



EDINBURGH FRINGE

MEDIA RELEASE

For Immediate Release

Gobby Girls: The 11% Club

A fresh new sketch show, created from open call by a community of all-female talent.

Aug 18-23, 5.30-6.30pm, The Three Sisters

Reviewers welcome from Aug 20

***You are also invited to a cupcake photocall on 19th, 4-4:30pm, Three Sisters.**

"Women: Make cupcakes, not comedy!" See bottom of press release for details.*

Women write 11% of UK sitcoms. That's too much. Woke nonsense. Make them stop!

Welcome to **The 11% Club**: an hour of riotously funny sketches by women who do comedy, about why women *shouldn't* do comedy. Taking over The Live Room at The Three Sisters, 139 Cowgate from Monday 18th-Saturday 23rd August, 17.30-18.30 as part of the Free Festival.

Created from scratch by three women-led, female comedy production powerhouses - **Gobby Girl Productions, Female Pilot Club** and **Funny Women** - this show skewers the gender imbalance in comedy with biting wit and bold punchlines. Written and performed by a hand-picked bunch from the frontlines of TV and stand-up, this will be an unmissable hour of female-led fun. These women could be the future of funny. Catch them before they leave the men to it. Just don't encourage them by laughing...

The team behind The 11% Club ranges from the freshest new comedy voices, to talent with credits on shows from *The Young Ones* to *Derry Girls*, from *Doctor Who* to *Top Boy*. From a Bafta-winner to social-media stars, from all over the UK and from many walks of life. Their show will also be recorded for streaming by NextUp.

ABOUT THE CAST & WRITERS:

Selected by open call, the cast and writers are a veritable who's who of female comedy talent from stage, screen and socials, from all corners of the UK. The performers are Claire Rafferty, Laura Evelyn, Noor Sobka, Alice Etches, Lauren Davidson, Verona Rose, Tonia Toseland and Bec Bartley.

The team of writers consists of Charlie Vero-Martin, Sam Lyden & Teresa Burns, Cheryl Duncan, Jenny de Jersey, Mary Flanigan, Jo Somner, Anne-Marie Draycott & Charity Trimm, Emma Keaveney-Roys & Lotte Allan, Sinead Hegarty, Jane Harvey & Rosie Susic, Natalie Malla & Xara Higgs, Charlotte Audrey, Bec Bartley, Alice Etches and Laura Evelyn. These exciting fresh voices, under the guidance of a collaboration of first-rate production teams, have combined their talents to make something really special.

ABOUT THE PRODUCERS: Gobby Girls Productions, Female Pilot Club & Funny Women

[Gobby Girls Productions](http://gobbygirl.com/) champions funny, fierce and female-led comedy projects. Its founder, Gina Lyons, an award-winning scripted producer, has long been a champion for women in comedy. In autumn 2024, Gina set up a supportive WhatsApp community for female-identifying and non-binary voices in comedy, which quickly grew to 1500 people. <http://gobbygirl.com/>

*"When I started **Gobby Girls, the community**, I had a gut feeling there were loads of ridiculously talented women out there being quietly brilliant in comedy. And I was right. Seeing that talent up close only confirmed what I already knew deep in my sarcastic soul: this industry still has a whiff of bias when it comes to women. And I say that as someone who's been elbowing her way through it as a female producer for years.*

*It's been **26 years** since **Smack The Pony** first graced our screens (yes, TWENTY-SIX, let that sink in). Big shoutout to our spirit animal and fellow Gobby Queen, **Sally Phillips**. She and that show were iconic. So why, in the year 2025, are we still getting all-male comedy line-ups? Or, if we're lucky, a line-up that's 80% beardy bloke?*

*Which is why I'm buzzing to be teaming up with the absolute legends at **Female Pilot Club**, **Funny Women**, and the disgustingly talented crew at **Rope Ladder Fiction** to bring our brand new show to the Fringe. This isn't just a passion project, it's a pointed response. A mic drop in show form.*

