Henry Normal - Collected Poems. UK Tour March - June 2023 and Sept - Nov 2023

We are producing another UK Tour for the award winning poet and writer Henry Normal to promote his recent Poetry Collection, compiled from 11 highly acclaimed poetry books and on the back of another hilarious Radio 4 Xmas show. The very latest and greatest poetry of Henry Normal. 90 minutes that's been a lifetime in the making.

Since retiring from TV and Film production in 2016, Henry has written and performed 8 BBC Radio 4 shows combining comedy, poetry and stories about family. His tenth show 'A Normal Home' was recorded last month for transmission at peak Radio 4 listening time on the 20th December 2022.

Henry is a writer, poet, TV & Film producer, founder of the Manchester Poetry Festival (now the Literature festival) and co-founder of the Nottingham Poetry Festival.
In June 2017 he was honoured with a special BAFTA for services to Television.

He co-wrote and script edited the multi-award winning Mrs Merton show and the spin off series Mrs Merton and Malcolm. He also co-created and co-wrote the first series of The Royle Family.
With Steve Coogan he co-wrote the BAFTA winning Paul and Pauline Calf Video Diaries, Coogan's Run, Tony Ferrino, Doctor Terrible and all three of Steve's live tours and the film The Parole Officer.

Setting up Baby Cow Productions Ltd in 1990, Henry Executive Produced all and script edited many of the shows of it's 17 and a half year output during his tenure as MD.
Highlights of the Baby Cow output during his time include the Oscar nominated film Philomena, I believe in Miracles, Gavin and Stacey, Moone Boy, Uncle, Marion and Geof, Nighty Night, The Mighty Boosh, Red Dwarf, Hunderby, Camping and Alan Partridge.

Born in St Anne's, Nottingham in 1956, Henry now lives in Fairlight, Nr Hastings with his wife and screenwriter Angela Pell and their son Johnny.

In April 2018, Two Roads publishers released his book of memoirs 'A Normal Family' which was written with his wife Angela Pell, drawing on his family experience. It immediately became a best seller on Amazon and has already been reprinted. The paperback was released on 21st March 2019.

Henry has performed his unique poetry and comedy at dozens of Literature Festivals, theatres and arts centres around the UK in the past few years to great audience and venue satisfaction.

His eleven poetry books are available from Flapjack Press including the latest entitled 'Collected Poems Vol.2' out 1st Aug 2022.

He was recently awarded an honorary doctorate of letters by Nottingham Trent University, another by Nottingham University and has a beer and a bus named after him in Nottingham!

If you'd like to discuss a show please contact Paris Graham - Jones or Phil Jones at the below email addresses:

Paris: paris@edgestreetlive.com
Phil: phil@foodanddrinkfestival.com

Quotes:
Succinct, heartrending and peppered with gentle punchlines' Hannah Verdier, The Guardian

Shove up National Treasures. We need to make room for Henry Normal"
Simon O'Hagan - Radio Times

'the Alan Bennett of poetry' The Scotsman

'Dovetails bittersweet poetry with a sublimely observant wit' The Guardian

'A mixture of the absurd and downright wacky...a gentle giant of stand-up poetry' The List

'The poetry itself is stuff of proper substance, marrying the suburban beauty of Beatles ballads with the blunt candour of the kitchen sink' The Guardian

"Witty and uncannily accurate with his observations" - The Stage

"Distinctly funny" - Time Out

It's a rare and lovely thing: half an hour of radio that stops you short, gently demands your attention and then wipes your tears away while you have to have a little sit down - The Guardian

"It's a real treat to hear a seasoned professional like Henry taking command of this evening comedy spot to deliver a show that's idiosyncratic and effortlessly funny"

"Not heard anything that jumps from hilarious to moving in such an intelligent, subtle way as Henry Normal's show" - Radio Times

To follow Henry's work, you can find him on:

FB: facebook.com/HenryNormal
Twitter @henrynormalpoet
IG: @henrynormalpoet

A small example of Henry's work:

YOU LOWER YOUR EYES

You lower your eyes at the mention of beauty

as though this is for others

You subtract from perfection

as though a problem of mathematics

but it is only in the difference

that the individual is perceived

It is only imperfection

that saves us

It is easy to mistake beauty for an ideal

a construct of the mind

or something to be laid on a table

and examined

but in a greater truth

beauty is merely an emotion

and in the glass at night

you understand as well as I

that emotion is love

Don't think I don't know you are already turning away

as though this doesn't apply to you

I've come to believe all beauty is love

and all life is beauty

and I am talking to you in particular

If I could

I would convince you

that you are life and this is all you need to be

that you can allow yourself this respect

that you can allow yourself imperfection

that you are love

that you are beauty

Approaching All Hallows Eve at Cape St Vincent

White water whisks up the hint of a rainbow

as the pugilist wind pummels our ears

Goaded, the waves punch

the length of the eastern face

and fall back on themselves

A confusion of currents contorts the depths

spraying the ageing sunshine

with blood from a cut lip

Beauty and beast in one

as the bruised eye catches glimpses of colour

like spirits from summers past