Edinburgh Fringe 2024

For immediate release or review

 Richard Cobb: Running Joke

Scottish Comedian Richard Cobb returns to the track with the follow-up to last year’s debut hour ‘[Couple’s Massage](https://youtu.be/fn5KaEfKL1o?si=vVGeoH6cCWNrYJQG).’ The honeymoon is over and the running shoes are on.

But can he really win the Edinburgh marathon?

Think Fight Club meets Chariots of Fire starring the guy from Submarine. **Running Joke** chronicles the events of the last 18 months since Richard’s wedding where he set himself a series of spur of the moment challenges (AKA an early midlife crisis) designed to push him out of his comfort zone. Getting a tattoo, writing a Fringe show, becoming a dog dad, driving on the M25, and running the Edinburgh marathon are just some of the things he vowed to tick off his expansive to do list.

But what happens once you’ve finished these things? Expecting some semblance of achievement and self-pride to be waiting for him at the finish line, instead there was an all too familiar feeling of ‘Could I have done that better?’ and ‘I really wish I hadn’t overtaken that man with the cane dressed as a guide dog on the home straight. Surely he wasn’t really blind was he?’

‘My last show was all about battling to remain present in a world full of distraction and nostalgia. This year I want to explore the stress we insist on putting on ourselves when we compare it with the fortunes of others and the ugly competitive nature that can bring out in us.’

‘I’m annoyingly competitive to the point that once I even locked my mum in the Summer house during an intense Easter Egg hunt but she still managed to win. I feel like I set myself up for inevitable disappointment if I don’t do as well as someone else and I create this narrative that I’m in competition with everyone when the reality is I’m my own worst enemy.’ Richard explains.

Originally from the Scottish Borders, Richard now lives in London with his wife Sara and their pug Larry. He landed in comedy in 2021 after writing four books on his phone about growing up in 90s Scotland and trying to forge a path through school, family holidays, and doomed relationships. These stories form the basis of a lot of his material and are delivered in a relaxed storytelling style. Citing the motivation for his comedy style Richard says:

‘My favourite film is Big Fish which explores the larger-than-life stories a father passes on to his son. I love the idea of passing something on one day outside of photos which don’t really paint a full picture. I’ve found sharing stories about intricate details of growing up and the lessons learned has sparked fond memories in audiences which would have otherwise remained in a box they’d long since forgotten about.’

'I’ve been going to the Fringe for 25 years or so and genuinely this is the most impressive full debut I’ve seen from a stand up.' **Audience review**. 'He has an easy affable charm.' **Lancaster Guardian**. ‘Lovely emotional act, very funny and touching’ **The Stand Comedy Club.**

**Venue**: Laughing Horse @ The Raging Bull

**Dates:** 1-25 Aug 2024 (not 12)

**Time:** 18:30 (1h)

**Tickets:** PWYC (£2.50, £5, £7.50, £10) [Link](https://tickets.edfringe.com/whats-on/richard-cobb-running-joke)

Please find images [here](https://www.dropbox.com/scl/fo/b9n7ic17qtmrp82o594um/AOPUuEHqCr329_t0B8rPRPA?rlkey=5awcrm8ocr7ne82929dvdy2ax&dl=0), and for any further information, or to request a media ticket or interview, please contact **Richard Cobb** at Richardcobbwords@gmail.com or **07954114171**.

**Social Media**:

**X**: [@therichardcobb](https://twitter.com/therichardcobb)

**Instagram**: [@therichardcobb](https://www.instagram.com/therichardcobb)

**YouTube**: [@therichardcobb](https://www.youtube.com/%40therichardcobb)

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