

DERREN BROWN: ENIGMA

A new tour

April 17 – June 5 2009



PRESS PACK

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PRESS INFORMATION

Derren Brown returns with 'enigmatic' new show

Be prepared for a once-in-a-lifetime theatrical experience when the master of psychological illusion returns to the stage with a brand new show DERREN BROWN: ENIGMA. With 41 dates across the UK Derren will once again bewilder, baffle and bewitch and show why he is one of the country's most revered live performers; a master of magic, mind control and psychological illusion. This is his fourth tour and is expected to sell out as quickly as the last, DERREN BROWN MIND READER: AN EVENING OF WONDERS.

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.

Derren and his collaborator/director Andy Nyman are still putting the new show together but Derren says: *"Like previous shows, I will absolutely push myself to the limit. The challenge is to create new material that shocks, surprises and defies explanation. The audience will be taken for a theatrical roller-coaster ride, and I hope it's an experience that they will never forget"*.

The performance is not suitable for children under 12 years.

On stage and well as on TV he is in a class of his own, exhilarating audiences with his unique brand of intelligent and theatrical entertainment. His *Mind Control*, *Trick of the Mind* and *Trick or Treat* TV programmes have garnered rave reviews and award nominations and in 2003 Derren won The Silver Rose in the Variety Category at Rose d'Or, Montreux. 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 330,000 copies. He has also enjoyed considerable success in America, when his show *Derren Brown: Mind Control*, was screened on NBC's Sci-Fi Channel. Derren has recently been filming a series of documentaries *Derren Brown: The Unexplained* which will be aired in Spring 2009, alongside a series of four one-hour specials known as *The Event*. He also has a new book out in the Spring – *Derren Brown Portraits*, a collection of his painted caricatures of famous faces – and a third book is in the pipeline for Christmas.

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 Mascal

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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

APRIL 2009

17, 18, 19, 20, 21	CHATHAM	Central Theatre	01634 338338
22, 23	HASTINGS	White Rock Theatre	01424 462288
24, 25	BOURNEMOUTH	International Centre	01202 456400
26, 27	NOTTINGHAM	Royal Concert Hall	0115 9895555
29, 30	MANCHESTER	The Lowry	0870 1112000

MAY 2009

1, 2	MANCHESTER	The Lowry	0870 1112000
3	HARROGATE	Centre	01423 537230
4	BLACKPOOL	Opera House	0844 8561111
5, 6	WOLVERHAMPTON	Grand Theatre	01902 429212
7	BLACKPOOL	Opera House	0844 8561111
12, 13	OXFORD	New Theatre	0870 6077484
15, 16	GRIMSBY	Auditorium	0870 0602331
18	LLANDUDNO	Venue Cymru	01492 872000
19, 20	SHEFFIELD	City Hall	0114 2789789
21, 22	READING	Hexagon	01189 606060
23, 24	PLYMOUTH	Pavilions	0845 1461460
25, 26, 27	NORTHAMPTON	Derngate	01604 624811
28, 29, 30	NORWICH	Theatre Royal	01603 630000

JUNE 2009

1, 2, 3	NEWCASTLE	Theatre Royal	0844 8112121
4, 5, 7	GLASGOW	Royal Concert Hall	0141 3538000

All dates may be subject to change and additional dates may be added. For ticket prices and times you will have to contact the individual venue.

DERREN BROWN Q & A FEATURE

What can you tell us about the new show?

Not much at the moment as Andy Nyman (Derren's director and co-writer) and I are still writing it, and we like to keep our plans secret. Like previous shows, we will attempt to push the boundaries and myself to the limit. The challenge is to create new material that shocks, surprises and defies explanation. I will be keeping the audience very much involved and taking them take on a journey, hopefully giving them an experience that they will never forget.

Why is it called 'Enigma'?

The word 'Enigma' has so many connotations. It can be a puzzling or inexplicable occurrence: a saying, word, picture or expression that has a hidden meaning: a code and, of course a person with a puzzling or contradictory character. I'll try to bring something of all of that into the new show.

Your last show, 'Evening of Wonders', got such rave reviews – does that make the challenge for you that much harder?

'Evening of Wonders' was, for me, the best show out of the three I've done so far. It's going to be very difficult to top it. It's always daunting thinking of the next one but I love the process of starting from scratch. It's always very thrilling. What is frightening is the amount of time Andy and I have to create and rehearse a new show. It was only six weeks for 'Something Wicked This Way Comes' although we have eight weeks for the new show.

