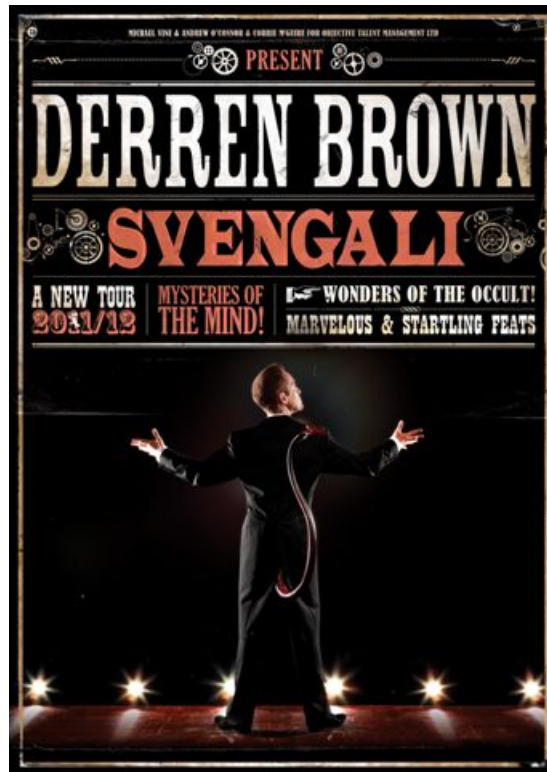


DERREN BROWN: SVENGALI

A new tour

March 9 – June 4 2011



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PRESS INFORMATION

The Devil Rides Out... ***Derren Brown - manipulating the nation from March 9 2011*** ***with brand new live show***

Be prepared for a theatrical roller-coaster ride as the acknowledged master of psychological illusion returns to the stage from March 9, 2011 with a brand new show **DERREN BROWN: SVENGALI**. With 73 dates so far confirmed across the UK, Derren once again sets out to show why he is one of the world's most renowned live performers; a master of magic, mind control and manipulation. This is his fifth tour and is expected to sell out as quickly as the last, DERREN BROWN: ENIGMA.

Derren is currently rehearsing this new show and tells us:

"I love writing and performing the stage shows more than anything. It'll be a full evening of mind-melting based around audience participation. More than that I wouldn't want to say. I ask audiences to keep the contents of the show a secret so as not to spoil it for others, and I have to do the same. But I hope it's fun and freaky and a great night out: that's what I aim for".

On stage as well as on TV Derren 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*, *Trick or Treat* and *Events* programmes have garnered rave reviews and awards. 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 books, *Tricks of the Mind* and *Confessions of a Conjuror*. He has also enjoyed considerable success in America, when his show *Derren Brown: Mind Control*, was screened on NBC's Sci-Fi Channel. In Jan 2011 Channel 4 celebrated ten years of Derren Brown on TV with *Behind The Mischief*, an exclusive behind-the-scenes documentary, followed by the best ever Derren Brown special as chosen by his fans online – a fitting tribute to the man and his amazing talents.

Tour credits:

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

General Management by John Dalston

Tour Booker - David Walker for Stagedeal Ltd.

For further publicity requirements, please contact:

Greg Day @ Clout Communications *07889 861646 * greg@cloutcom.co.uk
www.twitter.com/cloutcomcouk www.cloutcom.co.uk

Picture editors – please note that you can download high resolution images of Derren Brown from <http://www.cloutcom.co.uk/picture-gallery/derren-brown/>

TOUR DATES

March 2011

9, 10, 11, 12 – Brighton, Theatre Royal
14, 15, 16, 17, 18, 19 – Woking, New Victoria
22, 23, 24, 25, 26 – Liverpool, Empire
27, 28 – Grimsby, Auditorium
29, 30 – Southend, Cliff's Pavillion

April 2011

4, 5, 6 - Bradford - Alhambra
7, 8, 9 – Reading, Hexagon
11, 12, 13, 14, 15, 16 – Norwich, Theatre Royal
19, 20, 21, 22, 23 – Oxford, New Theatre
24, 25 – Sunderland, Empire
27, 28, 29, 30 – Edinburgh, Playhouse

May 2011

1, 2 – Scarborough, Futurist
3, 4 – Sheffield, City Hall
5, 6, 7 – Stoke, The Regent
9, 10, 11, 12, 13, 14, 15, 17, 18, 19, 20, 21 – Birmingham, Alexandra
22, 23, 24 – Northampton, Derngate
26, 27, 28 – Plymouth, Pavilions
29, 30, 31 – Bristol, Hippodrome

June 2011

1 – Bristol, Hippodrome
3, 4 – Bournemouth, BIC

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

Derren, you're back on the road with a new live show. What can we expect this time round? And why is it called Svengali?

Ah, it would be a shame to tell. I'm not going to give anything away, and I shall ask the audiences to be so kind as to do the same. What I can say is that it will be a full evening of mind-melting based around audience participation.

What is the biggest challenge for you regards this show?

Writing it. It's a new show every two years, and each has to measure up to the last. It's always a mammoth exercise and a bit terrifying knowing that dates are selling already and I don't fully know what I'll be doing on stage yet, but it's like that every year. For the moment, though, it's great fun - thinking up things to freak people out. What could be more enjoyable?"

Your last show ENIGMA took some of its theatrical inspiration from the Victorian and Edwardian eras. Will you be delving into the past again?

Yes. It's a very rich area of untapped weirdness and peculiar techniques. Updating some of the delights of that era is enormous fun.

What is the driving force behind you wanting to go on tour every year?

