



FAMILY GUY

The funnyman is skipping his way back to Dubai for two nights of new stand-up

Michael McIntyre is a family man, of sorts. His stand-up and his family are intrinsically linked. Shortly after the birth of his first son, he shot to fame after appearing on the Royal Variety Performance in 2006. Since then his wife and children – he now has two sons – have contributed more than their fair share to his act.

Whether it is his sons' first words or his dubious parenting skills – “My kids love *Where's Wally?* and it's great for my wife and I because we can open the book and say ‘you look for Wally while we go and look for a life before we had you two’” – his family are a big part of his routine. But what must, or rather will, his sons think?

“I suppose, hopefully, they will find it quite nice that I've had jokes about Kitty getting pregnant, and then jokes about the pregnancy, followed by jokes about them being babies, and now jokes about their whole life.”

Clearly the audience approve. McIntyre is one of the biggest and certainly highest-earning comedians in the world right now. In 2008, *Live and Laughing* was the fastest-selling debut DVD, but it was 2009 that was McIntyre's year. It saw the release of his second standup DVD *Hello Wembley*, which sold more than 1.4 million copies. Suddenly phrases such as ‘totally gazebo-ed’ and ‘man draw’ had become part of everyday conversation.

Since then, he has been difficult to ignore. From hosting the BAFTA-nominated *Michael McIntyre's Comedy Roadshow* and joining David Hasselhoff as a judge on *Britain's Got Talent*, to completing ten nights at London's O2 arena as part of his massive *Showtime* tour, writing an autobiography and hosting his own chat show, he has clearly been busy.

It looks as if he has no intention of slowing down. Two years after his two sold-out gigs in Dubai, the floppy-haired funnyman is back to perform his new stand-up show *Happy & Glorious*. “It was good last time, I enjoyed it, but it was a little bit of a greatest hits. This is all stuff that's really new and fresh in my mind.”

Almost ten years have passed since his big break. Whether his children are as keen on fuelling his jokes when they are teenagers remains to be seen, but he has a solid supply of comedy material for a few more years yet.

June 12 and 13, Dubai World Trade Centre, 7pm, Dhs350. Tel: (04) 4390900. Metro: Dubai World Trade Centre. donevents.com



ON TAKING HIS CHILDREN TO A PLAYGROUP: “You get a cup of tea and a biscuit – and measles.”

ON DESIGNER CLOTHES: “No one should spend that much money on something you can't drive.”

ON PEOPLE: “Who's phoning radio stations to warn of traffic jams? Who in their right mind gets stuck and thinks, ‘Get me the phone, I must warn the others. It's too late for me.’”

ON SLEEP: “There are only two conditions where you're allowed to wake up a woman on a lie-in: it's snowing or the death of a celebrity.”

ON TERRITORY: “All men really require is one drawer, that is all men want, one drawer, this is a drawer we will pick out early. A drawer will become available, we will tentatively enquire as to its usage. ‘Darling this drawer here, can I have this drawer for me?’ ‘Yes I think you can.’ ‘Good, this will be my man drawer.’”

ON MARRIAGE: “I bought my wife a beautiful diamond ring and I even had it engraved. With the price.”

