

## Spotted



**The Duke and Duchess of Cambridge in transit en route to Sydney at Dubai International**

**Airport.** Bollywood actor and philanthropist Salman Khan posing for photos in The Dubai Mall. **Spanish F1 driver Fernando Alonso and retired footballer Michel Salgado at Dubai's new Sass Café.**

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### Easter meal deals

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### Lionel Richie in Dubai

Check online for our pictures and review of the classic soulman's Media City show.

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## Hot seat Phill Jupitus

TV presenter, stand-up, actor, musician, DJ and guest star in a return visit of sketch show spin-off *Whose Line is it Anyway?* Robert Garratt gets to know him



**We've had *Whose Line...* here many times – but you're the new ingredient. What do you bring to the mix?**

With me being known for being on the telly, a medium you can't interact with, people get quite a buzz from [messing] around and making me do silly things. Also with me being big – let's not forget that one of the great golden rules of comedy is fatty falls over. I think the audience quite often push for that.

**So you're quite prepared to be utterly taken the Mickey out of?**

You can't do a job when you are one of the nation's renowned [grumps] and not expect people to take the [Mickey]. It's part of the territory.

**Does it happen out in public?**

Of course – it's the job, I've been doing this 30 years. I'm used to being recognised in all sorts of situations. The least favourite is always in a toilet – I don't like people saying hello to me at urinals. Doctor's waiting rooms, coming out of funerals.

**How was it recently returning to stand-up after a ten-year absence?**

To say I don't care isn't right, but I'm stupidly relaxed because I've heard every heckle. I have been booed off at the Royal Albert Hall. If people want heckle me at some little gig in the Lake District, they're going to have to do better.

**It sounds like you're a glass-half-empty kind of guy.**

I have a dismissive attitude and sometimes that comes across onstage. But don't ever think I don't absolutely love it – to be paid to come over to Dubai and lark around in front of strangers: If you'd told me when I was 17 that someone would give me a couple of hundred quid [Dhs1,230] a night to go to the hottest place on the planet and try and be funny, I would not have believed you.

**First time out here?**

I stopped for two hours [at the airport] and I realised I was able to get a double espresso within ten foot of where I could also buy a Bentley. I quite liked that. Next level stuff.

**Why did you quit Twitter?**

The main reason is I was spending too much time on it, and I'd rather read books than strangers thoughts in 140 characters or less. It's so seductive, I was doing it all the time. And what really annoyed me is Twitter wouldn't let me shut down my account. I went back [later] and in the 18 months of me not saying one word on Twitter, I had gained 85,000 followers. That's what's wrong with it.

*Whose Line is it Anyway?* is at Madinat Theatre April 24-26. Tickets Dhs170-200.

[www.timeouttickets.com](http://www.timeouttickets.com)

**How do you deal with it?**

Because you are someone that's appeared on the television the instant you are in any kind of normal situation it throws people a curveball and they act in really, really odd ways. If they start to wig out, they start shaking, the way I stop this is I grip their elbows – I got taught this by Pete Jenner, an old rock 'n' roll manager – it's called 'the fear grip' and it works every time.

**'Fatty falls over – it's the golden rule of comedy'**

**Have you ever experienced it the other way around?**

Oh yeah – I was walking down the corridor at the BBC and Robert Plant from Led Zeppelin was coming the other way. And I actually just fell to the floor and said 'thank you' in a really squeaky voice.

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