news release:

Mike Gunn to replace Jim Tavaré, injured in a near fatal car crash in Los Angeles, on The All-Star Stand-Up Tour 2017

The All-Star Stand-Up Tour is hitting the UK in May & June 2017 - with 3 top comedians together with returning Chortle Award-winning compere Jarred Christmas delivering two hours of the very best comedy.

Producers today announced a last-minute change of line-up due to comedian **Jim Tavaré** being involved in a near fatal car crash in his home city of Los Angeles on March 6. Jim is on the mend having spent 15 days in intensive care, suffering severe injuries caused by multiple broken bones and two collapsed lungs. Plans are being put in place for him to appear on the *2018 All-Star Stand-Up Tour* instead. Jim said: "My hand ligaments completely detached from my wrist. The surgeons that put it back together say that I won't ever be able to play the bass again, but I am determined to prove them wrong. I look forward to seeing you all for the 2018 tour!"

He has been replaced by **Mike Gunn**. Mike has been seen on BBC 1's *Michael McIntyre's Comedy Roadshow* and supported Lee Mack on tour. He was described as one of the '10 leading stand-ups in Britain' by *The Independent* and *The Guardian* said "Mike Gunn will make you die laughing", which seems rather inappropriate given Jim's situation! Mike said of joining the tour "I can't wait to get on the road with the rest of the team, and it just proves every cloud really has a silver lining". When it was made clear Jim couldn't be part of this year's tour Mike offered his services almost immediately - some would say suspiciously so. As such, if anyone can confirm Mike's whereabouts on March 6 please contact us.

The All-Star Stand-Up Tour also featuring **Stewart Francis, Justin Moorhouse** and **Jarred Christmas,** will take in 39 venues across the UK from May 2 - June 16.

This team of top comedians will combine forces for a comedy show like never before.

Don't miss T**he All-Star Stand-Up Tour** – it's the biggest comedy tour of the year!

Stewart Francis has headlined all over North America and the UK. He has appeared on *Mock The Week, Live At The Apollo, Michael McIntyre's Comedy Roadshow* and *8 Out Of 10 Cats.* He was also the support act for Ricky Gervais on his *Science* tour playing arenas around the UK. In 2010 Stewart appeared in a special *Children in Need* episode of *Mastermind* where his specialist subject was the Toronto Maple Leafs. In 2012 he won the annual award for the funniest joke of the Edinburgh Fringe.

Justin Moorhouse has written his own BBC Radio 4 sitcom and appeared on *Live At The Apollo.* In 2012 he won *Celebrity Mastermind* on BBC One - his chosen subject was comedy legend Les Dawson. He also starred in *Phoenix Nights*, alongside Peter Kay and performed with him during the *Phoenix Nights Live* run at Manchester Arena. "He charms the pants off the crowd" - *The Sunday Times* "Comedic *tour-de-force*... brought a tear to a critical glass eye" - *The Herald*

Jarred Christmas has appeared on shows such as *Mock The Week, Never Mind the Buzzcocks, 8 out of 10 Cats* and *Argumental.* As a stand- up he has appeared on *The Comedy Store, Edinburgh & Beyond, Comedy Blue* and *The World Stands-Up* (Comedy Central), as well as *One Night Stand* (Dave) and *Russell Howard's Good News* (BBC Three). One of the most innovative and exciting stand-up talent's in the land, Jarred is in tremendous demand on the UK and international comedy circuit, and was named 'Best Compere' at the 2016 Chortle Awards.

Producer Alex Jarrett of RIP-Productions said: "We're very excited to be taking **The All-Star Stand-Up Tour** back on the road. We had a great run last year with the show taking on a real ensemble feel – there's not many stand-up shows that see 4 performers all on stage together riffing and improvising. We can't wait to see what unfolds this year, and if nothing else, buy stocks in Nandos now because their value will soar if consumption on the 2016 run is anything to go by."

