

## Rising star Samantha Baines in Funny Women Awards Final!



**After a mere 10 months doing stand up comedy Samantha Baines has found herself in the Final of the Funny Women Awards 2014 on 22<sup>nd</sup> September at Leicester Square Theatre and she hopes her experience will encourage more women to try comedy.**

You might recognise Samantha from her appearances in **Lee Nelson's Well Funny People (BBC3)** or **Hank Zipzer (CBBC)** and later this year you'll spot her in new **CBBC show So Awkward**. In addition, she recently filmed **Lionsgate** feature **Girls Night Out**, alongside **Sarah Gaddon** and **Jack Reynor**, which is due for release in 2015.

The Funny Women Awards has launched the careers of well-known female comedians such as **Sarah Millican, Sara Pascoe, Katherine Ryan** and **Andi Osho** and Samantha says: "I am thrilled to be in the final. It's great to be on a line-up with so many talented funny women".

Samantha, whose day job sees her tweeting for a number of creative companies, feels strongly about encouraging more women to go into comedy. "Men have always dominated in comedy and there are some brilliantly funny men, of course, but I'd like to see more women taking to the profession."

"There's an influx of new funny women popping onto our screens, on the live circuit and with fantastic events like the Women in Comedy Festival. I think it's great and I want to encourage more women to give comedy a go! Yes, comedy is not as easy as the pro's make it look and you will have to work at it (and I still am) but it's also dynamic, exciting and fun. **I honestly don't think there is anything better than making a room full of people laugh and forget about a rubbish day at work or the fact that the rent is due or that they haven't left any food out for the cat (well, not the last one, don't kill your pets for comedy.)**."

**The Funny Women team say:**

“The Funny Women Awards have been celebrating new female comic talent for over 11 years, and we have been lucky enough to witness first hand the huge variety of hilarious comedians who are now major names on the comedy circuit. We are proud to have played a part in bringing more female voices onto the comedy scene and we have been inspired by the fantastic array of new talent we've seen in the live auditions every year.”

**This years Funny Women Competition is raising money for the charity Refuge. The final is on 22<sup>nd</sup> September at Leicester Square Theatre, 8pm. [www.funnywomen.com](http://www.funnywomen.com)**

**Press for Samantha:**

**“Samantha Baines is hilarious”** – Broadway Baby

**“truly gifted and talented”** – New Current

**“brilliantly funny”** - ASOS

**"making her audience roar with approval"** - Bromley Times

**Samantha's web & social media details:**

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