

Jonty Stephens and Ian Ashpitel present

## AN EVENING OF ERIC AND ERN



### SPRING UK TOUR

**1<sup>st</sup> February – 29<sup>th</sup> June 2019**

Highly acclaimed for their uncanny portrayal of the legendary comedy duo, **Eric Morecambe and Ernie Wise**, talented actors **Ian Ashpitel** and **Jonty Stephens** return with **An Evening of Eric & Ern** on a UK tour from 1<sup>st</sup> February to 29<sup>th</sup> June 2019.

Crammed full of renditions of those famous comedy sketches, and coupled with contemporary references in their unique style, the show evokes memories of times when whole families would huddle around the telly on Sunday evenings to share in the much-loved antics of Britain's national treasures.

As seen on **BBC One's The One Show** and **ITV1's The Alan Titchmarsh Show**, the performances contain some of the first new writing in the style of **Morecambe & Wise** material in over 30 years.

**Ian Ashpitel** and **Jonty Stephens** have been performing and writing as Eric and Ern for almost five years. The research into their subjects is there for all to see in their staggeringly accurate portrayal of the most successful and much loved British comedy duo of all time. The performers themselves have a wonderful relationship with the families and estates of **Morecambe & Wise** – with all scripts vetted and authorised before being performed.

"I have been fascinated with Eric Morecambe for as long as I can remember," says Jonty. "I took on his persona at school and it never really left me. He was the funniest and loveliest of men. We both feel it's a privilege to play Eric and Ernie and some people have said it's like we're channelling them - some nights it does feel like that".

Ian and Jonty met at drama school over thirty years ago and continued their friendship playing golf together at **The Stage Golf Society** in Richmond. When Jonty was asked to play Eric at a charity show he knew that with his diminutive stature, Ian would be the perfect Ernie Wise. Having brought the house down the two then wrote some 'bespoke' material for their friends at the golf club.

Ian explains: "It was these performances which laid the foundation for a very long and incredible journey that led to rave reviews at the **Edinburgh Festival Fringe**." This was followed by an acclaimed run at **The Vaudeville Theatre in London's West End**, which was topped by an **Olivier Award** nomination for 'the play wot we wrote' - **Eric and Little Ern**. "We do treasure the relationship we have with each other – as did Eric and Ernie and I think it's obvious that we love performing the comedy of Morecambe and Wise," Ian continues.

Jonty said: "More importantly, the audiences love watching it - which is always handy. But it's more than just watching a comedy show - there's a real emotional connection, because we all remember watching it together. The audience reaction has been amazing."

**What people are saying about Eric and Little Ern's shows:**

*"I never thought I would see Morecambe & Wise live – I think I just have."* **Ben Elton**

*"You have the giddy out-of-time illusion that you are watching the legendary double-act live"*  
**The Independent**

*"I had shivers down my spine when I saw them – it was uncanny."* **Barry Cryer**

**Website:** [www.ericandlittleern.co.uk](http://www.ericandlittleern.co.uk) | **Facebook:** @ericandlittleern | **Twitter:** @eric\_ern

**Tour dates:**

**Friday 1<sup>st</sup> and Saturday 2<sup>nd</sup> February** **Newcastle-Under-Lyme: The New Vic**  
[www.newvictheatre.org.uk](http://www.newvictheatre.org.uk) / 01782 717962

**Saturday 16<sup>th</sup> February** **Lichfield: The Garrick Theatre**  
[www.lichfieldgarrick.com](http://www.lichfieldgarrick.com) / 01543 412121

**Wednesday 20<sup>th</sup> February** **Ipswich: Wolsey Theatre**  
[www.wolseytheatre.co.uk](http://www.wolseytheatre.co.uk) / 01473 295900

**Friday 8<sup>th</sup> March and Saturday 9<sup>th</sup> March** **Jersey: Opera House**  
[www.jerseyoperahouse.co.uk](http://www.jerseyoperahouse.co.uk) / 01534 511115

**Wednesday 13<sup>th</sup> March** **Nottingham: Theatre Royal**  
[www.trch.co.uk](http://www.trch.co.uk) / 0115 989 5555

**Friday 15<sup>th</sup> March** **Malvern: Festival Theatre**  
[www.malvern-theatres.co.uk](http://www.malvern-theatres.co.uk) / 01684 892277

**Saturday 16<sup>th</sup> March** **Hull: Hull New Theatre**  
[www.hulltheatres.co.uk](http://www.hulltheatres.co.uk) / 01482 300 306

**Tuesday 19<sup>th</sup> March** **Glasgow: King's Theatre**  
[www.atgtickets.com/venues/kings-theatre/](http://www.atgtickets.com/venues/kings-theatre/)

**Wednesday 20<sup>th</sup> March** **Leeds: City Varieties Music Hall**  
[www.cityvarieties.co.uk](http://www.cityvarieties.co.uk) / 0113 243 0808

