**Richard Strange** *presents*

***An Accent Waiting to Happen***

***A collection of songs, stories, film clips, anecdotes, gossip and readings from his critically-acclaimed memoir***

***“Strange- Punks and Drunks and Flicks and Kicks”***

*“18 years after first meeting him, just thinking about Richard still reduces me to a state of near hysteria…and terror. He restores one’s faith in the ability of the human spirit to soar.”*

***James Nesbitt***

Writer, musician, composer, nightclub host, curator, actor and adventurer, Richard Strange was born in London in 1951. Since his proto-punk rock band **Doctors of Madness (“***The missing link between David Bowie and The Sex Pistols…”* wrote The Guardian in May 2017**)** was first unleashed on an uncomprehending public in 1975 (the band were supported by **The Sex Pistols, The Jam** and **Joy Division**) he has been a Zelig-like figure whose presence has been felt in every corner of London's cultural life.

Now comes his solo show ***An Accent Waiting To Happen***, an evening of songs, films clips, stories, readings and downright scurrilous gossip from his 40 years in the arts and entertainment world.

He founded the hugely influential mixed-media ***Cabaret Futura*** in 1980, and has subsequently worked as an actor, appearing extensively on stage, in films and on television. Strange has been seen in films as diverse as ***Batman, Mona Lisa, Robin Hood-Prince of Thieves, Gangs of New York*** and ***Harry Potter****.* He has made numerous TV appearances, including a number of episodes of***Men Behaving Badly****,* and asa stage actor he has worked alongside household names such as **James Nesbitt, Peter Capaldi** and **Marianne Faithfull.**

As a writer he is a regular contributor to publications as diverse as ***The Guardian, Tatler, Culture and Travel***and ***Vogue***. In 1989/90 he toured the world in a production of ***Hamlet*** directed by the Russian maestro Yuri Lyubimov.

In 2003 he toured the UK with the award-winning Dance Theatre Company **Protein Dance**, contributing as an actor, narrator, musician and writer.

Throughout 2004-7 Richard worked with **Marianne Faithfull** on the **Tom Waits/William Burroughs/Robert Wilson** collaboration ***“The Black Rider”,*** performing in theatres in London, San Francisco, Sydney and Los Angeles.

In 2007 he was part of **Jarvis Cocker’s** ***Meltdown Festival***, at the RFH, in an evening of songs from Walt Disney movies, and this year performed with the producer/arranger **Hal Willner** in Brooklyn and at The Barbican, alongside such luminaries **as David Byrne, Tim Robbins, Steve Buscemi, Shane McGowan** and **Suzanne Vega.**

In 2010 he re-opened his groundbreaking mixed-media **Cabaret Futura** after a 30-year hiatus, and curated the 2011 *New Territories International Festival Of Live Art* in Glasgow.

In 2011 he curated *Cabaret Apocalyptica* for the Tate Gallery, London, an event which drew 3000 people to *Late at The Tate* on a single evening. *Cabaret Apocalyptica* was Strange’s response to the exhibition “*John Martin and The Apocalypse*”.

Between 2010 and 2016 his two monthly events, *Cabaret Futura* and *A Mighty Big If* were critically-acclaimed fixtures of the London art and cultural calendar, and his guests on the latter, an informal live chat show held in Soho’s Church of St Barnabas, included such giants of their genres as film-maker **Mike Figgis,** composer **Michael Nyman,** theatrical maestro **Robert Wilson,** musician,producer and composer **Nile Rodgers, Gary Kemp, Marc Almond, Peter Capaldi, Brian Cox,** and the artists **Cornelia Parker, Richard Wilson, and Gavin Turk.**

In 2012 he was also commissioned to write the song for the closing credits of the Hollywood film ***Dark Hearts***. The resulting song was called *BloodBrother* and *Dark Hearts* was screened at The Cannes International Film Festival in 2012.

His collaborative artwork, ***A Sleek Dry Yell****,* created with the award-winning artist **Haroon Mirza,** was bought for the nation by the Contemporary Art Society in 2012, and is currently touring the UK Art gallery circuit.

