

James Seabright for Festival Highlights  
presents



## CHRIS NEILL

### THE BBC, ANDREW GILLIGAN, AND ME

The everyday story of a showbiz tyro, his childhood chum and Auntie.

AS PART OF THE EDINBURGH FRINGE FESTIVAL 2004

**Pleasance Beside,**

**(Venue 33)**

**Dates 5<sup>th</sup> - 30<sup>th</sup> August (not 10<sup>th</sup> or 17<sup>th</sup>)**

**Time 5.45pm (6.45pm)**

**Box office 0131 556 6550**

#### **“THIS ACIDIC STORYTELLER IS THE NATURAL SUCCESSOR TO KENNETH WILLIAMS”**

**Evening Standard**

1978. Two bespectacled Teddington schoolboys, two best friends, two very different ambitions for life.

Andrew, (favourite things in the world: fizzy drinks and crisps), wanted to be a journalist.

Chris, (favourite things in the world: Enid Blyton and country dancing), wanted to work in a department store.

#### **“A TALENT FOR OBSERVATIONAL COMEDY TO HILARIOUS EFFECT”**

**The Scotsman**

However, they both ended up working for the country's favourite Auntie. The British Broadcasting Corporation, centre of our cultural life, and never before under greater scrutiny than it is now.

Andrew became the controversial defence correspondent directly implicated in the biggest political scandal since the Profumo Affair.

Chris became a BBC Radio comedy producer. (*Just a Minute*, *Sean Lock's 15 Storeys High*, *Lee and Herring*)

While Andrew ended up broadcasting under fire from Iraq, Chris was rather busier opening doors for Noel Edmonds and checking June Whitfield's tights for ladders.

But this is no frothy showbiz memoir. Instead, it's a portrait of our national broadcaster run by eccentrics, staffed by enthusiastic amateurs and largely never in control of much, particularly the lunch budget. Accurate reporting is the least of its worries....

Ultimately, however this is a tale of how life is never quite what we expected ... for any of us.

Written by Chris Neill. Devised with Piers Torday. With thanks to Andrew Gilligan

#### **“A NATURAL PERFORMER”**

**Metro**

This is Chris's second full-length show at the Edinburgh Festival following the success of *Does It With Strangers* in 2002. For seven years he worked for the BBC as an entertainment and comedy producer, garnering awards and nominations for shows such as *Bring Me The Head of Light Entertainment* (**Winner of a Montreux Bronze for Comedy**) and *Sean Lock's 15 Storey's High* (**Sony Radio Award Nominee**). He also has a first-rate reputation as a panellist (*Just A Minute*) and comic performer (*Audio Diaries* and *Linda Smith's Brief History of Timewasting*). Earlier this year he wrote and presented the acclaimed documentary *The Husky Betty Marsden* for Radio 4.

For further information and images please contact:

**Paul Sullivan** on 0207 874 1930 or 07881 885 253 or by email at [paul@paulsullivan.info](mailto:paul@paulsullivan.info)

**Kim Morgan** on 0207 381 4115 or 07939 591403 or by email at [kim@kimmorgan-pr.com](mailto:kim@kimmorgan-pr.com)