



Seriously funny



Dubai is the final call on Omid's flying visit to the Gulf, after going to Qatar and Oman

Comedian Omid Djalili is heading to Dubai, but there's more to him than everyday funnyman.

Omid Djalili always wanted to be an actor. Born in Chelsea, London to Iranian parents, he studied theatre studies and English literature.

"I wanted to be a serious actor in serious plays, but every time I walked on stage, the audience would burst out laughing," he admits.

Despite his comedy value, Omid went on to tread the boards in shows such as the 2013 stage adaptation of *The Shawshank Redemption*, which saw him bravely take on Red – made famous by Morgan Freeman – and *Oliver!* in the West End in 2009.

He has also starred alongside the likes of Russell Crowe in *Gladiator* and Johnny Depp in the *Pirates Of The Caribbean* franchise.

Away from stage or screen, he is executive producer on *We Are Many*, a documentary that was part of Dubai International Film Festival's official selection.

It is his hilarious and often provocative stand up, however, for which Omid is best known. His 1995 performance of *Short, Fat Kebab Shop Owner's Son* at Edinburgh Fringe Festival is often quoted as when he shot to fame.

Twenty years later and he

has a shelf-load of comedy awards, is something of a British household name and has just completed a sell-out UK tour. Off the back of his latest show, *Iranalamadingdong*, he returns to Dubai for another night of laughs.

So, what is his pet peeve when performing? "People talking to each other in the front row as is they're watching TV and when people are on their phones."

You've been warned – best leave the phones at home.

May 9, The Music Hall, Jumeirah Zabeel Saray, Palm Jumeirah, 7pm, Dh\$195. Tel: (04) 4573212. yakevents.com



Illustration by: John Marsland