Increasingly involved in the worlds of education and academia, he teaches Creative Musicianship to MA students at Tileyard Education in London, and is also a mentor on the National Music Education charity, *Music For Youth*. Overseas, he was elevated last year to Visiting Fellow by The Hong Kong Design Institute, where he also lectures and co-ordinates collaborative creative projects. He is also a Principal Fellow at the Higher Education Academy, one of only 350 in the country. This year he was invited to be a judge on the Music, Theatre and Film panel of the **Global Undergraduates Awards**, an international body encouraging academic excellence in undergraduates worldwide.

In 2013 he was Narrator and sang baritone in the UK premiere of **Frank Zappa’s** *200 Motels*, which played to a rapturous full house at The Royal Festival Hall and was praised by critics from every area of the media, and he also featured in Hal Willner’s concert *Amarcord…Nino Rota*, the Barbican tribute to Fellini’s composer, with **Marc Almond, Nitin Sawnhey** and **Kate St John.**

***“Language Is A Virus From Outer Space”,*** Richard’s collaborative project with the composer **Gavin Bryars**, a cantata based around the life and work of **William Burroughs**, received its World Premiere at London’s Queen Elizabeth Hall on October 11th 2014, Burroughs’ centenary year. It was greeted with a standing ovation from the sold-out house. Conceived, curated, co-written and directed by Richard, the show featured contributions from **Gavin Turk, Sarah Jane Morris, Rupert Thomson, Jeremy Reed, Haroon Mirza, Anni Hogan, David Coulter, Seb Rochford** and **Doctors of Madnes**s. A feature-length film of the event is current in the editing stage.

***Perfect Past - The Complete Doctors of Madness,*** released to unanimous critical acclaim (‘*The missing link between David Bowie and the Sex Pistols’* -The Guardian) in May 2017 by Cherry Red Records, is a 3 x CD set of the complete recorded works of the band, with bonus tracks, live cuts and demos.

His political-fantasy concept album ***The Phenomenal Rise of Richard Strange*** was performed in its entirety on a UK tour in 2018, with shows alongside **Nick Cave, Patti Smith** and **The Psychedelic Furs**. He was also commissioned to perform a new collaborative work, *Unknown Remembered*, as part of the recent Spitalfields Music Festival in London.

**Doctors of Madness** released a new album, *Dark Times,* in September 2019 to overwhelming critical acclaim, and Richard toured the UK with his show “***Richard Strange Performs the Songs of Lou Reed”*** to rapturous reviews in 2019, before lockdowns devastated the Live Art world.

His memoir, ***Strange- Punks and Drunks and Flicks and Kicks*** was published by Andre Deutsch in 2005, and was recently serialized as an audio book. Richard’s creativity has been undiminished by the recent lockdowns.

He has recently branched out into broadcasting, with his own ***Dark Times Radio*** weekly broadcast and syndications to various radio stations around the world, and has written a play, ***When You Awake You Will Remember Nothing,*** which he directed and starred in, and which premiered in London this January to great acclaim, returning to The Courtyard Theatre, London, for an extended 3 -week return run between June and July 2022

*“Strange must surely be the funniest man in London…It is impossible to spend any time within his looming majesty without being engulfed in gales of health-inducing mirth and a sense of fraternal bohemian bonhomie long lost to our crassly commercial times.”*

***Adrian Dannatt, The Art Newspaper***

**Comments on the show so far**

What A Life!! Richard is truly a Renaissance Man who really HAS done it all!!”

**Robert Elms** BBC Radio London

“In my version of rock history the name Richard Strange looms a lot larger than Pete Townshend”

**Paul Morley** NME

That was excellent! An epic show to rival Springsteen and the Dead.”

**Robin Denselow.** The Guardian.

"If you have never heard (Richard Strange’s band) the Doctors of Madness, you should. Musically they are the Velvet Underground, New York Dolls with shades of glam, hippie, prog and punk all rolled into one, yet are still totally original. Vastly underrated, they should have been huge. Pure genius"

**Vic Reeves**

A fabulous night! Wouldn’t have missed it for the world - the love was palpable!

Absolutely phenomenal show by Richard Strange

It was such a fabulous show, I enjoyed it immensely and Lily Bud was fantastic, what a voice she has, phenomenal!

Thanks Richard, great gig!

