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The rising
stars of
television
Supplement
inside



HOT
SPOTS
2007

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Ladies and Gentlemen' for C4

C4 to celebrate
25 years with
showcase of
new comedy

Kidder's first major comedy commission and a Victorian sitcom from the creators of *Peep Show* are among six comedies due to air on Channel 4 in November with a view to becoming full series, writes ROBIN PARKER.

C4 head of entertainment Andrew Newman has ordered the...

ITV Productions to go on buying spree



Hot Shots 2007

Writers



Left to right: Charlotte Reather, Nathan Caton, Indran Selvarajah, Jon Brown, Al Smith, Rachel Flowerday, Nat Luurtsema

● **CHARLOTTE REATHER, 28**
Writer

"Even though Charlotte Reather is incredibly posh, she is also very funny, fearless and terrifyingly ambitious. Look out!" says legendary comedy writer - and Reather's mentor - Maurice Gran. It's hard to categorise the polo-playing, Labrador-loving, rally driving stand-up comic. She's also written for *Tatler* and *Daily Mail*, interviewed celebs and designed humorous greeting cards. But Reather is above all funny and she's definitely getting noticed, most recently for her writing for London-based comedy troupe *News Revue* and for having written and performed a pilot series of sketches, *Gum!Gum!*. Reather is a Fast Track delegate at the MediaGuardian Edinburgh International Television Festival this year, which will give her a brief respite from her current writing, including a pilot sitcom, *Give Me Shelter*, plus two other sitcom projects and a comic novel.

● **NATHAN CATON, 22**
Writer/performer

"For a writer still in his early 20s, he's brilliant at punching up material," says Laurence Bowen, head of drama and comedy at Feelgood Fiction. "He also has the great advantage of not having to think too hard about what a young audience finds funny. He tends to draw a lot of material from family and friends, so there's also a real warmth to his work." Caton already has a Chortle Student Comic of the Year 2005 award and a nomination for Best Newcomer, Black Comedy Awards 2006/7 on the mantlepiece. And although he's been widely acclaimed for his energetic, observational-based stand-up performances, Caton's writing talents are increasingly coming to the fore - he's shown a key ability for being able to write for and with others. He has featured in a BBC Radio 4 comedy, penned a show for BBC Radio 7, and his first TV comedy pilot has been commissioned by Paramount Comedy, for a series entitled *The Nathan Caton Show*.

It Funny Being Coloured website caught the eye of both Channel 4 and Zeppotron. "Here was someone doing something on the internet that had a very distinct voice," says Zeppotron co-founder and creative director Ben Caudell. Selvarajah has gone on to write and perform in a Comedy Lab show and is also working on a comedy pilot for Talkback Productions. "He's a very fresh voice, both in the world of comedy and the world of racial issues," says Caudell. "He has the ability to talk about issues of ethnic identity without it becoming polemic and that runs through all this writing."

● **JON BROWN, 28**
Writer

"There's a freshness to Jon's writing that you don't see very often," says Baby Cow new comedy executive Sarah Mahoney. "He's accessible yet quirky and he's definitely a voice of his generation. Moreover, he's hard-working, collaborative and very, very funny. Brown first got noticed in 2004 when he finished second out of 3000 in the BBC's Talent Scheme. A stint shadowing *Two Pints of Lager* followed and he's never looked back. Unusually for a young writer, Brown is as much at home working in the mainstream as on the fringes of TV comedy. He's quickly racked up writing credits on a slew of BBC comedies and is one of the youngest writers to work in prime time BBC1 comedy with scripts for *My Hero* and *After You've Gone*. Brown is currently working on *Empties* and *Spacehopper*, a new sketch show for BBC3.

● **AL SMITH, 25**
Writer

"He's absurdly young and precociously talented," says BBC controller of in-house drama John Yorke. "Al has already stacked up a string of hits at the Edinburgh Festival and his latest play has just opened in New York." Indeed, Smith has a CV that would put many a veteran to shame both in length and breadth, having also

just as confidently across the televisual stage working on BBC series. "Al has brought both a searching intellect and a wry political edge to his broadcast episodes of *Doctors* and *Casualty*," explains Yorke. Smith is currently writing for *EastEnders* and developing a drama for YouTube with Andrew Davies.

● **RACHEL FLOWERDAY, 29**
Writer

Another star product of the BBC Drama Writers Academy, Flowerday has quickly chalked up a prodigious amount of primetime scripting. "One year since graduating from the Writers Academy - with multiple episodes of *Casualty* under her belt - she's already a member of *EastEnders* core team," says John Yorke. Flowerday got her first break as a teenager, writing for Sky One's *Dream Team* football drama, and became a regular contributor having written up a dozen or so episodes. Now a veteran of 29, it surely won't be long before Flowerday, who has been particularly noted for her ability to deliver sharp, contemporary dialogue, will be developing more of her own work. "She's got a fantastically mischievous sense of humour and an incredible structural instinct," says Yorke.

● **NAT LUURTSEMA, 25**
Development producer

Unlike a lot of writers, Luurtsema is as comfortable in new as in old media, having produced the *Life On Mars* website, script-edited BBC kids' drama *Podville* and written daily fictional chatroom *Village Vermin* for the recent BBC drama *Party Animals*. Luurtsema, who has recently started performing stand-up comedy, is currently employed as development producer at Magic Lantern where she began her comedy-writing career. In 2005 she joined Endemol Digital Media as development creative, developing new comedy and drama ideas with Endemol UK, Initial and Brighter Pictures. More recently she has scripted and presented a pilot for a comedy film quiz.