www.AllStarStandUp.com

THE ALL-STAR STAND-UP 2017 TOUR DATES

Tuesday 2 May Cardiff St David's Hall

Wednesday 3 May Beck Theatre, Hayes

Thursday 4 May Octagon Theatre, Yeovil

Friday 5 May Lighthouse, Poole

Saturday 6 May Festival Theatre, Malvern

Sunday 7 May Hexagon, Reading

Tuesday 9 May Wyvern Theatre, Swindon

Wednesday 10 May Arts House, Stratford-Upon-Avon

Friday 12 May New Theatre Royal, Lincoln

Saturday 13 May Victoria Theatre, Halifax

Sunday 14 May Derby Theatre, Derby

Wednesday 17 May Tyne Theatre, Newcastle

Thursday 18 May Eden Court, Inverness

Friday 19 May MacRoberts Arts Centre, Stirling

Saturday 20 May Adam Smith Theatre, Kirkcaldy

Sunday 21 May Dundee Rep, Dundee

Monday 22 May Grand Theatre, Lancaster

Tuesday 23 May Artrix, Bromsgrove

Wednesday 24 May Wycombe Swan

Thursday 25 May Princes Theatre, Clacton-on-Sea

Friday 26 May Churchill Theatre, Bromley

Friday 26 May Hertford Theatre, Hertford

Sunday 28 May Palace Theatre, Southend-on- Sea

Tuesday 30 May Lighthouse Theatre, Kettering

Wednesday 31 May Haymarket Theatre, Basingstoke

Thursday 1 June Town Hall, Cheltenham

Friday 2 June Charter Theatre, Preston

Saturday 3 June Forum Theatre, Billingham

Sunday 4 June Playhouse Theatre, Notthingham

Monday 5 June Grand Theatre, Swansea

Tuesday 6 June Broadway Theatre, Letchworth

Thursday 8 June Alban Arena, St Albans

Friday 9 June Spa Pavilion, Felixstowe

Saturday 10 June G Live, Guildford

Sunday 11 June Redgrave Theatre, Bristol

Monday 12 June The Lowry, Salford

Wednesday 14 June Connaught Theatre, Worthing

Thursday 15 June Orchard Theatre, Dartford

Friday 16 June Camberley Theatre, Camberley

Press & Publicity contacts:
Kevin Wilson, Kevin Wilson PR | kevinwilsonpr@gmail.com | 07884 368697
Greg Day, Clout Communications | greg@cloutcom.co.uk | 07889 861646

INTERVIEW FEATURE - free to use in all publications

We spoke to the stars of THE ALL-STAR STAND-UP SHOW, ahead of the upcoming UK tour. Here's what they had to say…

Stewart Francis

Justin Moorhouse

Jarred Christmas

Mike Gunn

When did you first realise you were funny and did you ever think you could make a career out of it?

Stewart Francis: "I first realised I was funny when I once made my wife laugh so hard she spit milk onto our daughter at the breakfast table. I knew that I couldn't make a career out of it as my wife, soon after, stopped drinking milk and our daughter moved to Portugal."

Justin Moorhouse: "I was always very funny - no, my mates were always funnier than me. I realised I could make a living from it when I realised they weren't as stupid/brave/needy as me to actually get on stage."

Jarred Christmas: "I had an inkling when I was a teenager. I did a lot of improv comedy at school. Representing my school and playing against other schools. It was like a sport. Then when I was 18 I got dared to try stand up. I had no idea it could be a career. But from day one I was hooked. After my first paid gig I was even more hooked.

Mike Gunn: "I first realised I was funny during my first fraud trial at Snaresbrook Crown Court in the late 80's when a series of perfectly timed knob gags reduced the judge and jury to gales of laughter. I'm fairly sure this display of comedy talent helped to significantly reduce my sentence. As for a career! Are you crazy? I got in to comedy to avoid having a career in anything and so far it's working out really well."

What makes you laugh?

Stewart Francis: "Donald Trump's hair. Oh, and his policies."

Justin Moorhouse: "People falling over. The Two Ronnies. When my dog can't adapt between carpeted and wooden floors."

Jarred Christmas: My family. Other comedians. Animals wearing hats. That clip of the dog who can't catch anything.

Mike Gunn: "Anything out of context, inappropriate (Tit Wank)* and gratuitous. *Not sure what publication this is for so if Tit Wank is unacceptable please substitute with…Arse Marbles or Cock Womble or Aholehole If you read that as "a-hole," then take a look at yourself. Aholehole is pronounced "ah-holy-holy," and is the name of a species of Hawaiian flagtail fish native to the central Pacific. Fanny-blower or Bum-bailiff

Have you ever had a hostile audience?

Stewart Francis: “I once did a gig at the Dignitas Clinic. I didn’t think I’d get out alive.”

Justin Moorhouse: “Yes. Though usually they’ve been drunkenly hostile, or Christmas party hostile or a big stupid idiotic woman from Leeds hostile. December 2003 it was all three.”

Jarred Christnmas: Yes. Of course. Sometimes it doesn’t go your way and the audience take it personally. I’ve only once had to escape from a gig, out the back, over a fence into a neighbouring property, through their house, into a waiting car with a police escort out of Wales. That’s what happens when you verbally slam two local gangsters in the audience.

Miker Gunn: “Never. My smiley face and chirpy demeanor makes audiences / jurys love me instantly. See legal precedent set by Gunn v Metropolitan Police Commissioner. Snaresbrook Crown Court 1986 and later ratified by the European Court of Human Rights.

