

Rebecca Carrington and Colin Griffiths-Brown

English, musical comedians



Rebecca Carrington first entered the world of comedy in 1996 on a dare. 'A friend in New York told me I was quite funny and that I should try stand up, so I went along to the New York Comedy Club, paid \$3, got up on stage and started making jokes about the cultural differences between the English and the Americans.'

She was a hit and went back the next night, this time accompanied by her 'lover', an 18th century cello called Joe, and improvised musical-comedy spoofs that are the foundation of her show today. A talented musician, Rebecca's career as a professional cellist and competent vocalist includes a mile-long CV of collabora-

tions that reflects her instinct for diversity; trained at the Royal Northern College of Music in her native England and at Rice University in Texas, she has played with leading British orchestras including the Royal and London Philharmonic, performed with Aretha Franklin and Paul McCartney and recorded soundtrack music for films such as *Harry Potter* and *Lord of the Rings*. Rebecca and Joe form a hilarious duo, satirising international music and cultures with unfeasible accuracy: Bollywood spoofs, Madonna - Rebecca is in one moment a scratchy old Edith Piaf record, the next a loud-mouthed Texan lady and all at once an opera singer. The latest member of her act and the other man in her life is fiancé Colin Griffiths-Brown. A fellow Brit, Colin tread the boards as an actor in the West End and worked in TV in the UK before touring as a singer with a capella band the Magnets and as a backing vocalist for Robbie Williams. The pair met at the Edinburgh festival when he performed with the Magnets and have been doing the act together since 2007. Colin adds another dimension to the sensational show, kilted up for their bagpipe sketch and providing a beat for Rebecca's human trumpet. Together they continued to collect awards, and in 2007 Rebecca received the most coveted comedy award in Germany, the German Prix Pantheon. The couple tours constantly and Rebecca claims that Berlin is the first city that she has 'properly lived in'. Despite rave reviews in the UK (she is regular hit at the Edinburgh festival and on British TV), being embraced in the States and even achieving the unachievable as a Brit of getting the French to laugh at themselves (in their own lingua, *s'il vous plait*), it is the German audience that she favours, claiming that the Germans are the most 'educated about and open to other cultures'. The love is required; her 'Gemisch' of German and English has made the show a sell-out and the duo are favourite TV guests in Austria, Germany and Switzerland. She names Berlin's Quatsch and Kookaburra clubs as two of their favourite places to perform. The sketches lampoon different countries in

turn, but the pair adapt their show cleverly to appeal to each international audience: 'I tell the Germans that I love the language and think it's really beautiful - that always gets a laugh!' claims Rebecca. / **Jessica Saltz**

www.rebeccacarrington.co.uk