

Barry Hilton, the big 'softy'

JAN-HENDRIK COETZER

After a month long tour in Hong Kong, Singapore, Macau, Australia and New Zealand, comedy legend Barry Hilton is returning to Hermanus to perform at the Windsor Hotel on 3, 4 and 5 October, with his brand new show, *The Way I See It*.

And with the third show on Sunday 5 October, Barry decided that all proceeds will go towards Camphill School.

"As Raymond Ackerman, well known South African businessman, once said: "If you want support from your community, you first have to support your community," says Barry.

The show, *The Way I See It*, is about life in general and will also give you a peek into Barry's quirky mind.

"My content is 'clean' and relevant to all, and I never speak or joke about politics and politicians. I think that is exactly why my shows are doing well abroad, because everyone can relate.

"You also don't need to be super intelligent to understand my sense of humour, because I'm actually telling you stuff you already know. I just remind you of it."

Besides having a track record of 30 years in comedy, Barry is also a corporate entertainer, motivational speaker and actor. He was also the first South African to perform at London's Comedy Store in 2001, and 10 years later the first to perform at Sydney Comedy Store in Australia.

Being in this industry and with the recent suicide of actor Robin Williams, the topic of comedians suffering from depression surfaced during our interview. "As a comedian you always cheer people up, they clap and laugh and have lots of fun. Afterwards you find yourself in a hotel room all alone. Most comedians, like myself, always live with that fear that someday people might not find you funny anymore.

"Also, very rarely do people congratulate you on a good performance. One day someone



Barry Hilton

had something negative to say about one of my shows in an email, and I was besides myself. But luckily my wife Sandy helps me to see the lighter side of life."

Barry and Sandy moved to Hermanus about a year ago and he says they have settled in well. "Sandy quickly made friends with other families – about four just in the street where we live in the Hemel-en-Aarde Village."

■ There are a 100 tickets available for Barry's show on Sunday 5 October, in aid of Camphill School. The tickets cost R130 per person. The show will start at 17:00 at

the Windsor Hotel.

To book for this show, contact Michelle van Zyl at Camphill School on 028 312 4949 or 082 565 3627, or book online at <http://ngo-braai.co.za/collections/tickets>.

QUICKIES WITH HILTON

Any bad habits?

I eat too much and interrupt people a lot.

What do you do in your spare time?

I build cupboards.

What is always in your fridge?

Lots and lots of tupperware.

Favourite actor?

Denzel Washington.

Biggest fear?

Losing my children, and that people will not find me funny anymore.

What inspires you?

My wife, Sandy.

What makes you nervous?

Before a show I get extremely nervous.

What do you dislike?

Two-faced people and illegal downloading.

What are your weaknesses?

I'm insecure and trust people too easily.

Any superstitions before a show?

I hate it whenever someone says, "go break a leg".

What people don't know about you?

That I'm actually a big softy.

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