# Ricky Gervais reveals how health fears have grown with age and inspired After Life



Ricky Gervais, the acclaimed comedian and actor, has openly shared his health anxieties, revealing how these fears have intensified with the passage of time. During a recent appearance on "Jimmy Kimmel Live," the 63-year-old reflected candidly on aging and its physical toll. With a sense of humour tinged with honesty, he expressed that his current condition is likely the best it will ever be. “When I get up in the morning, it’s like I’ve got false legs… stiff. It just hurts,” he said, shedding light on the typical aches that come with growing older.

The comedian’s worries extend beyond daily discomfort to a more profound fear — that of serious illness. He recounted how, upon noticing new pains or lumps, he turns to the internet for diagnosis, a habit he admits can be anxiety-inducing. “I Google it… and number seven [on the search results] says cancer. I go, ‘Jane, I’m dying,’” Gervais said, referring to his partner Jane Fallon. This self-deprecating yet anxious behaviour is not a new theme for Gervais, who has previously shared similar tendencies on his podcast, often fearing the worst diagnoses for minor symptoms.

This pattern of self-diagnosing has been a recurring element in Gervais's narrative. In past discussions, he has revealed episodes of intense concern, such as fearing he had stomach or throat cancer after minor health issues. He acknowledges this habit with a mix of humour and frustration, as his co-hosts point out the absurdity of his extreme worries. The comedian’s fears were compounded by a recent health scare that involved severe abdominal pain, leading him to fear liver cancer before ultimately discovering it was not serious. This incident serves to illustrate the psychological toll that health anxieties can exert, even on someone as outwardly confident as Gervais.

Underlying these fears is a poignant awareness of mortality, a theme that fed into his acclaimed Netflix series "After Life." Gervais has stated that the inspiration for the show came from his deep love for Fallon and the profound sadness he has experienced in contemplating life without her. “I want to live longer to enjoy more cheese and wine,” he has said in an interview, illustrating his desire to indulge in the joys of life while grappling with the stark realities of aging and loss.

In his most recent public appearance, Gervais received a star on the Hollywood Walk of Fame. While this would typically be an occasion for celebration, his acceptance speech drew some controversy as he playfully referenced notorious figures like Michael Jackson and Bill Cosby, alluding to their complicated legal histories. “Thank you so much for this honour. It’s a genuine thrill to be part of such an exclusive club,” he remarked, underscoring his knack for blending humour with uncomfortable truths, a characteristic sustained throughout his career.

However, Gervais's irreverent style is not without its critics. His brand of dark humour, particularly when it touches on serious issues, has often sparked backlash, framing him as a provocateur in today’s nuanced comedic landscape. Notably, he has previously courted controversy during his hosting stints at the Golden Globe Awards, where his jokes frequently tread the line between hilarity and offence.

As he navigates the complexities of aging and health, Gervais continues to balance his comedic instincts with the vulnerabilities that come with life in the spotlight. His enduring partnership with Jane, which is both a source of strength and inspiration, seems to ground him amid his fears. Through humour and honesty, he confronts life’s uncertainties, reminding fans and audiences alike that while laughter can be a coping mechanism, the gravity of existence remains a shared human experience.