You have some new television shows coming out on Channel 4 this year. What can we expect?

These shows are something I've wanted to do for a while. Rather than create another series dependent on tricks and on a pure entertainment level I'm going to try some documentaries. The purpose is to spend some time with people who are either making some kind of paranormal claim. For example I spend a week with an American guy who is a prominent ghost hunter and demonologist. He investigates hauntings, recommends people for exorcisms and travels across the states collecting evidence of paranormal activity. He lives this life quite publicly. I also spent some time with a medium from Liverpool, which was an extraordinary and revealing week. We're also looking at making a third.

Is the aim to debunk what they do?

No, certainly not. I know I have this reputation as a sceptic but I'm not going into making these programmes with an aggressive or cynical agenda. One thing I share with a lot of

people like mediums who are making paranormal claims is a similar love of the mysterious, the unexplained. I have a natural curiosity for ghosts, magic etc – because that's what I do. We all share a love of that same unexplained world. I'd love to see stuff I can't make sense of.

How do you square this with your well-known position on the susceptibility of belief-systems?

It's easy to say that what separates science from belief is that scientists are constantly looking for evidence and that those engaged in paranormal activities are not interested in evidence. This is not always true. The ghost hunter I've filmed with has spent his whole life looking for evidence. His standard of evidence may or may not be rigorous enough to convince the rest of the world but he certainly feels evidence is important. I'm going into these shows with a genuinely open mind and a desire for it all to be true but at the same time I have a real knowledge of how these things can be faked and how people can fool themselves. I'm still very clear in my mind what sort of evidence is needed but I see no reason to be arrogant about it..

You just made your TV acting debut in BBC4's 'Crooked House'. What made you decide to do it?

Mark Gatiss is a friend and I've always been a huge fan of his work. He offered me a suitably small role in a really fun project, and I was both honoured and nervous, but essentially I saw it as a fun and flattering opportunity to have taken part in a very well-written and beautifully-filmed piece. But as viewers will have seen, I barely spoke I it, so I was really daunted by the billing I got. It was barely a cameo!

Are you keen to pursue an acting career?

I doubt very much that this is the start of an acting career although I'm fascinated by acting – particularly stage acting. I'm not sure I have the emotional range for it as I'm not a naturally open person but if the right part came along I'd certainly consider the challenge.

You have a new book coming out later in the year. What can you tell us about it?

It's a book of my caricatures. I've been painting portraits of well-known personalities for years – people I admire or who interest me for whatever reason. The book is a collection of pieces with some text explaining my approach to painting and the choice of subjects. Included are Clint Eastwood, Woody Allen, Judi Dench, Rufus Wainright, Brad Pitt, Madonna and Stephen Fry. I'm also planning another, more autobiographical book for Christmas 2009. I'm not sure what it will eventually turn out like but it will be quite different from my previous book (Tricks of The Mind).

From March 1st 2009 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 has 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. Watch out for a new C4 series in the Spring – **DERREN BROWN: UNEXPLAINED** and a new UK tour, **DERREN BROWN: ENIGMA**, which starts in April 2009. Transworld will also be publishing a collection of Derren's work as an artist. **DERREN BROWN PORTRAITS** will feature his caricature impressions of the world's most famous faces.

PRESS QUOTES

"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 question 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

PRESS QUOTES

FOR DERREN BROWN: MIND READER – AN EVENING OF WONDERS

“Derren casts his spell. A slick and amusing evening raises gasps from the audience. Bewitching”

Quentin Letts - Daily Mail

“*** (5 stars) Wizard Brown blows minds with his tricks!”**

Ben Dowell - The London Paper

“Derren Brown wows the audience with 21st Century showmanship”

Ben Dowell - The London Paper

“Brown is a full-on showman. He can make even the most cynical gasp”

Bruce Dessau - Evening Standard

“They say that no one can fool all the people all the time but maybe last night Derren Brown did”

Bruce Dessau - Evening Standard

“His Evening of Wonders is a magical masterpiece – if Brown doesn’t get his second Olivier Award, I’ll eat my gerbil with a can of tinned peas!”

Roger Foss - Whatsonstage.com

“A terrific magician. This is breathtakingly ingenious entertainment.”

Dominic Maxwell - The Times

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