



BERNIE CLIFTON

Tuesday 15th August 2006

4.30pm (5.50pm)

E4 UdderBELLY, Venue 300 Edinburgh Festival Fringe

Box Office: 0870 745 3083

ONE PERFORMANCE ONLY! (Bird flu permitting.)

One of the most original comedians in the entertainment industry, Bernie's engaging style and zany, visual humour have made him a star of pantomime, summer season, concert, cabaret, radio and television. Now Bernie and, of course, Oswald the Ostrich will appear at Edinburgh's newest entertainment playground – The E4 UdderBELLY – to grace the Fringe with a bit of old-school magic.

"Bernie Clifton is a certifiable genius...This warm, uncynical lunatic in the funny suit is the spiritual father of Vic Reeves, Harry Hill and Johnny Vegas.... He's not just a nutter with a flightless-bird fixation. Au contraire: Clifton is God." Charlie Skelton, *Guardian*

Bernie was born on Merseyside and started entertaining as a teenager. After he completed National Service in The Royal Air Force he turned professional and set about making a name for himself on the tough northern club circuit. His TV debut came in 1971 on BBC's *The Good Old Days*, followed by several appearances on *The Comedians* and three series of *Crackerjack*. All the time he was developing a unique comedy style based on the use of a multitude of zany props and crazy visual-effects which he called "organised lunacy". It was during this point in his career that Oswald the intrepid ostrich arrived on the scene. In 1979 Bernie Clifton was chosen to appear in The Royal Variety Show, which Bernie cites as the highlight of his career.

"Towering over everyone, though, is Bernie Clifton, who proves there is no school like the old school, with a tour de force performance that stretches from literally larger than life visual comedy to a Big Song finale" *The Stage*

In the 1990's Bernie Clifton guested in *French and Saunders* and with Lee and Herring in *This Morning with Richard Not Judy*. More recently he has featured in the BBC's romantic comedy *Love Soup* and Bernie's appearance on the video of *Amarillo* with Peter Kay and Tony Christie meant he was regularly on our screens as the song went to number one and stayed there for several weeks. Bernie presents his own afternoon show on BBC Radio Sheffield but still finds time to take to the skies piloting his Microlight Aircraft over his country home in North Derbyshire. Rock and Roll!

**For further information, to arrange interviews or for press images please contact:
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