Whisky, Tango, Foxtrot! Tour 2026-27

Press & Media Material



For Immediate Release:

From Steel Mill to Police Beat: Ex-Detective, Jack Bryan, smashes myths in his hit comedy show 'Whisky, Tango, Foxtrot!'

Former Dudley Steelworker, Union shop steward, 30-year police veteran and comedian, Jack Bryan is taking audiences behind the Thin Blue Line with his critically acclaimed, tragi-comedy, solo show, Whisky, Tango, Foxtrot!

Mixing gritty, true-life career anecdotes with charismatic storytelling, Jack invites the public into the parallel universe he describes as a "Psychotic Narnia, governed by its own rules".

This autobiographical show kicks off in the late 1970's. Hit by sudden redundancy at a British steel works, just before Christmas and the impending birth of his second child, Jack takes an unexpected detour and joins the West Midlands Police force. For the next three decades he witnesses, first-hand, the frontline turbulence of late 20th century, British social history. From the early 1980s race riots and the 1984-85 miners' strike to the devastating decimation of industrial towns due to a combination of Thatcherism and globalisation.

Spanning everything from raw uniformed beat policing to complex specialist investigation departments, Whisky, Tango, Foxtrot! shatters standard media myths. It explores the profound joy, unexpected heartaches, and institutional absurdities of a life spent in uniform.

"We didn't just police the community; we entered an entirely different world," says writer and performer Jack Bryan. "The show is about pulling back that curtain. It is grittily honest and deeply moving, but above all, it is funny. If you want to know what it really felt like to try and keep the peace when society was changing at a breakneck pace, you do not have to say anything … just come along and be entertained".


POLICE



Critical praise and Reviews for Whisky, Tango, Foxtrot! Includes:

***** “An amusing, shocking and passionate personal account from someone who has been there for us at every level” ALISTAIR MCGOWAN, Comedian, Actor, Impressionist.

***** “A polished piece of storytelling, told by an authentic voice who really cares about the subject matter.” PETER ALLINSON, Brighton and Hove News.

***** “A tour de force. A polished performance by a wonderfully engaging performer. So well-crafted from start to finish. True life anecdotes of his career in the police are both harrowing and humorous, all delivered by a wide range of mimicry and acting skills.” CHARMIAN INGRAM, Director, Starkadder Theatre Productions.

***** “A fascinating insight into a life spent in the police force and a searing indictment of the changing value governments and society put on our officers”. COLIN RICHARDSON, MBE

***** “From the beat to the breakdown, ex-detective Jack Bryan doesn’t just tell a story; he lives it. Brace yourself for a tragi-comedy journey through modern British policing that’s so vivid you’ll feel every laugh and every surge of fury right alongside him”. TERENCE LEWISS, Playwright

***** “Grittily honest, totally enlightening and hilariously funny!” RYAN GOUGH, Comedy Promoter.

“Witty, educational, poignant … featuring brilliant multi-media elements.” Audience and Venue Reviews.

“Jack was a really charismatic and entertaining performer and storyteller with such engaging stories and lovely re-enactments. I’m sure there will be some really interesting discussions facilitated around this show.” Audience and Venue Reviews.

“Loved the whole concept of hearing from a real policeman and his experiences … the joy alongside the tricky; the dark and the beautiful; the grey and the complex; the good, the bad and the ugly. An excellent show.” Audience and Venue Reviews.

“I loved his honesty. I always enjoy true stories and thank you so much for all your years of service, putting yourself on the line everyday.” Audience and Venue Reviews.

“Genius!” Audience and Venue Reviews.

“The Billy Connolly of Policemen.” Audience and Venue Reviews.

Show Details

Running Time - 90-minute theatre show with interval

Or, 60 minute show with no interval for Fringe events.

Staging – Features stand-up comedy/storytelling, seamlessly integrated with projected archival photographs, video media, and historical audio-visual clips.

Upcoming UK tour–

Lantern Theatre Brighton, 19/20/22, November;

Stourbridge Town Hall, Wollaston Suite, 7.3-pm, 27th November;

Lantern Theatre, Sheffield, 19/02/2027;

Old Joint Stock, Birmingham, 04/04/2027,

Astor Theatre, Deal, 29/04/2027;

Tom Thumb Theatre, Margate 30/04/2027;

Hope Street Theatre, Liverpool, 7.30pm, 30th May 2027;

Devon and Cornwall Rural Touring, May-July, dates and venues tbc;

Edinburgh Fringe, August 2027, dates tbc.

Age Advisory: 16+ (Contains some strong language and descriptions of authentic crime scenes).

