

JOEL DOMMETT COMIC TIMING

In his new show, the comedian – with a little help from model wife Hannah – shows that self-isolation can be fun

Since winning over the nation and coming runner-up on *I'm a Celebrity... Get Me Out of Here!* in 2016, comedian Joel Dommett has been in constant demand – from his successful stand-up tour to his best-selling memoir and his recent gig as presenter of ITV hit show *The Masked Singer*.

Now he's the star of his very own ITV2 show, *Home Alone with Joel Dommett*, and is providing plenty of laughs and some extra surprises from his home in London.

"We had a fun little segment where I have a bath with someone over Skype. They're on Skype in the bath and I'm on Skype in the bath so it feels like we're having a bath together," he tells

HELLO!

Anarchic and unexpected, Joel's new show delivers some light relief to audiences during lockdown, with viewers witnessing the results of his at-home haircut and DIY cocktail session.

He has enlisted the help of some famous friends to take part virtually in the show.

"I talk to Olly Murs and Tom Allen, we get the Blossoms to play at the end of the show and there's Emily Atack," he says. "We're just throwing everything at it to see what works. It's a very new thing for all of us."

The 34-year-old has also recruited his wife Hannah Cooper – whom he first met on Instagram – to the show's production, with her part quickly changing from extra to recurring guest star.

"I'm definitely more than a prop now so we might have to have a discussion about a

title change," jokes the model, who has starred in campaigns for brands such as GHD and is signed to model agency Next.

The newlyweds tied the knot in a magical ceremony in Mykonos, Greece last September, with their close friend



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Joel and Hannah on their wedding day in Mykonos, Greece last September (above). Joel, who hosted *The Masked Singer* (below far left), is offering laughs during lockdown on his home-filmed TV show, in which Hannah moves swiftly from extra to star. "I'm definitely more than a prop now," she jokes

Iain Stirling, stand-up comic and voice-over provider for *Love Island*, officiating the nuptials.

Although adjusting well to married life, neither Joel nor Hannah could have predicted their current living situation. "Under a year of marriage and we're already making a TV show together in our house – who knew that would happen? What a wonderful honeymoon this is!" laughs Joel.

The couple have been reflecting on their "perfect day" of late, thanks to the extra time indoors. "The other day, we looked through all the photos and it was so nice to reminisce about not just having all your family there but it being such a wonderful day," says Joel. "And it's so nice to reminisce about going to different countries and hanging out with people and hugging people."

Aside from their trip down memory lane, the pair have been getting active during lockdown, from workouts to "a bit of stretching and yoga", in addition to some ill-timed interior design. "Basically, we haven't painted our lounge yet, so we were filming a shot yesterday and there were test patches on the wall behind us, which looks absolutely insane," says the comic.

MARRIAGE MATERIAL

Prior to the coronavirus outbreak, Joel had just hit the road with his new tour Unapologetic (If that's OK?) but has since rescheduled dates for later in the year. With several sold-out shows, his stand-up continues to draw large crowds, yet his recent marriage has meant his material is no longer peppered with Tinder date tales. "It's a lot about my wife, yes," says Joe. "It's pretty fun stuff. It's about my life right now."

And how does Hannah feel about being the butt of the joke? "Well, a lot of it I don't actually find out about until he's telling a room of 800 people, which is always interesting," she says. "But he knows that he's distanced enough away from me that I can't have a go at him for it. It's very cleverly done, and by that point it's out there. I trust him enough not to completely throw me under the bus."

While enjoying the show and a host of new presenting duties – for which he considers himself "very lucky" – Joel is excited to return to his comedy roots. "I feel like comedy leads to everything for me – it's the core of everything I do and everything else comes as a result of it," he says. "I still really love it, love doing it and I'm going to try and do it for as long as I can – until my legs can't stand up any more."

INTERVIEW: EMILY STEDMAN

Home Alone with Joel Dommett is on *ITV2* on Sundays at 10pm.

DON'T MISS THIS WEEK...

STREAMING AFTERLIFE

Ricky Gervais (right) is back with a second series of his dark comedy. He stars as a local newspaper journalist whose life is upended after his wife dies. While still struggling with his grief, we see him try to become a better friend to those around him. Also starring Penelope Wilton and Ashley Jensen.

On *Netflix* now.



BOOK NOW HAIRSPRAY

You can't stop the beat! *Hairspray the Musical* has rescheduled its run at the London Coliseum, starring Michael Ball (on right) and Paul Merton. Those who booked for the earlier run have priority over rebooking until 4 May, after which the wider public can buy tickets.

From 1 September to 8 November. Visit hairspraythemusical.co.uk.

TELEVISION CODE 404

This new original comedy is set in the near future in the Special Investigation Unit of the London Met. DIs John Major (Daniel Mays, far right) and Roy Carver (Stephen Graham, right) are a top crime-fighting duo – until John is killed. One year on, he's resurrected as part of an experimental AI project, but something isn't quite right.

Premieres on *Sky One* and *Now TV* on Wednesday 29 April at 10pm.



PODCAST FRANK SKINNER'S POETRY PODCAST

Prepare to be swept away in some of comedian Frank Skinner's most loved literary landscapes as he dives into his favourite poetry pieces for this new podcast. With his wry observations and relatable wit, Frank shares and dissects the best verses of familiar and lesser-known poets in weekly segments.

Available on all mainstream podcast providers.

BOOK THE SWITCH

Following last year's best-selling *The Flatshare*, author Beth O'Leary brings us another delight. Eileen is newly single and about to turn 80, while her granddaughter Leena is suffering from burnout. They agree to swap homes for two months, with Leena enjoying the delights of rural Yorkshire and Eileen the bright lights of London. What happens next will warm the coldest of hearts. Out now, published by *Quercus*.

