

Media release



The godfather of alternative comedy is back

Comic legend Spike Milligan, voted “the funniest person of the millennium” in a BBC poll and known to fellow comedians as the “godfather of alternative comedy”, always broke conventions and made up his own rules. Following in this tradition, the makers of a new documentary about Spike, have created a bold and unprecedented venture which will tour the east coast of Australia in August and September.

Led by a life-size doll of Spike, the tour will bring back memories and shed new light on this extraordinary man. It will include radio broadcasts, a live show featuring Spike’s eldest daughter Laura telling stories and reading some of his letters accompanied by musician Glenn Cardier who toured with Spike in the 80s, and a new documentary film.

The documentary film “I TOLD YOU I WAS ILL: THE LIFE AND LEGACY OF SPIKE MILLIGAN” sold out at its world premiere in Adelaide in February this year and has since played to packed houses in Sydney, Melbourne, Brisbane and the far North Coast of NSW.

The show brings tears of laughter and sadness as it takes audiences on a roller coaster ride through his life, reminding fans of his brilliant and outrageous humour and shedding new light on his tortured and troubled personal life. For the first time, his family have opened up their personal archives to reveal Spike as a father, brother and husband: a man of passion and contradictions who trod the thin line between genius and debilitating depression.

The producers of the film, Hatchling Productions, have been inundated with requests from Spike fans around the country to bring the film to their town, and have decided to take the show on the road as the SPIKE IS BACK: PICK UP A PEN TOUR.

“The ‘Pick up a Pen’ subtitle relates to how active Spike was with his pen,” said Laura Milligan.

“He wrote 83 books and was a dedicated activist and prolific letter writer who took a stand on many, many issues that he considered important”.

“The film highlights this aspect of Spike’s legacy and I will encourage audiences to get active with their pens again” said Laura. Special Spike pens will be available along with other Tour memorabilia such as T-shirts, bags, badges and the DVD of the documentary, which also contains a wealth of extra material.

“A life size Spike doll, with pen in hand, has been created to lead the Tour and will ride on top of the tour bus as it arrives in each town.”

“I call this ‘payback time’ for those nights when we were children and Spike would wake us, tie us to the top of his mini and take us out bunny spotting!”

“The Spike doll will welcome fans as they arrive, start the show and may even sign autographs.”

Ends

Interviews: Laura Milligan and Glenn Cardier are available for interviews in all regional areas

Photo opportunities: the Spike doll welcomes ideas for photo opportunities, no matter how outrageous or ridiculous.

For further information, photographs or interview opportunities:

Carolyn Anderson: M: 0407 665 179 T: 02 6685 7251 E: caroand@bigpond.net.au

For more information about Spike and the full story of this ground-breaking project, visit

www.spikemilliganlegacy.com