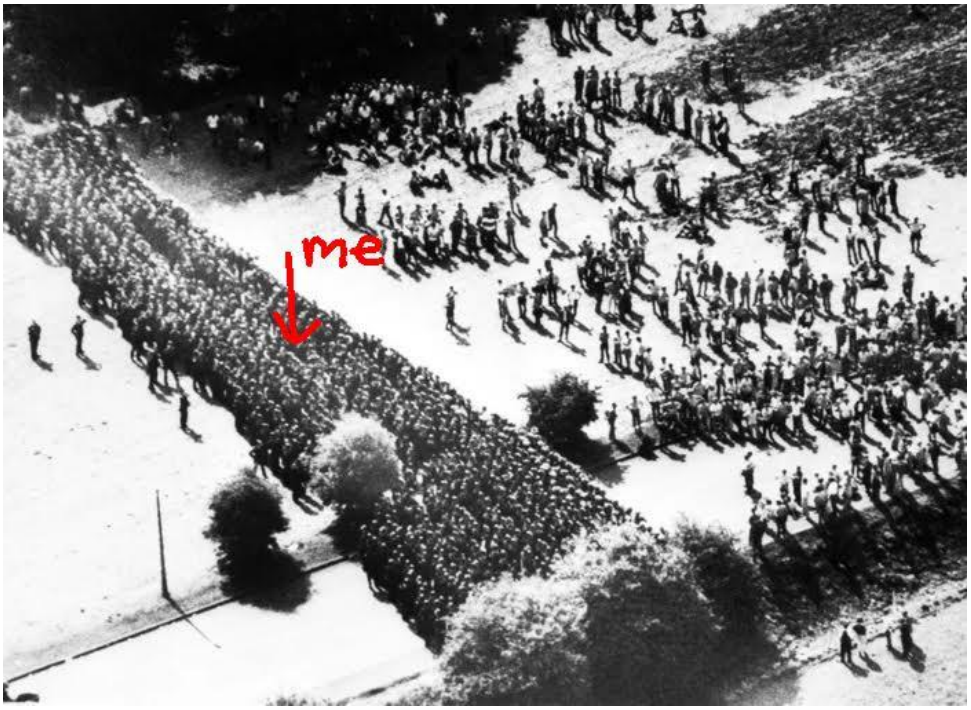
Post show Q & A's available.

Reviewers are invited to attend. For Press Tickets, review copy requests, or to schedule an interview with Jack Bryan Comedy – Writer/Performer – Paul Jennings or Producer/Director, Anita Bigsby, please contact **jackbryancomedy@gmail.com or call 07950678693.**

About Jack Bryan (Paul Jennings - Writer)

Jack Bryan is a stand-up comedian, writer, actor, mimic, and retired police detective. After starting his working life as a shop steward in traditional British industry, he spent 30 years resolving, investigating, and surviving crime on the streets of the UK. Today, he brings those unique, multi-layered experiences to the stage as a compelling, modern comedic voice.




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Radio & Podcast Interview Talking Points for Radio and TV.

The Interview Hook: The "Parallel Universe"

- **The Show Link:** Jack describes entering the police force in the late 1970s as stepping into a 'psychotic Narnia" governed by its own rules. The show uses comedy to pull back that curtain.
- **The Wider Implication:** For decades, the police operated as a distinct subculture whilst still being a part of the everyday community. Today, that curtain hasn't just been pulled back, it's been torn down by social media, body-worn cameras, and 24-hour news at everybody's fingertips.
- **Talking Point:** "Comedy allows us to look at the absurdity of the job, but it also reveals a hard truth: the public and the police no longer understand each other's worlds. We are speaking different languages."

What Has Gone Wrong? (The Diagnosis)

- **The Loss of Presence:** The total erosion of proactive, visible community policing.
- **The Shift to Reactive Policing:** Police forces have transitioned into reactive crisis-management units. Officers spin from one emergency call to the next with no time to build local roots.
- **The Data Trap:** Modern policing is heavily driven by spreadsheets, response times, and box checking rather than human interaction and discretionary common sense.
- **Talking Point:** "When I joined from the steel mill you learned the beat. You knew the shopkeepers, the troublemakers and

the families. Today, the public only encounters the police on the worst days or through a screen. You can't build a relationship if you only ever show up when things are broken."

Why Has It Gone Wrong? (The Root Causes)

- **The Political & Economic Legacy:** The roots stretch back to the 1980s. Jack witnessed the Race Riots and the Miners' Strike first hand – moments where the police were perceived as organs of the state against communities, changing the perception of the uniform from "protector" to "enforcer".
- **Underfunding, Cutbacks and Inadequate Training:** Ill-conceived ideas and 'Theresa F*****g May.'
- **The Digital Disconnect:** A fundamental shift in how scandal is processed. One officer's corruption or misconduct in London is instantly broadcast to mobile phones across the nation, fracturing institutional trust universally.
- **Talking Point** "During the miners' strike and the decimation of industry under Thatcher we saw the early cracks of the police being positioned against the working class rather than embedded within it. Combine that historical scar with the structural underfunding of the early 2000s and the magnifying glass of the internet today, and the system breaks."

How Can We Pull It Back? (Is there a solution?):

- **Demystifying the Uniform:** Jack uses Whisky, Tango, Foxtrot! To humanise the person behind the badge by showing their flaws, their strengths, their heartaches, their vulnerability and their humour.

- **Radical Transparency and ‘Human-Scale” Policing:** Moving away from corporate PR speak and returning to brutal, empathetic honesty.
- **Rebuilding the Contract:** Acknowledging that the police are the public and the public are the police (Sir Robert Peel’s founding principle).
- **Talking Point:** “To pull it back we have to treat people like humans, not statistics. The police need to admit when they get it wrong without hiding behind corporate jargon. My show isn’t a recruitment video, and it’s not an anti-police protest. It’s an honest look at ordinary people trying to do an impossible job. If we can laugh together and acknowledge the shared trauma of our social history, that’s where the bridge building starts. The vast majority of us want it to work; everyone needs it to do so”

Quick-Fire Media Soundbites and Quotes

- **On the Current State of Trust:** “Trust isn’t lost overnight and it won’t be won back with a new press release or marketing campaign. It’s won back on the street corner, one interaction at a time.”
- **On the Power of Comedy in this Debate:** “Tragedy and comedy live in the exact same house. If you don’t laugh at the frontline of human misery, you break. I’m letting the public hear the laughter so they can understand the survival mechanism.”
- **On Nostalgia v Reality:** “People long for the 1970s and 80s ‘Life on Mars style of policing, but it was a turbulent, chaotic time. We shouldn’t look back with rose-tinted-glasses, we should look back to learn how we got here.”

Media Contacts:

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