I love it more than anything. I get to travel around with great friends and work on improving the show every night, and it's the only time in the year that I get any days free to concentrate on personal projects.

You've been twice nominated for Olivier Awards (winning one). Does this put an extra pressure on you when you're writing a new show?

No. It was wonderful to get the award and be nominated the next year, but all the pressure and excitement come from the process of finding new ideas, not the promise of prizes.

Audience participation is a vital part of your show. What challenges does this present?

It means I never really know how anything will go, or how responsive anyone will be. Situations constantly arise which are unforeseen. But that's the point of doing it – there's none of the safety of the TV situation.

There's talk of you going to Broadway. Is this likely to happen? And what about other countries, like Australia, where you're extremely popular. Have you considered doing a worldwide tour?

As soon as I get time that would be a pleasure. Broadway hopefully will happen in the next couple of years and I would love to go to Australia and a number of other places. But it's just finding the time.

On the TV side, you're celebrating 10 years on Channel 4. Looking back, what are some of your abiding memories? Can we expect ten more years from you?

I've no idea about ten years from now. I'm pleased I'm not a pop star in that regard. I could be ninety and suffering from severe paralysis and it would only somehow add to the mystique. I don't like looking back – I've enjoyed much of what I've done, never really enjoyed the major headlines, made friends and delighted in writing the books. The tours have been the most fun overall, and I hope I'd be able to continue with them in some form for a while.

What was it like having a documentary made about you?

A huge delight. It was made by my oldest school-friend, Nigel Walk, now a major award-winning documentary maker (who really didn't need to make a film about me). We became closer because of it, and I got to have huge fun at the expense of Channel 4, and go back to school and university for the first time since leaving. That was a major treat.

Your book, *Confessions of a Conjuror*, is now out. What was the inspiration behind writing it? What are your literary influences?

I just write what fills me with enjoyment, and this last one turned out to be seen as an autobiography although that was never really the intention. I rarely get to read fiction - though I've voraciously read Proust, Borges, Nicholson Baker, Alain de Botton, all of which enjoy lengthy and pedantic meanders around ideas and probably were swimming around rather grandly in the back of my mind.

Finally, name ten little-known facts about you

1. I don't 'do' peanut butter, mushrooms, blue cheese or sweets.
2. My Saturday jobs as a student included fitting grooms up for suits, buying/selling antique jewellery, and working in a balloon shop. I would walk home from the balloon shop with a big bunch of helium balloons and give them to the first person who smiled at them.
3. I don't watch TV. I've maybe seen two of my own shows go out over the 10 years I've been grooming you through your tellybox.
4. I once had a pet stone called Auberge. As in 'Auberge de jeunesse', the French for 'Youth Hostel'. I have no idea why.
5. I shave my beard off when I go to theme parks.
6. I didn't see 'Empire Strikes Back' or 'Return of the Jedi' until I was thirty-eight.
7. I can't drive, play football without crying, or successfully use a PS3 controller.

8. I have been unofficially asked by Marvel to audition for the role of Dr Strange if and when they make the film.
9. I think I'm going deaf in my right ear. Apparently due to the pyros that went off every night in my first tour.
10. That seems to be it. I can't think of ten interesting things about myself.

For even more information on Derren go to www.derrenbrown.co.uk. You can check out Derren's artwork at www.derrenbrownart.com

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 cafés 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 **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 for a critically acclaimed sell out run.

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

In January 2005 he once again bemused and amused the nation with yet another daring special – **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, **THE GATHERING** and he released his second DVD, **DERREN BROWN: TRICK OF THE MIND, Series 1**

Derren kicked off 2006 with his most ambitious and controversial special to date – **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: TRICK OF THE MIND, Series 2** and wrote a best-selling book, **TRICKS OF THE MIND**, which has currently sold over 300,000 copies.

A new series, **TRICK OR TREAT**, was broadcast on Channel 4 in April 2007 and Derren made his debut in the US with **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 **MIND READER: 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, **THE SYSTEM**, an audacious demonstration of the limitations of human perception wrapped up in a miracle betting system.

2009 got off to a great start for Derren with the TV special of his last theatre show – **AN EVENING OF WONDERS**. His new live show, **ENIGMA** went on a sell-out national tour and finished with an equally packed-out and critically acclaimed run at the Adelphi Theatre, London. Transworld also published a collection of Derren's work as an artist: **PORTRAITS** features his caricatures of the world's most famous faces and these were also exhibited at the Rebecca Hossack Gallery. This was also the year that Derren made world headlines with his most audacious event since 'Roulette', when he predicted the National Lottery live on TV. This was closely followed by four ambitious and thought-

provoking specials in a series entitled **THE EVENTS**, which also saw him sticking about a million viewers helplessly to their sofas, some for the whole weekend.

In 2010 Derren changed gear with a headline-grabbing three-part documentary series, **DERREN BROWN INVESTIGATES**, in which he spent time with people who made paranormal claims. He also had a new book published, **CONFESSIONS OF A CONJUROR**, which has again hit the bestsellers list, and went back on the road with **ENIGMA**, completing an exhausting 94-date sell-out tour in five months. The show was filmed for Channel 4, and was broadcast in Jan 2011.

Also in Jan 2011 Channel 4 celebrated ten years of Derren Brown on TV with **BEHIND THE MISCHIEF**, an exclusive behind-the-scenes documentary, followed by the best ever Derren Brown special as chosen by his fans online – a fitting tribute to the man and his amazing talents.

Now, Derren embarks on a nationwide tour of his new live show – **DERREN BROWN: SVENGALI**. He hopes you like it.

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

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

“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 quiet 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 he's definitely succeeds 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. 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: 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

ENDS