


**EDINBURGH
INTERNATIONAL
FESTIVAL**

ALAN CUMMING IS NOT ACTING HIS AGE

—

28, 29 Aug 7pm & 9.30pm

OLD COLLEGE QUAD

The performance lasts approx. 1hr 15mins
with no interval.

Please ensure all mobile phones and electronic
devices are turned off or put on silent.

ALAN CUMMING IS NOT ACTING HIS AGE

Alan Cumming

Henry Koperski	Music Director
Stuart Semple	Drums
Su-a Lee	Cello
Cameron Jay	Trumpet

PROGRAMME NOTES

What exactly is acting your age? And who decides? These are the questions Alan Cumming has been grappling with for a very long time.

‘I’m constantly told, even now in my sixth decade, that I am childlike or puckish, and yet at the same time I’m also called a silver fox and a daddy,’ he says. ‘I think we all get really mixed messages about ageing. We’re told to worship at the fountain of youth, to do everything we can to our bodies and our minds to stay young, yet we bandy around pejoratives like “grow up” or “act your age”, even that we’re “mutton dressed as lamb”.’

Cumming, at 56, is enjoying himself. ‘I feel I’m still at an age where I can dance till dawn, but also where I’m able to dole out some wisdom to my fellow revellers! Wisdom is just being able to recognise the repeating patterns that emerge as you get older and maybe deciding to react to them differently. It’s just the same show with different costumes.’

In *Alan Cumming Is Not Acting His Age*, he covers all the bases: sex, death and bacchanalia, with a set list as eclectic as the man himself. Songs from *Cabaret* songwriters John Kander and Fred Ebb blend

with contemporary favourites and even a self-penned paean against plastic surgery. ‘I am literally the only person on American TV who has not had Botox!’ he quips. He also discusses the effects of gravity, the time the mum from *The Brady Bunch* punched him in the stomach, and what his dog taught him about the quality of life.

‘In the underpopulated arena of male cabaret singers, Mr Cumming may be the only one with the talent and drive to change its direction.’

The New York Times

‘So hilarious, flirty and gorgeously filthy that it’s hard to decide if you want him as a new best friend or a lover.’

Sydney Morning Herald

‘The androgynous imp is both quiet and uproarious, adorable and sensual, flippant and emotional, otherworldly and inviting... this is precisely why he’s an icon to behold – he is unapologetically himself, and with a talent like that, he has no need to apologize.’

Billboard

ALAN CUMMING

Alan Cumming has performed with Jay Z and Liza with a Z, he has won a Tony, hosted the Tonys and been nominated for an Emmy for doing so. He has a bar called *Club Cumming* and a soap called *Cumming In A Bar* and he made back-to-back films with Stanley Kubrick and the Spice Girls. He has played God, the Devil, Hitler, the Pope, a teleporting superhero, Hamlet, all the parts in *Macbeth*, General Batista of Cuba, a goat opposite Sean Connery, Dionysus, a Smurf (twice), the EmCee in *Cabaret* (thrice), a James Bond baddie — oh, and political spinmeister Eli Gold on seven seasons of *The Good Wife*, for which he received multiple Golden Globe, Emmy and SAG award nominations. He is the author of five books, including a No 1 *New York Times* best-selling memoir, and he played the first ever gay leading role on an US network drama, CBS's *Instinct*. He appeared on *Sesame Street*, *Dora the Explorer*, topless in *Playgirl* and naked on the cover of his second album. He has received over 40 awards for his humanitarianism and social activism, three honorary doctorates, both the Great Scot and Icon of Scotland awards from his homeland, and was made an OBE (Officer of the Order of the British Empire) for his contributions to the arts

and LGBT equality by the Queen, whose portrait was taken down when his was unveiled at the Scottish National Portrait Gallery in 2014.

AUDIENCE SURVEY

We are delighted to welcome audiences back to live performances. The past year has been one of the most challenging in the International Festival's history, so your feedback is more important to us than ever. Anyone who completes the survey will be entered into a prize draw for a chance to win £200 in vouchers of your choice.

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