*Massive love and thanks to the **1,500 Gobby Girls** who backed this project and continue to build this unstoppable army of funny, fierce women smashing it in every corner of comedy - on stage,*

behind the scenes, and everywhere in between. We're loud. We're funny. And we're done waiting." **Gina Lyons, Gobby Girl Productions**

Female Pilot Club

Female Pilot Club was founded in 2019 in response to the stubbornly intractable problem of underrepresentation of female writers in British TV comedy. Now run by writer/performer/producers Kay Stonham, Emily Chase and Chelsea Kania, Female Pilot Club produces showcase productions of comedy pilot scripts written by women for audiences of industry members and comedy lovers. The writers they work with range from complete beginners to Emmy Award winners like *Succession*'s Georgia Pritchett. Their partners and sponsors include the BBC, ScreenSkills, UKTV, Baby Cow, Hat Trick, Yellow Door, and Black Dog TV. FPC couldn't be more excited to partner with Gobby Girl Productions and Funny Women on *Gobby Girls 11% Club*. It will be their first show in Edinburgh! <https://www.femalepilotclub.co.uk/>

Kay Stonham, Co-founder of Female Pilot Club, said: *"It's so exciting for Female Pilot Club to take a show to Edinburgh, and we couldn't wish for better partners than Gobby Girl Productions and Funny Women. It's an absolute blast!"*

Funny Women CIC is a leading non-profit female comedy community, empowering female-identifying voices to contribute to gender parity in the industry and beyond. Created by Lynne Parker in 2002, the organisation is best known for its pioneering Funny Women Awards which provide a vital annual showcase for grassroots comedy. Attracting up to 2,000 new performers, writers and creators as entrants or nominees across five categories each year, the 2025 Awards are sponsored by BBC Studios digital channel, Funny Parts. Past winners include Katherine Ryan, Zoe Lyons, Desiree Burch, Lara Ricote, Laura Rose Treen and Laura Smyth. <https://funnywomen.com/>

After watching a preview of *The 11% Club*, **Funny Women founder Lynne Parker** called it: *"A wonderful show which should be on TV."*

ABOUT OUR LEAD SPONSOR

The 11% Club is proud to be sponsored by **Rope and Ladder Fiction**, a Manchester based, independent film and television production house with a firm emphasis on next generation talent and innovative development. <https://ropeladderfiction.com/>

*"We're thrilled to support **Gobby Girl Productions** as they present **The 11% Club** to Edinburgh audiences this Summer. We really hope this will be a collegiate partnership for **Rope Ladder Fiction** that will grow going forward. Right now, the world is in need of funny, so to see Gina Lyons and her clan of Gobby Girls not wait for permission but plan some Edinburgh action is brilliant to witness. The campaign to get Tina Fey in the room begins here; her nerd rage as Liz Lemon explaining to Tracy Jordan women can be funny, is comedy gold - but perhaps a lesson that is still needed - and The Three Sisters venue is only a short walk from the TV Festival."*

Cameron Roach, Founder, Rope Ladder Fiction

Sponsorship has also been provided by:

Falmouth University To meet the need for new television and audio comedy writers, Falmouth University offers an online MA in Comedy Writing, developed by award-winning comedy producer Simon Nicholls. The course provides career guidance masterclasses from the very best in the industry. Guest speakers have included comedy legends French & Saunders, multiple award-winning writers Simon Blackwell and Holly Walsh, and BAFTA-winning comedy producer Simon Mayhew-Archer. Many of the course's students and alumni have written sketches for The 11% Club. <https://www.falmouth.ac.uk/study/online/postgraduate/comedy-writing>

Corestar Media Founded by a writing, directing and producing team of critically acclaimed and BAFTA award-winning creatives; Corestar Media is committed to developing and producing high quality content for both traditional Broadcasters and Subscription Video On Demand platforms alike. <https://corestarmedia.com/>

ABOUT THE PRODUCER-DIRECTORS: Gina Lyons, Kay Stonham, Alex Hardy

Gina Lyons - Gina Lyons is an award-winning comedy producer who produced the pilot for *In My Skin*, which won a BAFTA Cymru award, and *Dreaming Whilst Black*, which was nominated for an International Emmy, and produced the US remake of *Friday Night Dinner* for CBS/Amazon Freevee. She is currently in the edit for her first feature film starring Hugh Bonneville with a host of brilliant talent and has various comedy films and tv shows in development via Gobby Girl Productions.

