

Art Club with Olaf Falafel

Lockdown inspires award-winning comedian and children's author to start art club for kids.



Comedian, Dave's Joke of the Fringe winner, Twitter legend, book author and illustrator, **Olaf Falafel** has started a weekly 30-minute **Art Club** to entertain kids during lockdown.

Like his fellow comedians, Olaf's live work has completely dried up because of Coronavirus and the necessary social distancing measures necessary to tackle it.

"This is obviously a strange old time," says Olaf, "we're spending most of our time either doing Joe Wicks, home schooling our two daughters or social distancing ourselves from the fridge!"

"As well as being a comedian, I'm a children's book author and illustrator, and, last year, I visited over 100 schools with my latest kids' book *It's One Giant Leek For Mankind*. I noticed that there are a lot of celebs doing online classes for kids, but no one was focusing on art so I decided to come up with **Art Club** - a weekly 30 minute art class done in my own unique style."

Each episode of **Art Club with Olaf Falafel** airs at 11am every Monday. "We do a bit of drawing and painting, there are loads of jokes, we make stuff and we also learn about a different famous artist each week," explains Olaf.

The first episode of Art Club had 455 people tuning in live (many of them were schools that had remained open for the kids of key workers), and it has now been watched over 5,000 times.

The second episode aired on Monday 13th April, with Magritte the featured artist and Olaf teaching the kids about surrealism! As Olaf invented truth telling cheese and [Bee Gees hiding in beards](#), the children could have no better instructor! And they learned fast. "I thought I was the master of surreal," says Olaf, "but some of the Magritte tributes that I've been sent have shown me children are far superior - lobsters, broccoli, rubber ducks and underpants, anyone?"

Episode 3 airs today, Monday 20th April, here at

11am: <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=xscLEi447x0&feature=youtu.be> - it includes a draw-along scene of a sausage bird evading a cutlery jungle, and Olaf will be creating a unicorn/dragon hybrid and showing you how to make a pair of Bridget Riley-inspired disco pants!

All episodes can be found here: <https://www.youtube.com/user/OlafFalafel>

Meanwhile, here's a one-minute sampler of Art Club: <https://youtu.be/5Z4ZytR9QAE>

'Absurdity so well crafted that silly doesn't do it justice'
Evening Standard

'Silly enough to make you feel like an eight-year-old child all over again'
Broadway Baby

As well as finding comedic success onstage (**Dave's Joke of the Fringe** winner 2019, **Leicester Square New Comedian** 2015 Finalist, **Laughing Horse New Act of the Year** 2014 runner up, **Fosters Golden Jester** 2013 winner), Falafel has also enjoyed online and TV fame on **Daniel Tosh's** *Comedy Central* show *Tosh.0* with his short viral videos. His jokes have featured in numerous **Best Fringe Jokes** selections, including those of *The Independent*, *The Mirror*, *The Telegraph*, *The Guardian* and *The Scotsman*. Meanwhile, Olaf's jokes appeared in the top 10 of **Dave's Joke of the Fringe** in 2017n and 2018, before he won the title in 2019.

Olaf's highly successful absurdist movies include a croissant-coiffured [talking Donald Trump puppet](#) (retweeted over 19,000 times, with 23 million views), slices of [truth telling cheese](#) being thrown onto newspapers and the [Bee Gees hiding in beards](#). Olaf **enjoys an average of over 500 retweets a day** for his comedic output and has had over 75 million views on the former social media platform Vine.

The comedy website Chortle affectionately describes Falafel as 'an idiot', and, when he doesn't have a microphone in his hand, you'll find him with a pencil and pad working on his series of children's books aimed at his intellectual equals. **Falafel hit the headlines by securing publishing's fastest ever picture book deal (via one Tweet)** for his semi-autobiographical masterpiece ***Old MacDonald Heard A Parp***. This was followed up by ***Father Christmas Heard A Parp*** and then ***Old MacDonald Heard A Parp From The Past***. Falafel's latest book is ***It's One Giant Leek For Mankind***, a loveable homage to the moon landings on their 50th anniversary, published by his own imprint Unexporcupine Publishing. Here's a short video of Olaf's school visits with ***It's One Giant Leek For Mankind*** - <https://youtu.be/tfjXuTgcQEA>

More praise for Olaf Falafel:

'Quirkily eccentric... combining modern technology with old-fashioned idiocy'
The Scotsman

'A barrage of absurdist humour and sharp one-liners'
Ed Fringe Review

'Refreshingly odd'
iNews

'Olaf Falafel is like a chocolate digestive – very moreish. One of my favourites.'
Bruce Dessau

'Imaginative punchlines and absurd ideas.'
Entertainment Focus

'Olaf Falafel is an idiot, and wouldn't have it any other way'
Steve Bennett, Chortle

'There can't be many shows at this years Fringe more loveable idiotic than this'
The List

'Falafel has a talent for the tangential with the ruthlessness and timing of any talented standup'
Fest

Images of Art Club & Dave Joke of the Fringe Award:

<https://www.dropbox.com/sh/qdz43iqqyyrp5l6/AAC2IH3GEKUUKENmYkay13e7a?dl=0>

Images of Olaf's previous Edinburgh Fringe shows: <http://www.olaffalafel.com/p/pictures.html>

Web: www.olaffalafel.com

Twitter: [@OFalafel](https://twitter.com/OFalafel)

Stand-up footage:

HobNob joke: <https://tinyurl.com/ycqgkor6>

Spaghetti joke: <https://tinyurl.com/ybeszu7n>

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