, more just in a sweet lovable way, you know like that lovely Bridget Jones girl.

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LUCY

OMG, my wedding dress has shrunk, so I've got to lose five pounds in three hours, and double OMG, my ex-boyfriend has just turned up and I think I may still have feelings for him. This is sooo confusing. bugger!

INT. KITCHEN - EARLY MORNING

DODGEY DAVE, dressed in a nun's habit grabs a beer from the fridge.

VOICEOVER

Meet Dodgey Dave, Harry's best man and the real wild card in the pack.

DAVE

I'm crazeee me - I've got disgusting habits and hygiene issues and I just say and do whatever crazeee stuff comes into my head. Shag, bollocks, bum. Crazeee!

VOICEOVER

'It's certainly the canine's testicles' says the Daily Telegraph.

And the Daily Mail says it's 'The greatest film ever in the history of film-making ever - I know we said that about the last film we said that about the last film we reviewed, but this is definitely the greatest British film since Lawrence of Arabia or even 'The Lesbian Vampire Killers'

'It's romcomtastic!' says Heat magazine.

So, what are you waiting for? Book your tickets now - it will be at least a month before One Wedding and a British Romcom Actually is available on DVD.

INT. LIVING ROOM – DAY

Harry and Lucy sit on the sofa.

HARRY

I love you, Lucy.

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LUCY

I love you Harry.

Kissing.

Dodgey Dave emerges from behind the sofa.

DAVE

Arse!

LUCY AND HARRY

Oh, Dodgey Dave, you're so crazeee!

ALL

Happy Valentine's Day!

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Going Downtown on Abbey

Ep. 1: ' Trouble with the drainage at Lower Bush'

INT. DINING ROOM, AN ENGLISH STATELY HOME - 1925

BALLS, the young Butler serves dinner to LORD WILLIAM and LADY FANNY.

BALLS

Lord William, Lady Fanny. Dinner is served.

LORD WILLIAM

Splendid Balls.

LADY FANNY

Willy?

LORD WILLIAM

Fanny?

LADY FANNY

I think it's time we discussed a rather delicate subject matter.

LORD WILLIAM

If we must. What is it?

LADY FANNY

It's about Young Dick.

LORD WILLIAM

I hate to say it Fanny, but you seem to be entirely obsessed with Young Dick. I realise he's getting rather big now, but you should just leave Young Dick alone.

LADY FANNY

Yes, well I rather think it was time he found himself a wife. I fear he is spending far too much time with his stable boy.

LORD WILLIAM

Nob?

LADY FANNY

Yes, Nob. I am afraid Dick and Nob may be rubbing up a little bit too closely, if you follow my meaning?

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LORD WILLIAM

Dash it all. Dick! - Nob, the stable boy?

Balls suppresses a snigger.

LORD WILLIAM (CONT'D)

Balls!

BALLS

Yes, Lord William?

LORD WILLIAM

What's so damnably amusing?

BALLS

Nothing Sir. Just clearing my throat.

LORD WILLIAM

Most impertinent. And have you shaved today, Balls?

BALLS

Yes, Sir.

LORD WILLIAM

I should jolly well hope so. The amount of times I have had to tell you and your brother to shave escapes me.

BALLS

Yes, Sir.

LORD WILLIAM

No one want to have to sit through dinner staring at a pair of hairy Balls while they are trying to enjoy their soup.

BALLS

No, Sir.

LORD WILLIAM

Don't you agree, Fanny?

FANNY

Absolutely, one hairy Ball is enough, but two hairy Balls is simply intolerable. It's just not on.

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GONG

BALLS

The Countess De Muff.

The COUNTESS DE MUFF, an elegant young society lady joins them for dinner.

LORD WILLIAM

Ah, Muffy Darling. How the devil are you?

COUNTESS

Most excellent, Willy, and Fanny, you are positively glistening tonight.

LADY FANNY

Thank you. So glad you could join us. We are trying to think of a good match for Young Dick.

COUNTESS

Ah, yes, Young Dick, what a sweet little thing he is, though I suppose he must have grown quite large by now?

LADY FANNY

Yes, and he is so full of life and vitality.

LORD WILLIAM

Yes, my Dick has plenty of spunk in him.

Balls clears his throat.

LORD WILLIAM & LADY FANNY

Balls!

BALLS

Sorry Sir, tickly cough.

LADY FANNY

Anyway, Muffy Darling, can you think of any ladies who might like Young Dick?

COUNTESS

Well there was that Italian Countess, but no one seems to have seen her for ages, she's very reclusive.

FANNY

You mean the Countess Cliterati?

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COUNTESS

Yes, that's her. Hasn't been seen for years.

LORD WILLIAM

Well, I've never seen her at all. I'm beginning to wonder if she even exists.

LADY FANNY

Well she does, you just never make the effort to go and see her!

LORD WILLIAM

Really, Fanny! What has come over you? You've been all sticky and obstreperous ever since I gave you that pearl necklace for your birthday.

LADY FANNY

Sorry Willy, it's just this Young Dick business is getting to me.

COUNTESS

Well, how about Lady Penelope Quim, you could invite her over for dinner and see how she likes Young Dick.

LADY FANNY

Yes, though she may be unavailable at the moment.

LORD WILLIAM

Trouble with the drainage at Lower Bush again?

LADY FANNY

Yes, apparently the stench is unbelievable.

LORD WILLIAM

I've been telling her for years she needs to get a team of men in there to give the Bush a damn good trimming. If she lets it get out of hand, no wonder it's going to grow so wild. She lost a sheep in there last spring.

Balls giggles

LADY FANNY AND LORD WILLIAM

Balls!