How do you deal with hecklers?

Stewart Francis: “I just say to them ‘mom, dad, please go home’.”

Justin Moorhouse: “With charm, wit and grace…try me.”

Jarred Christmas: Harshly and swiftly. Even Welsh gangsters.

Mike Gunn: “After a barrage of witty put downs I invite them to come home with me and watch a box set of *Water Colour Challenge* with my aunty Else. They never do it again.”

Who’s your own personal favourite comedian/comedy hero?

Stewart Francis: “Rula Lenska”

Justin Moorhouse: “Les Dawson. The Master.”

Jarred Christmas: “So many. All the comics on **The All Star Stand-Up Show**. It’s going to be so awkward me asking them for autographs every day. I aim to steal their underpants too.**”**

Mike Gunn: “Freddy Parrot-Face Davies.”

Has the internet been a good or bad thing for live comedy?

Stewart Francis: “It’s bad for live comedy but a great place to sell my Toby Jugs (£39.99 + £4.50 p&p)”

Justin Moorhouse: “Been great, absolutely great. You can reach audiences quickly and effectively.”

Jarred Christmas: “It’s been a good thing if you embrace it. Things change. The internet has been a big game changer. Just got to go with it.”

Mike Gun: “If I’m totally honest I wasn’t aware there was any comedy on the Internet. Whenever I logon its just porn and videos of cute cats. Perhaps I need to change my search settings.”

Do you feel the pressure to always be funny? Or can you switch off?

Stewart Francis: “Yes, I do feel the pressure to always be funny, and no, I can’t switch it off. Even as I answer this question, my trousers are at my ankles.”

Justin Moorhouse: “I’m a comedian and a dad. Its my duty to always be on. In my head.”

Jarred Christmas: “People who are naturally funny don’t need to prove it. It just happens. But yeah, I know when not to joke around. Problem is in social situations where you shouldn’t joke is when I want to joke the most.”

Mike Gunn:” Quite the opposite. I spend most of my time sat around the house unwashed in a torpor like state, muttering week puns under my breath and watching *Water Colour Challenge*, saving my comedy gold for the stage and the stage alone where I can emerge like a Red Admiral butterfly from a chrysalis and feel truly alive.”

Do you go to many gigs by other comedians? Which are your personal favourites?

Stewart Francis: “I don’t go to many gigs. Hell, I haven’t even been to some of mine.”

Justin Moorhouse: “I love comedy. I love people who do different from me - like the one liners or the speciality acts. I tend to avoid the storytelling observation comedians because I end up spending the night thinking - damn I thought of that too but never said it.”

Jarred Christmas: “I’m a big fan of stand up. If I get to go and see a mate doing a tour show I do it. I have a family though and I love spending time with them. So on my nights off I’m more likely going to be reading Harry Potter to my kids than going to see a comedian.”

Mike Gunn: “Never, I don’t like comedy.”

What’s been your career highlight to date?

Stewart Francis: “Meeting Josh Widdicombe”

Justin Moorhouse: “Playing in front of 15,000 people a night for the run at the Manchester Arena for *Phoenix Nights Live* - we raised £5million for Comic Relief.

Jarred Christmas: “So many. Playing Sydney Opera House twice. Answering these questions is up there.”

Mike Gunn: Performing at the London Palladium. It’s a fantastic room and the knowledge of all the greats that have walked that stage before you makes it a memorable experience.”

Intimate clubs or massive arenas – which is best for comedy?

Stewart Francis: “I find intimate arenas best for comedy. Hard to find, but when you do.... heaven.”

Justin Moorhouse: “I think as long as they’re all facing the stage and wanting to be there - all good.”

Jarred Christmas: “I’m all about the intimacy. You can get that in big theatres like on this tour. Arenas are not intimate. Would I turn an arena gig down on those grounds. No F***ing way.”

Mike Gunn: “Intimate clubs are best for comedy. Lets face it arenas are just about greedy comedians making as much money as possible with the least amount of work in the shortest time with no regard for their loyal fans. It’s disgusting capitalism and represents everything that is wrong with society.”

What/where/who would be your ultimate gig?

Stewart Francis: “My ultimate gig would be watching Justin Moorhouse, Jarred Christmas and Mike Gunn perform in Kettering on a Tuesday night.”

Justin Moorhouse: “I’d love to do a run of gigs in my hometown of Manchester, like a week’s residency at the Opera House - that’d be perfect.”

Jarred Christmas: “In the pub across the road from my house with Steve Martin, Les Dawson, Louis Ck with me hosting, plus some of my best comedy mates thrown into the mix.”

Mike Gunn: “Me, doing any arena gig. Tomorrow.”