**Thursday 21<sup>st</sup> March and Friday 22<sup>nd</sup> March** **Billingham: The Forum Theatre**  
[www.forumtheatrebillingham.co.uk](http://www.forumtheatrebillingham.co.uk) / 01642 552663

**Saturday 23<sup>rd</sup> March** **Northampton: Derngate**  
[www.royalandderngate.co.uk](http://www.royalandderngate.co.uk) / 01604 624811

**Tuesday 26<sup>th</sup> March** **Basingstoke: The Haymarket**  
[www.anvilarts.org.uk](http://www.anvilarts.org.uk) / 01256 844244

**Wednesday 3<sup>rd</sup> April** **Colchester: The Mercury Theatre**  
[www.mercurytheatre.co.uk](http://www.mercurytheatre.co.uk) / 01206 573948

**Thursday 4<sup>th</sup> April** **Bath: The Forum Theatre**

[www.bathforum.co.uk](http://www.bathforum.co.uk) / 0844 888 9991

Tuesday 16<sup>th</sup> April  
[www.theatresevern.co.uk](http://www.theatresevern.co.uk) / 02380 711811

Wednesday 17<sup>th</sup> April  
[www.oldreptheatre.co.uk](http://www.oldreptheatre.co.uk) / 0121 359 9444

Thursday 18<sup>th</sup> April  
[www.mayflower.org.uk](http://www.mayflower.org.uk) / 01743 281281

Friday 19<sup>th</sup> and Saturday 20<sup>th</sup> April  
[www.galadurham.co.uk](http://www.galadurham.co.uk) / 0300 026 6600

Wednesday 24<sup>th</sup> April  
[www.capitaltheatres.com/your-visit/kings-theatre](http://www.capitaltheatres.com/your-visit/kings-theatre) / 0131 529 6000

Friday 26<sup>th</sup> and Saturday 27<sup>th</sup> April  
[www.eastbournetheatres.co.uk](http://www.eastbournetheatres.co.uk) / 01323 412 000

Sunday 28<sup>th</sup> April (event for Momentum charity)  
[www.rosetheatrekingston.org](http://www.rosetheatrekingston.org) / 020 8174 0090

Thursday 2<sup>nd</sup> May  
[www.belgrade.co.uk](http://www.belgrade.co.uk) / 024 7655 3055

Friday 3<sup>rd</sup> May  
[www.theplacetelford.com](http://www.theplacetelford.com) / 01952 382 382

Wednesday 15<sup>th</sup> May  
[www.newtheatreCardiff.co.uk](http://www.newtheatreCardiff.co.uk) / (029) 2087 8889

Thursday 16<sup>th</sup> May  
[www.bhlivetickets.co.uk](http://www.bhlivetickets.co.uk) / 0844 576 3000

Friday 17<sup>th</sup> May  
[www.redditchpalacetheatre.co.uk](http://www.redditchpalacetheatre.co.uk) / 01527 65203

Tuesday 21<sup>st</sup> May  
[www.theatroyalwakefield.co.uk](http://www.theatroyalwakefield.co.uk) / 01924 211 311

Thursday 23<sup>rd</sup> May  
[www.rhodesartscomplex.co.uk](http://www.rhodesartscomplex.co.uk) / 01279 710 200

Friday 24<sup>th</sup> May  
[www.aberdeenperformingarts.com](http://www.aberdeenperformingarts.com) / 01224 641122

Saturday 25<sup>th</sup> May  
[www.falkirkcommunitytrust.org/venues/fth](http://www.falkirkcommunitytrust.org/venues/fth) / 01324 590900

Sunday 26<sup>th</sup> May  
[www.eden-court.co.uk](http://www.eden-court.co.uk) / 01463 234 234

Thursday 13<sup>th</sup> June  
[www.electricpalace.org.uk](http://www.electricpalace.org.uk) / 01308 424901

Friday 14<sup>th</sup> June  
[www.devizesartsfestival.org.uk](http://www.devizesartsfestival.org.uk)

Saturday 29<sup>th</sup> June

Southampton: The Mayflower Theatre

Birmingham: The Old Rep Theatre

Shrewsbury: The Severn Theatre

Durham: The Gala Theatre

Edinburgh: The Kings Theatre

Eastbourne: Devonshire Park Theatre

Kingston: Rose Theatre

Coventry: The Belgrade Theatre

Telford: Oakengates Theatre

Cardiff: The New Theatre

Bournemouth: The Pavilion

Redditch: Palace Theatre

Wakefield: Theatre Royal

Bishops Stortford: Rhodes Arts

Aberdeen: Her Majesties Theatre

Falkirk: FTH Theatre

Inverness: Eden Court

Bridport: Electric Palace

Devizes: Arts Festival

Doncaster: Cast Theatre

[www.castindoncaster.com](http://www.castindoncaster.com) / 01302 303959

For more information please contact Gaby Jerrard or Matthew Christian at  
[gaby@gabyjerrardpr.com](mailto:gaby@gabyjerrardpr.com) / [matthew@gabyjerrardpr.com](mailto:matthew@gabyjerrardpr.com)  
or on 020 7690 0006