

DERREN BROWN - BIOGRAPHY

"I am often dishonest in my techniques but I'm always honest about my dishonesty" (Derren Brown)

Born in Croydon in 1971, Derren traces his interest in magic and psychological techniques to childhood, but it was only later at Bristol University, where he studied Law and German that he started to take it seriously. After graduating, Derren abandoned a career in Law and concentrated on developing his skills at psychological magic. He was able to pay the bills by combining performing in cafes and bars with a sideline in portraiture.

His big break came in 1999 when he was asked by Channel 4 to put a TV show together. The result, **DERREN BROWN: MIND CONTROL**, was shown in December 2000, proving an immediate success. The repeat showing rated in Channel 4's top ten. This was followed in August 2001 by another special **DERREN BROWN: MIND CONTROL 2**, further establishing him as a hit with viewers and critics alike.

Derren returned to Channel 4 on New Year's Day 2002 with **DERREN BROWN: MIND CONTROL 3** - a one-hour special that pushed the boundaries of psychological magic to new heights, prompting The Guardian to declare: *"He's clearly the greatest dinner party guest in history...or the scariest man in Britain"*.

Derren returned to our TV screens in Nov 2002 with a Derren Brown night on E4, which premiered his new series. This series became one of Channel 4's most watched entertainment shows when it was shown on C4 on Friday nights from March 2003. He followed this with a sell-out nationwide tour.

Derren, always one to push back the boundaries of showmanship and magic entertainment, caused an international furore when he played Russian roulette on National TV. **DERREN BROWN PLAYS RUSSIAN ROULETTE LIVE** was watched by over 3.3 million people when it went out on Channel 4 on Sun 5 October 2003. Ten million people watched him perform on the National TV Awards the following month. Oct 2003 also saw the release of **DERREN BROWN: INSIDE YOUR MIND** - his first video/DVD through Channel 4.

In March 2004, by popular demand, Derren took his original stage show back on a national tour and into the West End in June 2004 for a critically acclaimed sell out run.

He returned on Channel 4 in April 2004 with a brand new series, **DERREN BROWN: TRICK OF THE MIND** and in May 2004 with **DERREN BROWN: SÉANCE**, which, yet again, proved controversial as well as highly entertaining when Derren, using Victorian techniques, conducted a séance with surprising results.

In January 2005 he once again bemused and amused the nation with yet another daring special – **DERREN BROWN: MESSIAH**, a darker, more personal documentary that questioned the way we buy into certain belief-systems. In April 2005 he returned with a second series of **TRICK OF THE**

MIND as well as touring with a new live show **SOMETHING WICKED THIS WAY COMES**, which culminated in a sell-out three-week run at The Cambridge Theatre and which won the Olivier for Best Entertainment Show.

In May that year Channel 4 broadcast another popular special, **DERREN BROWN: THE GATHERING** and he released his second DVD, **DERREN BROWN: TRICKS OF THE MIND, Series 1**

Derren kicked off 2006 with his most ambitious and controversial special to date – **DERREN BROWN: THE HEIST**, which, once again, baffled and astonished both the press and public alike. This show was nominated for a Broadcast Magazine Award 2007. In Spring 2006 he returned with a third series of **TRICK OF THE MIND** and toured the UK for a second time with his sell-out live show, **SOMETHING WICKED THIS WAY COMES** - of which, a specially-made for TV version was screened on Channel 4 in Dec 2006. He also brought out a third DVD, **DERREN BROWN: TRICKS OF THE MIND, Series 2** and wrote a best-selling book, **TRICKS OF THE MIND**.

A new series, **DERREN BROWN: TRICK OR TREAT**, was broadcast on Channel 4 in April 2007 and Derren made his debut in the US with **DERREN BROWN: MIND CONTROL**, which was premiered on NBC's Sci-Fi Channel in July 2007. Capping a hugely busy year he embarked on a sell-out tour with **DERREN BROWN: MIND CONTROL (An Evening of Wonders)** – a tour he repeated in 2008, as well as taking the show into the West End's Garrick Theatre. 2008 also saw a second series of **TRICK OR TREAT** and a headline-grabbing special, **DERREN BROWN: THE SYSTEM**, an audacious demonstration of the psychology behind gambling.

2009 got off to a great start for Derren with the TV special of his last theatre show – **AN EVENING OF WONDERS**, averaging 2.3 million viewers and a 15.3% share. He also toured his fourth new live show **DERREN BROWN: ENIGMA**, which culminated with a run at The Adelphi Theatre and garnered rave reviews. In March 09 Transworld published a collection of Derren's work as an artist. **DERREN BROWN PORTRAITS**, featuring his caricature impressions of the world's most famous faces.

This was also the year that Derren hit the headlines with his most audacious event since 'Roulette', when he appeared to predict the national lottery live on TV. This was one of four ambitious and thought-provoking specials in a series entitled **DERREN BROWN: THE EVENTS**. The first of these, **DERREN BROWN PREDICTS THE LOTTERY**, secured 3.1m viewers and bear the actual lottery on BBC1.

Derren recently contributed to **THE ATHEIST'S GUIDE TO CHRISTMAS**, Britain's first atheist charity book initiative. All royalties went to the UK HIV charity The Terrence Higgins Trust.

In 2010 Derren changes gear with a 3-part documentary series, **DERREN BROWN INVESTIGATES**, in which he spends time with people who make paranormal claims. This will be broadcast on Channel 4 from May 2010. He also has a new book out in October 2010, again published by Transworld.

Derren is planning on taking a holiday in 2016...

