Biography: Ed Gaughan

Ed is a writer, actor, director, comedian, clown, theatre maker, composer, workshop facilitator and musician. Alongside double-act partner Andrew Buckley, Ed co-created, co-wrote, worked on the soundtrack and starred in long-time collaborator Nick Whitfield’s debut feature film Skeletons, which was nominated for a BAFTA, a BIFA and won The Michael Powell Award for Cinema at Edinburgh International Film Festival. Ed was nominated for The Peter Sellers Award for Comedy for his work on Skeletons.

“The finest cult film to have come from Britain since ‘Withnail And I’” Film4

Ed has written, performed and directed work for and with many of the UK’s most loved comedians, sketch teams and theatre companies including Milton Jones, Pappy’s, Josie Long, Julian Barrett, Barry Cryer, Spymonkey, Fuel, Will Adamsdale, Charlie Baker, Colin Hoult, Filter Theatre, Sean Holmes, Carl Grose (Kneehigh) Blanche McIntyre, Simon Stephens, Vanishing Point, NTS, Lorne Campbell and exciting new talents such as Scott Turnbull, Danusia Samal and Eva Collins Alonso.

“Ed Gaughan’s swaggering production is, beneath the lunacy, impeccably skilled, with an adroit four-strong cast and a drum-tight band. Just when you’re almost crying with laughter, it sneaks in a moment so lovely or melancholy that suddenly you’re tearing up all over again.” ‘Spymonkeys Christmas Carol’ Review ★★★★ The Times

He has written, performed and directed work at many of the UK’s most prestigious venues and festivals including Edinburgh Festival, Soho Theatre, Lyric Hammersmith (where was a creative associate) BAC (where he was an associate artist for many years) Shakespeare’s Globe, Shoreditch Town Hall (also an associate artist) Manchester Royal Exchange, Bristol Old Vic, Hammersmith Apollo, Shepherds Bush Empire, Latitude, Glastonbury, End Of The Road, Mach Fest and The Big Chill festivals.

A founder member of the award-winning comedy/music/animations collective The London Snorkelling Team, Ed (along with Will Adamsdale) has co-written and performed with the LST at Edinburgh Festival (winning a Herald Angel), Camden Roundhouse, Latitude and opened for Portishead at Alexandra Palace.

The London Snorkelling Team are “As brilliant as they are hilarious”\*\*\*\* Maddy Costa- The Guardian

Ed co-created, (along with Adamsdale, Buckley and the LST) performed at and curated Night of Stuff at Shoreditch Town Hall, a 21st-century vaudeville that showcased the finest in comedy, music and strange performance. Previous guests include Julian Barrett (Mighty Boosh) Spencer Jones, Mae Martin, Bridget Christie and members of The SHUNT collective, Phil Robson, Christine Tobin and Nick Pyn. Night of Stuff brought their spinoff show ‘The Lost Disc’ to Soho Theatre in 2018. Ed was co-writer (with Will Adamsdale and Tom Parry) co-composer (with Adamsdale and Chris Branch) and appeared as performer and musician.

“A musical detective story, part comedy thriller part concert experience, performed by a multi-tasking cast of impossible talent” Stewart Lee

Ed has acted across stage, screen and radio, recent TV includes ‘Quacks’ BBC and ‘Black Mirror’ CH4, ‘Brassic’ Sky 1 and ‘Urban Myths’ Sky Arts, recent film includes ‘Fantastic Beasts 2’

Ed was nominated for Best Actor at the MTAs for Sean Holmes’ production of ‘A Midsummer Nights Dream’ in 2013.

Ed is a prolific voice actor, working across animation, radio and podcast. Recent work includes BBC’s reboot of Dangermouse, voicing many characters including DM’s iconic arch enemy Baron Von Greenback, numerous radio appearances on BBC Radio 4, 3 and 6 Music (including co writing and performing in ‘The Beautiful Cosmos Of Ivor Cutler for BBC Radio 3) and providing voices for Pushkin Industries hit podcast ‘Cautionary Tales’

As a musician Ed holds a BA in Jazz studies from Middlesex University and since graduating in 2000 has played with numerous bands and musical artists. He is a founder member of the Gypsy Jazz quartet ‘The Prophets Of Swing’ and has played at many of the worlds leading music and arts festivals including Glastonbury, Edinburgh, London Jazz Festival, Shetland Folk Festival, Porto Jazz Festival (Portugal) and Brisbane Arts Festival (Australia)

As a composer Ed has written scores for a wide variety of work across stage, screen and audio. He was the composer for Nabokov Theatre’s award winning ‘Symphony’ (Soho Theatre) and most recently this year was Composer, arranger and MD for Sean Holmes ground-breaking production of ‘Hamlet’ at Shakespeare’s Globe.

“This Hamlet is a wild, wild ride”\*\*\*\* Time Out

Ed is currently working on a score for a new true crime podcast for Pushkin.

Ed has worked with a vast number of community groups and has 30 years’ experience as a workshop leader and facilitator. He has taught theatre, film making, music, comedy and clown to people with a learning disability, young people excluded from mainstream education, offenders, people with mental health conditions and neuro divergent participants. He has worked for many charities and trusts including Wolf and Water Arts, Kandu, MyLife, BAC, Greenwich Music Service, Lyric Hammersmith and Rideout. He has a long-standing relationship and collaboration with Get Changed theatre company, a theatre company for adults with a learning disability and is the lead director for their work.

***“Original and intelligent, if Ed Gaughan doesn’t already have a cult fan base they should really set one up” \*\*\*\* Metro***

***“Eccentric, heartfelt and very funny” \*\*\*\*Guardian***

***“A surreal disorientating hybrid of theatre, stand up comedy and jazz concert incorporating a talent for accents and impressions with hysterical physical comedy”***

***\*\*\*\* Independent***

“A massive talent, Gaughan has many voices” Lyn Gardner, The Guardian.

“A formidable solo turn from Ed Gaughan, hints of Peter Sellers in his chameleon changes” Bruce Dessau, London Evening Standard.

“Poised somewhere between stand up comedy and theatre, Gaughan has a great ability to switch physically from one character to another with just a twitch of his nose or a change of posture. Gaughan is clearly a real talent.” Jane Edwards, Time Out.