

DERREN BROWN: ENIGMA 2010

Feb 10 – June 28 2010



PRESS PACK

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PRESS INFORMATION

Derren Brown returns with triumphant 'enigmatic' show

Be prepared for a once-in-a-lifetime theatrical experience when the master of psychological illusion returns to the stage with the second leg of his latest live show DERREN BROWN: ENIGMA. With 94 dates across the UK Derren will once again bewilder, baffle and bewitch and demonstrate why he is one of the country's most revered live performers; a master of magic, mind control and psychological illusion.

Derren says: "*Like previous shows, I will absolutely push myself to the limit. The challenge is to create a theatrical event that shocks, surprises and defies explanation. The audience will be taken for a roller-coaster ride, and I hope it's an experience that they will never forget*".

Derren has taken magic and mind-reading into new realms. He is seemingly able to predict suggest and control human behaviour, whilst claiming no special powers at all. This unique combination of talents makes for a stunning theatrical evening in the hands of a master performer. There's nothing like it anywhere else in the world.

On stage and well as on TV he is in a class of his own. His *Mind Control*, *Trick of the Mind* and *Trick or Treat* TV programmes have garnered rave reviews and award nominations around the world. His specials have provoked much controversy and acclaim and further consolidated his reputation as a performer prepared to constantly challenge and break boundaries. He has also received much praise for his best-selling book, *Tricks of the Mind*, which has currently sold over 400,000 copies. He recently reached new heights of notoriety with DERREN BROWN: THE EVENTS. (See Full Biography)

The performance is not suitable for children under 12 years.

The dates are subject to change and additional venues and dates may be added.

This is the second leg of the tour that started in 2009 and the show, Enigma, is the same show and will be performing in theatres where it has not been seen previously as well as going back to theatres where it appeared in 2009.

Tour credits:

Producers: Michael Vine, Andrew O'Connor & Corrie McGuire for Objective Talent Management

Directed by Andy Nyman

General Management by John Dalston

Tour Booker - David Walker for Stagedeal Ltd.

Designed by Will Bowen

Lighting design by Tim Mascall

For further publicity requirements, please contact:

Greg Day @ Clout Communications * 020 7851 8627 * 07889 861646 *

greg@cloutcom.co.uk or Kevin@cloutcom.co.uk

Picture editors – please note that you can download high resolution images of Derren Brown from the picture gallery on www.cloutcom.co.uk. This press pack is also available as a download from 'current clients' page.

TOUR DATES

FEBRUARY

WED 10 SWANSEA GRAND
THURS 11 SWANSEA GRAND
FRI 12 SWANSEA GRAND
SAT 13 TORQUAY PRINCESS
SUN 14 TORQUAY PRINCESS
MON 15 TORQUAY PRINCESS
MON 22 CRAWLEY THE HAWTH
TUE 23 CRAWLEY THE HAWTH
WED 24 CRAWLEY THE HAWTH
THUR 25 CRAWLEY THE HAWTH
FRI 26 CRAWLEY THE HAWTH
SAT 27 CRAWLEY THE HAWTH
SUN 28 BUXTON OPERA HOUSE

MARCH

MON 1 BUXTON OPERA HOUSE
TUE 2 LIVERPOOL EMPIRE
WED 3 LIVERPOOL EMPIRE
THUR 4 BRISTOL HIPPODROME
FRI 5 BRISTOL HIPPODROME
SAT 6 BRISTOL HIPPODROME
SUN 7 EASTBOURNE CONGRESS
MON 8 EASTBOURNE CONGRESS
TUE 9 EASTBOURNE CONGRESS
THUR 11 HULL NEW THEATRE
FRI 12 HULL NEW THEATRE
SAT 13 HULL NEW THEATRE
MON 15 SOUTHAMPTON MAYFLOWER
TUE 16 SOUTHAMPTON MAYFLOWER
WED 17 SOUTHAMPTON MAYFLOWER
THUR 18 BRISTOL HIPPODROME
MON 22 LEICESTER DE MONTFORT HALL
TUE 23 LEICESTER DE MONTFORT HALL
THUR 25 IPSWICH REGENT
FRI 26 IPSWICH REGENT
SAT 27 IPSWICH REGENT
SUN 28 SOUTHEND CLIFFS PAVILION
MON 29 SOUTHEND CLIFFS PAVILION
TUE 30 SOUTHEND CLIFFS PAVILION

