# John Early brings heartfelt comedy and live band performance to London



John Early, an acclaimed comedian known for his distinctive blend of comedy and heartfelt musical performance, is set to bring his unique show to London audiences this spring. Early, best recognised for his role in the HBO comedy-thriller Search Party and his collaborations with fellow comedian Kate Berlant, has carved out a niche that marries sharp, millennial-era comedy with sincere musical interludes, reviving a tradition of comedians who engage audiences not just with humour but with song.

Early’s approach is striking in the contemporary comedy landscape, where irony and digital-age banter typically dominate. His live performances include covers of pop and rock standards, backed by a six-piece band named the Lemon Squares. Early reflects on these musical choices, saying, “In the beginning, I just felt, ‘wouldn’t this be groovier if I did this with a full band? Wouldn’t it be fun to do a Britney Spears song with a 70s-inflected arrangement?’" Initially, these performances carried a layer of irony, serving as a protective comedic device. However, this evolved dramatically with his special Now More than Ever, released last year.

Now More than Ever features a poignant 16-minute routine that laments the wasted youth of the millennial generation, culminating in a deeply moving performance of Neil Young’s After the Gold Rush. Early described this moment as transformative, stating in a transatlantic Zoom interview, "That was a choice I made that changed my life... For the first time ever, I fully just spoon-fed it. It was ‘this is me baring my soul.’" This shift towards sincerity amid a culture dominated by social media and online detachment highlights both an artistic and personal breakthrough.

The Guardian reports that Early’s show is now also available as an album, continuing the tradition of comedians performing sincere covers, inspired by figures such as Bette Midler and Sandra Bernhard. Early suggests that his generation's entrapment in irony necessitates this return to heartfelt music, saying, “Singing takes you out of this poisonous, ironic-banter internet speak and lets you sit in time for three or four minutes, being wistful or sincere.”

Raised in a Presbyterian family in Nashville, Tennessee, Early credits his upbringing for shaping his complex comedic persona, which often embraces his “psychotic, anxious, socially oppressive” traits. He describes an internal conflict with self-presentation, noting, “I always thought there was something gross about portraying yourself in a flattering light.” His live stand-up, which he had long resisted filming, finally found release in Now More than Ever, offering audiences a rawer glimpse of his identity beyond his darker screen characters.

Early, who is 37, expressed enthusiasm about extending his US tour with a London leg, highlighting the personal significance of live performances: “Doing these shows has been very meaningful to me... I really love doing it. And as the [US] tour was ending I was like ‘we have to keep going! It can’t be over!’ So we booked these London shows.” Attendees can expect his “usual bloated, sweaty, wild show,” complete with guest appearances from his well-known alter ego, Vicky with a V, a character he performs on YouTube and Netflix.

John Early's arrival in London offers an opportunity for comedy audiences to experience a show that defies typical categorisation, blending satirical self-examination with moments of genuine musical and emotional expression.

Source: [Noah Wire Services](https://www.noahwire.com)

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