

# ELLIOTWENGLER

*... and his pathway to comedy success via The One Show, BBC Earth, Any Answers, Upstart Crow and many more.*

by Jill Rogerson

Elliot has lived in Speen for the whole of his childhood and most of his adult life. He kindly agreed to be interviewed about his career in the media, how he progressed within the comedy world being nominated for an award at the Edinburgh Fringe, and to share his aspirations for the future.



While climbing up the media ladder, Elliot continues to perform stand-up, often in London and the South-East but also more widely including the Edinburgh Festival Fringe where he was nominated for the Comedy Award 2024 with 'Jokemon' – comprising 150 jokes for each of the Pokemon species. He will be taking his Jokemon performance to the United States later this year.

Educated locally at Speen School, then St. John's School in Lacey Green, Elliot attended John Hampden Grammar School. He recalls being an introvert and not being interested in sport or music – as a teenager he devoured DVD box sets and loved Yes Minister/Prime Minister and Mock the Week, sparking his initial interest and love of comedy. He says there was a wealth of on-line stand-up comedy on line during the Noughties (2000 – 2010 for we readers of a more mature age) – from around the time Elliot studied English Literature, Politics and Drama/Theatre Studies A levels at Henley College. His first involvement in stand-up delivery was during his time at Henley, upstairs at Zizzi's in the town and taking part in Scratch Nights where anyone could perform (almost) anything.

Elliot was able to gain more experience delivering stand-up while studying for a degree at East Anglia University. – gaining a Student Comedy Award and, more widely, becoming involved in the university's student radio and newspaper. An outstanding memory he has is of performing at an end of final exams gig/party in front of 80 attendees, a success he recalls and a lively affair! After submitting his dissertation on the Simpsons and graduating with a BA in Politics with Media at East Anglia University, Elliot decided to head towards the BBC rather than Westminster ...

Following a career pathway in the media (TV/radio/film) industry is difficult and requires a dogged determination and, reading his cv, Elliot has displayed both determination and perseverance in his 'day' job and at the same time in continuing his much-loved comedy career. With the aid of Google, the following reflects just some of the involvement Elliot has had with, but not exclusively with, the BBC since 2017: Production Runner/Audience Researcher (The One Show, Chelsea Flower Show); Production Coordinator (Top Gear, Dr Who); Production Secretary (Smothered), and currently working as Assistant Producer for BBC Studios. This latest job role involves the preparation and launching of VODs (videos on demand) and FAST (free, ad-supported, streaming TV) Channels.



More locally we are aware of Elliot coordinating and taking part in stand-up performances at Speen Festivals and as fund-raisers for the Speen Helping Hospices. He has a great fondness for his home village remembering events

such as Fun Days as a child (especially the Kiddie Hurling) and believes that it demonstrates a unique cohesiveness and affection within the community. His memories of growing up in Speen often inform his comedy content – this article finishes with an oft-used opening line to start Elliot's performance: "I live at home in a village in the middle of nowhere and I am fine with that. Mostly."

Good luck to you in the future, Elliot.

## *quote from 'Yes, Minister'*

*"Jim Hacker explains who reads the newspapers"*

**Hacker:** Don't tell me about the press. I know exactly who reads the papers. The Daily Mirror is read by people who think they run the country; The Guardian is read by people who think they ought to run the country; The Times is read by the people who actually do run the country; the Daily Mail is read by the wives of the people who run the country; the Financial Times is read by people who own the country; the Morning Star is read by people who think the country ought to be run by another country, and the Daily Telegraph is read by people who think it is.

**Sir Humphrey:** Prime Minister, what about the people who read The Sun?

**Bernard:** Sun readers don't care who runs the country, as long as she's got big t..s".