A wonderful evening last night at the fabulous West Hampstead Arts Centre; [Richard Strange](https://www.facebook.com/richard.strange.33?__cft__%5b0%5d=AZXryOfGHIt3xU04wjlCZPdoc4m5Yy_otW5p9zFInmr2_RbIwWtlNuTQDo60NItNO7Obf4QdgwKKPzFcHBToVzvFE1igr_urbe6WxkfoPxJkmWjd6wCRT6gvrhwUayVctjM&__tn__=-%5dK-R) An Accent Waiting To Happen. Haven’t enjoyed myself so much for ages!

[Richard Strange](https://www.facebook.com/richard.strange.33?__cft__%5b0%5d=AZURFr54R1Jv-ICACvoU71DNKSRcIkxubGQxS8NNRzjyoZpjqs9unm7tPzHlyclhFasJD2kus8eiABs4_P7kcVFcVWvHD5CUI-nw09kd_2iu5s0IUA30ww6zqzWMgVbABHs&__tn__=-%5dK-R) show tonight was funny and fascinating and thoroughly enjoyable. A brilliant combination of anecdotes from his prolific career, visuals and hilarious stories and some captivating music. Gorgeous [Lilybud](https://www.facebook.com/lilybud.dearsley?__cft__%5b0%5d=AZURFr54R1Jv-ICACvoU71DNKSRcIkxubGQxS8NNRzjyoZpjqs9unm7tPzHlyclhFasJD2kus8eiABs4_P7kcVFcVWvHD5CUI-nw09kd_2iu5s0IUA30ww6zqzWMgVbABHs&__tn__=-%5dK-R) opening with her amazing set and joining Richard on a few of his songs. Just a brilliant evening.

That was excellent! An epic show to rival Springsteen and the Dead.

That was fabulous. Loved it So glad we came.

A wonderful evening and performance

I just walked through my front door on Charlotte Street on a cloud! That was one of the most enjoyable evenings I can remember having, it was stupendous and I could happily have sat and listened to you all night. Thank you so much. And Lilybud's voice...it just gets better and better, spine-chilling.

What a night. What a legend.

“Richard Strange’s **Doctors of Madness** were amongst the first bands I saw, they were out there, a dramatic British beat generation band, most influential. I had no idea what amazing adventures had befallen him since then until this week at his fabulously entertaining show at Kardomah94”.

“Surely no artist, living or dead, can count among his collaborators

**WILLIAM BURROUGHS, FRANK ZAPPA, GAVIN BRYARS,**

**TIM BURTON, ROBERT WILSON, TOM WAITS, MARTIN SCORSESE, HARMONY KORINE, SARAH JANE MORRIS, PETER CAPALDI, DAMON ALBARN, CRISTINA** and **JARVIS COCKER.**

What an amazing life- Thank you for sharing it with us in your show”.

“Great night…and that *Alone Again Or* moment was pure magic”

“I thought it was brilliant, and everyone I have spoken to was smitten”

“Now I’m feeling jealous”.

“*Marie and Joe* was lovely. I wish I’d filmed it”

“What an enjoyable night. Yes…you MUST do it again here”.

“I could have listened to his stories all night”.

“It was extraordinary to sit back and be both intellectually stimulated and entertained”.

“Just to say a big thank you for a great show last night. I enjoyed every moment, particularly your virtuoso performance. I won't say it was a revelation to me as I had seen and heard enough of your wide-ranging career to know what to expect. But I was astonished by the way you brought the many facets together so effortlessly; the riveting film clips, the narrative, the humour - and of course your voice and your music, all contributed to make it an evening to remember.”

“What a story teller …what a story of life!

Go ahead to see this gentleman! This is live culture history!”

What the British media have said about Richard Strange’s memoir

***“Strange- Punks and Drunks and Flicks and Kicks”***

**The press said :**

**The Independent:** “A seminal figure at the crossroads of art, music, film and counter-culture”

**The Tatler:** “Richard Strange passes the kool acid test with psychedelic colours”

**Esquire**: “A hilarious romp through the last 30 years of Pop Culture, as charming and amusing as the man himself”

**Time Out:** “This extraordinary memoir is gloriously indiscreet”

**Evening Standard:** “Sharply opinionated about all that he encounters, he has the essential characteristic of self-deprecation when it comes to his role of hero in the story of a life. (This is) a very particular social history, which illuminates some of the most interesting nooks and corners of the alternative lifestyles which bloomed and withered in such profusion during the second half of the twentieth century”

**The Art Newspaper:** “Strange is perhaps the only figure alive who has traversed so many art, performance and music movements. He can really understand the complex interplay between the elements of glamour, trash, provocation and outrage within British culture for the last 30 years. This book is the least academic, but most intelligent and entertaining analysis one could hope to read of a very specific London milieu, whose ramifications and rewards extend across the Western world.”

