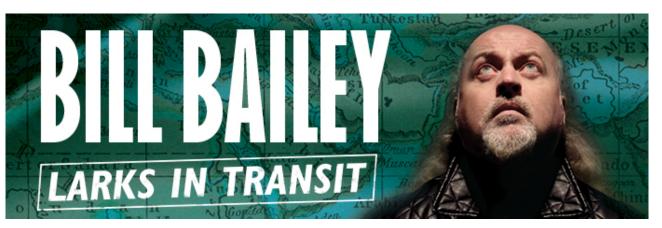


# **STAR OF ABC TV'S BLACK BOOKS**



## **AUSTRALIAN TOUR 2016**

### The UK's best loved comedian brings his new live show to Australia

*"Blissfully funny"* The London Times

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TICKETS ON SALE TUESDAY 12 JULY 9am			

#### "Virtuoso... Comedy's Mozart" The Sunday Times

**Larks in Transit** is a compendium of travellers' tales and the general shenanigans of twenty years as a travelling comedian. With musical virtuosity, surreal tangents and trademark intelligence, he tackles politics, philosophy, the pursuit of happiness, death metal, ringtones... and an excruciating encounter with Paul McCartney. Two decades of life as a comic filtered through what the Daily Telegraph calls **'the brainiest comic of his generation'**.

**Bill Bailey** is a comedian, musician and actor most well-known for his brilliant live shows **Dandelion Mind, Tinselworm, Bewilderness, Part Troll, Qualmpeddler** and **Limboland** plus his work on television in programs such as **Never Mind the Buzzcocks, QI** and **ABC TV's** award winning **Black Books**.

#### "Always hirsute and always hilarious, Bailey is approaching the status of a national treasure." The Guardian Guide

Raised in the West Country, Bill was once in a group called **The Famous Five** – an unsuccessful band with only four members. Although a talented musician, Bill always felt an urge to slip jokes into the music. This didn't work out so, harbouring theatrical ambitions, he spent the early 80s touring with a **Welsh Experimental theatre troupe**, and appearing on stage with the **Workers' Revolutionary Party**. He supplemented these with stints as a lounge pianist, and a keyboard player in a jazz trio. It was a **John Hegley** gig that finally inspired him to fuse the music, jokes and theatricality and become a stand-up comedian.

In 2003, Bill branched out as a dramatic actor in an extremely well-received production of **12 Angry Men**, as the restrained **Juror 4**. Two years later he assumed the vastly different role of the slouchy, unkempt **Oscar** in **The Odd Couple**, and received equally excellent reviews.

In 2011, Bill travelled to **South Africa** to record **Baboons With Bill Bailey** for **ITV**. This eight part series provided a unique insight into the lives of these intelligent, complicated primates, with incredible, candid footage of their daily lives, following their stories as they struggle to survive in such a busy and exotic urban landscape.

"A hobbit with a wicked sense of humour" The Telegraph In the same year, Bill featured in the line-up at **The Bonnaroo Music and Arts Festival** – a fourday, multi-stage camping festival held on a 700-acre farm in Tennessee every year. **Bonnaroo** brings together some of the best performers in rock and roll, along with dozens of artists in complementary styles such as jazz, Americana, hip-hop, electronica, and just about any contemporary music you can think of. **Rolling Stone** magazine named this revolutionary entertainment experience one of the 50 moments that changed the history of rock and roll, and it certainly geared Bill up for his next rock experience...

In July 2011 Bill headlined the **Saturn Stage** at the **Sonisphere Festival**, **Knebworth**, sharing a lineup that included **Slayer**, **Motorhead**, **Biffy Clyro** and **Metallica**. Bill found himself faced with the daunting prospect of performing in front of a huge crowd of (quite possibly) rain-drenched metalheads, there to see the likes of **Slipknot**, and, thinking there may be safety in numbers, he set about putting together a band. Bill was very fortunate to assemble a great bunch of musicians, especially as it turned out to be the biggest gig of his life to date with over 60,000 in the crowd.

#### *"Bill is an unalloyed pleasure, a treat for the funny bone, the brain and the ear"* The New York Times

It was as a result of this that the album **Bill Bailey In Metal** was produced and released in November 2011 on CD and download. Despite its title, it is an album of many musical styles, designed to delight both metal and non-metal fans alike. Another rock point-to-note is that Bill also guested with **Deep Purple** at **The Royal Albert Hall** for a **Sunflower Jam** fundraiser, which was one of the Summer's highlights for Bill.

In 2012, his Summer was spent filming with **BBC Natural History Unit** in **Indonesia** and **Malaysia** for **Bill Bailey's Jungle Hero**, a two-part documentary about naturalist **Alfred Russel Wallace**, who came up with the theory of evolution at the same time as **Darwin**, yet who seems to have been erased from history. This was very much a passion project for Bill, whose interest in his hero was sparked some 13 years earlier whilst travelling in his favourite part of the world.

2016 will see Bill developing more ideas for film and television with his own production company, Glassbox Productions who are responsible for bringing to the screen Tinselworm, Bill Bailey's Remarkable Guide to the Orchestra, Dandelion Mind and Qualmpeddler.

"He is, quite simply brilliant" The Scotsman

www.billbailey.co.uk

www.abpresents.com.au

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