

# PRESS RELEASE

## Christmas Crackers!

### Classic Comedy for the Festive Season

written & presented by

Robert Ross

It's Christmas: that joyous time of year when mince pies and mulled wine are shared over a few carols, and the whole family gathers round the telly to watch their comedy favourites.

Whether it's Laurel and Hardy selling fir trees off the back of their Model T Ford, Sid James as a department store Father Christmas, or the Two Ronnies reinventing Walt Disney's Pinocchio as a murderous killer doll, these hilarious ghosts of Christmases past are an integral part of the festive season. And, of course, they'll be Eric 'n' Ernie! But perhaps like you've never seen them before...

The popularity of the comedy Christmas special is still discussed in hushed tones by television executives, with astronomical viewing figures enjoyed by such favourites as *The Dick Emery Show*, *Only Fools and Horses*, and *Mrs. Brown's Boys*.

Join comedy historian Robert Ross as he salutes these perennial holiday treats in an affectionate celebration, stuffed with rarely seen clips from the archives.

Robert Ross is the foremost authority on the stars and history of British comedy, and has written many books including *The Carry On Companion*, *The Carry On Story*, *Sid James: Cockney Rebel*, *The Goodies Rule OK*, *Benny Hill: Merry Master of Mirth*, *Fawlty Towers: Fully Booked*, and *Step-toe and Son: Any Old Iron*.

His many television appearances range from *Blue Peter* and *The One Show*, to *Legends: Terry-Thomas*, and *When Comedy Goes Horribly Wrong*. His first stage play, *Jeepers Creepers*, concerned the lives and loves of Laretta and Marty Feldman, and was directed by Terry Jones at the Leicester Square Theatre in the West End of London.

Robert Ross is concurrently touring his solo show tribute to the Carry On series, as well as *Forgotten Heroes of Comedy*: a celebration of the comedy underdog, which is also the subject and title of his latest book.

"Robert is a one-man encyclopedia of the very best of British comedy."

Jim Dale MBE

"The top chronicler of British comedy."

Film Review

"A writer who clearly knows, and loves, what he's writing about."

The Hampstead & Highgate Express

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