Kay Stonham - is a writer, performer, producer and academic whose career in comedy spans five decades. Kay was in *The Young Ones*, *Carrot's Lib* and *People Like Us*. She was a writer on many Radio and TV shows including *Weekending*, *Harry Enfield and Chums*, *Alistair McGowan's Big Impressions* and *My Family*. Her original work for BBC Radio 4 includes *Audio Diaries* and *Bad Salsa* and she co-created *Robin and Wendy's Wet Weekends*, still regularly repeated on

Radio 4 extra after 20 years! Kay also co-created Female Pilot Club to promote new female comedy writing and recently completed a PhD on the subject of Class and Comedy Commissioning.

Alex Hardy - Alex Hardy is an award-winning comedy writer, director and producer. She won a Funny Women writing award for a semi-autobiographical sitcom, and a Chortle Award for producing and assistant-directing an alternative comedy-musical on ice. As a director/creative collaborator, she's worked with acts from debut comics to Apollo alumni, across TV and live shows. Highlights of her live work include directing Joz Norris's award-winning Mr Fruit Salad show, and collaborating with Ben Target on his Fringe First-winning play *Lorenzo*. For TV (broadcast and social-first), she's worked with comedians including Rosie Jones, Dave Gorman, Romesh Ranganathan and Munya Chawawa. She has written for *Daily Mash/Mash Report*, *Dead Ringers*, *BBC Bitesize*, *Tiny Happy People*, *Mashed* and more.

KEY INFO AND CONTACTS:

For more info and images contact Gina Lyons gina@gobbygirl.com.

We are offering limited press comps but will not offer industry comps. The cheapest Pay What You Want ticket is £5 and we really appreciate your support for women in comedy.

Gobby Girls: The 11% Club

VENUE: The Live Room at The Three Sisters, 139 Cowgate

DATE & TIME: Monday 18th-Saturday 23rd August, 17.30-18.30

Pay What You Want, with booked tickets starting at £5.

BOOKING: <https://www.edfringe.com/tickets/whats-on/gobby-girls-the-11-club>


ARTWORK is available [here](#), including poster, pie chart image and title logos.

QR code to ticket link:



PHOTOCALL - Tuesday 19th, 4-4:30pm, Three Sisters (Cowgate)

In honor of our all-female Fringe sketch show next week, please join us for a photocall on Tuesday at 4pm before the show to eat cupcakes and protest women in comedy! We're kidding, obviously... but not about the cupcakes, we're very serious about those so please 1) kindly reply to gina@gobbygirl.com if you can make it and 2) [CLICK HERE](#) to book your ticket at Tuesday's show! We are welcoming reviewers from 20th so please apply for a comp in the usual way if you'd like to review from 20th.



**WOMEN:
MAKE CUPCAKES
NOT COMEDY!**

~~Gobby Girls:
THE 11% CLUB~~

**11%
CLUB**

YOU'RE INVITED TO A CUPCAKE PHOTOCALL!

Tuesday 19 Aug 4-4:30pm followed by 5:30pm show
Three Sisters, Cowgate

**Gobby Girls:
THE 11% CLUB**

AN HOUR-LONG SKETCH SHOW ON WHY
WOMEN SHOULDN'T DO COMEDY

TICKETS

TICKETS

Running Women WOMEN
PILOT CLUB **FEMALE PILOT CLUB** Gobby Girl
PRODUCTIONS Corestar Media **FALMOUTH
UNIVERSITY**