## Reference Map:

* Paragraph 1 – [[1]](https://www.dailymail.co.uk/tvshowbiz/article-14767939/Ricky-Gervais-health-fears-wife-Jane-Im-dying.html?ns_mchannel=rss&ns_campaign=1490&ito=1490), [[3]](https://www.webmd.com/men/features/ricky-gervais-qa)
* Paragraph 2 – [[2]](https://www.therickygervaisshow.com/xfm-vault/s01e22/transcript), [[6]](https://www.express.co.uk/celebrity-news/1774297/Ricky-Gervais-cancer-illness-twitter)
* Paragraph 3 – [[4]](https://www.inkl.com/news/ricky-gervais-heartbreaking-inspiration-behind-after-life-was-his-soulmate-jane), [[5]](https://www.express.co.uk/celebrity-news/1599295/Ricky-Gervais-girlfriend-Jane-Covid-side-effect-After-Life-news-latest)
* Paragraph 4 – [[1]](https://www.dailymail.co.uk/tvshowbiz/article-14767939/Ricky-Gervais-health-fears-wife-Jane-Im-dying.html?ns_mchannel=rss&ns_campaign=1490&ito=1490), [[4]](https://www.inkl.com/news/ricky-gervais-heartbreaking-inspiration-behind-after-life-was-his-soulmate-jane)
* Paragraph 5 – [[1]](https://www.dailymail.co.uk/tvshowbiz/article-14767939/Ricky-Gervais-health-fears-wife-Jane-Im-dying.html?ns_mchannel=rss&ns_campaign=1490&ito=1490), [[7]](https://transcripts.cnn.com/show/pmt/date/2013-09-13/segment/01)

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## Bibliography

1. <https://www.dailymail.co.uk/tvshowbiz/article-14767939/Ricky-Gervais-health-fears-wife-Jane-Im-dying.html?ns_mchannel=rss&ns_campaign=1490&ito=1490> - Please view link - unable to able to access data
2. <https://www.therickygervaisshow.com/xfm-vault/s01e22/transcript> - In this episode of 'The Ricky Gervais Show', Ricky Gervais discusses his tendency to worry about his health, often self-diagnosing through online research. He shares anecdotes about his hypochondriac tendencies, including moments when he feared serious illnesses like stomach cancer and throat cancer. Ricky's co-hosts, Steve and Karl, provide humorous commentary on his health anxieties, highlighting his propensity to jump to conclusions about his well-being.
3. <https://www.webmd.com/men/features/ricky-gervais-qa> - In an interview with WebMD, Ricky Gervais discusses his health and fitness journey. He shares that after a Christmas indulgence, he feared a heart attack and began exercising, leading to weight loss and improved health. Ricky also talks about his diet, expressing a desire to live longer to enjoy more cheese and wine. He mentions his motivation for fitness is to be healthy enough to indulge in his favourite foods.
4. <https://www.inkl.com/news/ricky-gervais-heartbreaking-inspiration-behind-after-life-was-his-soulmate-jane> - Ricky Gervais reveals that the inspiration for his series 'After Life' stemmed from his deep love for his partner, Jane. He reflects on the profound impact of losing a soulmate and how this fear influenced the creation of the show. Ricky discusses his views on death, expressing a desire to live life fully and acknowledging the inevitability of mortality. He also shares personal anecdotes about his health concerns and how Jane reassures him during these times.
5. <https://www.express.co.uk/celebrity-news/1599295/Ricky-Gervais-girlfriend-Jane-Covid-side-effect-After-Life-news-latest> - Ricky Gervais shares a humorous incident where his partner, Jane, recorded him talking in his sleep during a feverish haze caused by COVID-19. He describes the experience as sounding like a 'cartoon dog'. Ricky also discusses the general fatigue and laziness he felt during the pandemic, highlighting the impact of COVID-19 on his energy levels and daily life.
6. <https://www.express.co.uk/celebrity-news/1774297/Ricky-Gervais-cancer-illness-twitter> - Ricky Gervais opens up about a recent health scare where he experienced severe abdominal pain, vomiting, and hot sweats, leading him to fear he was suffering from a serious illness. He shares his initial thoughts of having liver cancer and the intense discomfort he endured. Ricky later updates his followers, expressing relief as his condition improved, and thanks them for their well-wishes.
7. <https://transcripts.cnn.com/show/pmt/date/2013-09-13/segment/01> - In a 2013 interview with CNN's Piers Morgan, Ricky Gervais discusses his health concerns, particularly focusing on his experience with a 'frozen shoulder'. He describes the pain and treatments he underwent, including x-rays, MRIs, and steroid injections. Ricky also shares his tendency to worry about his health, often self-diagnosing and fearing the worst, highlighting his hypochondriac tendencies.