APRIL

THUR 1 EDINBURGH PLAYHOUSE
FRI 2 EDINBURGH PLAYHOUSE
SAT 3 BRADFORD ST GEORGE'S
SUN 4 BRADFORD ST GEORGE'S
MON 5 SUNDERLAND EMPIRE
TUE 6 SUNDERLAND EMPIRE
WED 7 SUNDERLAND EMPIRE
THUR 8 MILTON KEYNES THEATRE
FRI 9 MILTON KEYNES THEATRE
SAT 10 MILTON KEYNES THEATRE
MON 12 BELFAST WATERFRONT
TUE 13 BELFAST WATERFRONT
WED 14 BELFAST WATERFRONT
THUR 15 DUBLIN GRAND CANAL THEATRE
FRI 16 DUBLIN GRAND CANAL THEATRE
SAT 17 DUBLIN GRAND CANAL THEATRE
MON 19 CARDIFF ST DAVID'S HALL
TUE 20 CARDIFF ST DAVID'S HALL
THUR 22 WOKING NEW VICTORIA
FRI 23 WOKING NEW VICTORIA
SAT 24 WOKING NEW VICTORIA
TUE 27 BIRMINGHAM ALEXANDRA
WED 28 BIRMINGHAM ALEXANDRA
THUR 29 BIRMINGHAM ALEXANDRA
FRI 30 BIRMINGHAM ALEXANDRA

MAY

SAT 1 BIRMINGHAM ALEXANDRA
SUN 2 LIVERPOOL EMPIRE
MON 3 BLACKPOOL OPERA HOUSE
SAT 8 BOURNEMOUTH BIC
SUN 9 BOURNEMOUTH BIC
MON 10 WIMBLEDON THEATRE
TUE 11 WIMBLEDON THEATRE
WED 12 WIMBLEDON THEATRE
THUR 13 WIMBLEDON THEATRE
FRI 14 WIMBLEDON THEATRE
SAT 15 WIMBLEDON THEATRE
MON 17 STOKE REGENT
TUE 18 STOKE REGENT
WED 19 STOKE REGENT
THUR 20 GLASGOW KINGS
FRI 21 GLASGOW KINGS
SAT 22 GLASGOW KINGS

JUNE

MON 7 EDINBURGH PLAYHOUSE
TUE 8 EDINBURGH PLAYHOUSE
WED 9 THE LOWRY MANCHESTER
THUR 10 THE LOWRY MANCHESTER

FRI 11 THE LOWRY MANCHESTER
SAT 12 THE LOWRY MANCHESTER
TUE 15 BIRMINGHAM ALEX
WED 16 BIRMINGHAM ALEX
THUR 17 BIRMINGHAM ALEX
FRI 18 BIRMINGHAM ALEX
SAT 19 BIRMINGHAM ALEX
SUN 20 SUNDERLAND EMPIRE
FRI 25 MILTON KEYNES THEATRE
SAT 26 LEICESTER DE MONTFORT HALL
MON 28 NOTTINGHAM ROYAL CONCERT HALL

DERREN BROWN Q & A FEATURE

Q: DERREN, YOU'VE DECIDED TO TAKE ENIGMA BACK ON TOUR. IS IT THE SAME SHOW OR HAVE ADDED ANYTHING?

A: It is the same show - each one goes out across a couple of years. I normally take a week or so to tweak a few bits and pieces that we feel might need attention, but basically it is the same show.

Q: FOR THOSE READERS WHO HAVEN'T SEE THE SHOW YET HOW WOULD YOU DESCRIBE IT?

A: Loads more fun than you'd expect if you've only seen the TV work. And all based on random audience participation.

Q: YOU ONCE SAID YOU PREFER PERFORMING LIVE ON STAGE TO TV. IS THAT STILL THE CASE?

A: Hugely. When touring I get to travel around with my best friends, do a show I love and I'm confident people will enjoy, and have all the adrenalin that comes with performing. With TV there are constant enforced changes, restraints, and frustrations that sap much of the joy out of it. With the tour, once it's rehearsed, I only have to go out and have the pleasure of doing the show, changing it as I like at my own pace.

Q: WHAT WAS THE WORST THING THAT HAPPENED ON THE LAST ENIGMA TOUR?

A: I honestly can't think of anything unpleasant that happened. My memories are all entirely glowing. Coops (my PA and stage manager) ran over my laptop on his skateboard and dented it - that might be it. But I didn't really mind.

Q: AND THE BEST?

A: I really enjoyed filming the audience singing 'Happy Birthday' to Coops for his 30th as a surprise, with him next to me on stage.

Q: YOU HAVE A SERIES OF DOCUMENTARIES IN THE PIPELINE. WHAT CAN YOU TELL US ABOUT THEM?

A: I've been spending some time with people making paranormal claims, and I'm going in with a genuine hope for the evidence to hold up. I spend my life fabricating supernatural power, so I'd love it all to be true. Of course extraordinary claims demand extraordinary evidence, so at the same time I know what to look out for and not get fooled. It's been a fascinating project, and more complex than I imagined.

Q: ARE YOU PLANNING TO WRITE A NEW BOOK?

A: I'm currently editing a book that I've written for release in October 2010. It's a kind of semi-autobiographical whimsy.