**Mojo:** “Strange is a cultured, gregarious chap who moves through London’s gilded salons observing his peers’ foibles. He observes the glitterati with a witty eye.”

**And on Radio and Television too**

**Ned Sherrin, BBC Radio 4 Loose Ends:**

“A fascinating and very amusing read”.

**Robert Elms,** **BBC Radio London Live**:

“What a life! A renaissance man who really HAS done it all!”

**Jools Holland, BBC TV Later With Jools Holland** :

“An extraordinary memoir of an extraordinary life”

**George Melly:**

“A good read. Wonderfully funny and well written.”

**Peter Curran, BBC London Live**:

“A fantastic read. Wit and truth writ large.”

**James Whale, Talk Radio:**

“The best autobiography I have read in a long while”

**What else has Richard Strange done?**

Richard Strange has been robbed by The Sex Pistols

Richard Strange has been signed to Virgin Records by Richard Branson

Richard Strange has executed John Cleese in five different ways in just two days

Richard Strange has spent a year digging a grave with James Nesbitt

Richard Strange has sung a duet with Twiggy

Richard Strange has trashed an art gallery with Jack Nicholson

Richard Strange has dribbled over Christian Slater

Richard Strange has wrestled with The Undertaker

Richard Strange has played cricket with Imran Khan

Richard Strange has knocked out a London Showbiz journalist with a single blow, and been rewarded with a bottle of champagne

Richard Strange has sold dirty videos to Bob Hoskins

Richard Strange has paid Depeche Mode £15 to play a half hour set

Richard Strange has asked John Lennon to do him a favour

Richard Strange has cooked shepherd’s pie for Mariella Frostrup and spaghetti with Sophia Loren

Richard Strange has had a song on Plastic Bertrand’s Greatest Hits album

**What they say about Richard Strange:**

**Paul Morley (Broadcaster):** “In my Version of Rock History, Richard Strange looms a lot larger than Pete Townsend”

**Joe Elliott (Musician, Def Leppard):** “The Doctors of Madness were the best! Blue hair, sequinned eyelids, a guitar that spelled out "KID", space-age vaudeville that tipped this 16-year old kid over the edge! One of the most original songwriters & performers of my generation.”

**James Nesbitt (Actor):** “12 years after first meeting him, just thinking about Richard still reduces me to a state of near hysteria…and terror. He restores one’s faith in the ability of the human spirit to soar.”

**Vic Reeves** (**Comedian**) "If you have never heard (Richard Strange’s band) the Doctors of Madness, you should. Musically they are the Velvet Underground, New York Dolls with shades of glam, hippie, prog and punk all rolled into one, yet are still totally original. Vastly underrated, they should have been huge. Pure genius"

**Damien Hirst (Artist):** “It’s a Strange world”

**Shane McGowan (Musician):** “Richard Strange is a diamond geezer

**Jay Jopling (Art Dealer):** “Richard –Stranger than Fiction”

**Sam Taylor-Wood (Artist and film director)**: “Richard is the best gargoyle in town”

**Julian Cope (Musician and writer)**: “When Ziggy shagged all of Amon Duul 2 at the Berlin premiere of “A Clockwork Orange”, their divine progeny was undoubtedly Richard “Kid” Strange’

**James Fox (Writer):** “Richard Strange can do most things with a maniacal twist, and most cleverly, with unmatched originality: he can sing, write songs, he can act, he can show off like a six year old and he has the most dangerous sense of hilarity, sustainable in moments of deepest solemnity.”

**Adrian Dannatt (Critic):** “Strange must surely be the funniest man in London…It is impossible to spend any time within his looming majesty without being engulfed in gales of health-inducing mirth and a sense of fraternal bohemian bonhomie long lost to our ambitious and crassly commercial times.