Q: AND HOW ABOUT @DERRENBROWN? ARE YOU ENJOYING TWITTER?

A: Loving it! I held off for a while and now I adore it. It runs alongside the derrenbrown.co.uk/blog which is now rather massive, so it's a pleasure to mix the personal tweets with the more informative blog entries.

Q: LASTLY DERREN, WHAT DO YOU DO TO RELAX?

A: I like to show disturbing tricks to toddlers in queues when their parents aren't looking.

You can check out Derren's collection of portraits at www.derrenbrowart.com
For general info on Derren go to www.derrenbrown.co.uk

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 went on to become 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 the country 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 Spring 2010 Derren changes changes gear with a TV documentary series in which he spends time with people who make paranormal claims. He also has a new book out in October 2010, again published by Transworld.

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

PRESS QUOTES FOR DERREN BROWN: ENIGMA

'A spectacular night of entertainment. Derren Brown is, without a shadow of a doubt, this country's greatest illusionist. His latest show sees him climb to artistic heights rarely, if ever, achieved by any other legends of the magical

arts. Some of the illusions are beyond mind-boggling and truly do beggar belief. Derren Brown, you put Merlin to shame!

*******Time Out**

'I can't think there's a more joyfully entertaining evening to be spent in a theatre at the moment. This is entertainment as charming as it is dazzling, with a finale that is sure to leave you breathless'

*******City AM**

'Mind-blowing'

*******London Lite**

'Utterly baffling and completely extraordinary...You must just marvel and wonder at it all'.

*******Sunday Express**

'Unbelievable, jaw-dropping, gasp-inducing...everything he does is a wonderfully intriguing puzzle that leaves audiences dumbstruck and delighted'

*******Official London Theatre**

Enigma raised the hoodwink and the scam to the level of art...you repeatedly find yourself retrieving your jaw from the floor'

*******Daily Telegraph**

'A magical mystery tour de force'

*******Times**

'Brilliant...there was nothing for it but to surrender to his control'

*******Mail on Sunday**

'Unquestionably a magical mystery tour-de-force...packed with enough fantastic feats of mental and visual wizardry to blow even the most cynical of minds' *******whatsonstage**

'Enigma is an entertaining and hugely engaging show...Brown's unique charisma and showmanship shine through on stage'

The Stage

PRESS QUOTES - GENERAL

"Though none of us would say we wanted Derren Brown to die, we have been resentful of the suggestion he might not...that he wasn't really risking his life. I believe Brown really did play Russian Roulette and the fact that we tuned into Channel 4 in case it went wrong disturbs me a little. But it was compelling television."

Nick Curtis - Evening Standard

"Tension, fear, excitement, horror, relief, joy, admiration. Rarely have I felt all these emotions within the space of one hour's television viewing. But Derren Brown Plays Russian Roulette Live did just that...so does this make Derren Brown a liar? A conman? A cheat? A fake? No, it's makes him a genius."

Dominik Diamond -The Daily Star

"Derren Brown is everything you want him to be in real life: one part Paul Daniels, two parts James Bond and four parts Yoda....or perhaps he's an evil witch".

Sam Delancy - Guardian

"Brown's version of magic is not merely entertaining. It challenges you to examine your own beliefs".

Jack Phoenix - Fortean Times

"Instructing me to concentrate, he (Derren) pulls out a blank sheet of paper and begins sketching, chatting all the while. He tells me he "sees" a conical shape with spots on it – and knock me down if he does not produce a near-exact replica of my drawing...it is now clear why Stephen Fry wanted to burn him at the stake."

Sarah Lyall - New York Times

"*Séance* was a display of Brown's psychological mastery. He'd proved that mediumship is bunk in little more than a hour and looked hot throughout into the bargain. And, as final devastating proof of Brown's peerless insight, a caption came up at the end of the credits, explaining that the distraught and unnerved students would now be led into a quite room and given pizza."

Caitlin Moran - The Times

I'm always at a loss to describe Derren Brown. Is he a magician, a con artist, a psychological illusionist, the spawn of Satan? He so freaks me out that that I'm afraid that by watching him I'll be left with the urge to tap-dance naked down the high street every time someone utters the word 'aardvark'.

Ian Johns, The Times

"Whatever you think of Derren Brown and his programme *The Heist*, he's definitely succeeded in creating the subject of this morning's oh-my-god-did-you-see television conversation. Everyone will have their theories of how he does it, they'll wonder if they would have been susceptible themselves, some people will questions the morality of creating three new criminals...I don't know any of the answers but I do know he makes very good telly"...

Sam Wollaston -The Guardian

"Though a fan of his creepy oeuvre I am now pretty convinced that Brown is an emissary of the dark side. The man could probably swing an election if he put his mind to it. Come to think of it maybe he already has..."

Kathryn Flett - Observer

ENDS