



COMEDY CENTRAL UK ANNOUNCES PILOT FOR 'IMPRACTICAL JOKERS'



London, Wednesday 7th January: Comedy Central UK today announces the production of a pilot for hit US series, 'Impractical Jokers'. The pilot is being produced for Comedy Central UK by Yalli Productions (a Warner Bros. Television Production UK Ltd company).

The decision follows the ratings success of the original US Impractical Jokers on Comedy Central UK, where currently it is the channel's most popular show.

The new UK pilot, will follow the format of the US version, and features four British comedian friends: Lee Griffiths, Matt Ralph, Paul Biggin and David Moon. The quartet has previously been seen together in the award-winning sketch group 'Late Night Gimp Fight (Foster's Edinburgh Comedy Award nominee).

In the show, the real-life best friends challenge each other to some of the most outrageous dares and uproarious stunts ever to be caught on hidden camera. During each prank, the joker must do whatever daring deeds his three friends tell him via a secret earpiece and if he refuses, he loses. Filmed in various locations around London and Essex, each prank makes a mockery of one of the four friends as he attempts to pull off unbelievably awkward scenarios with members of the public, while the remaining three are watching behind the scenes in fits of laughter at their friend's expense.

Lourdes Diaz, VP, Head of Global Production and Development, Comedy Central International said: “Impractical Jokers taps into the mischievous child inside many of us and we hope this new UK pilot brings our audience as many laugh out loud moments as developing the pilot brought us. We’re very pleased to be in production on the new UK pilot for this hugely popular and very funny show.”

Robert Gray, MD, Yalli Productions, added: “We are thrilled to be making Impractical Jokers UK with Comedy Central UK. Lee, Matt, David and Paul have known each other for 12 years. During all this time they have performed award winning comedy on stage, as well as constantly pranking each other off it – something which makes them the perfect choice for Impractical Jokers UK.”

The pilot of ‘Impractical Jokers’ is being produced by Robert Gray, George Sawyer, Gina Lyons and Fraser McKinlay at Yalli Productions. Executive producers for Comedy Central are Jill Offman and Lourdes Diaz. Joe McVey, new Head of Development of Comedy Central UK, will also oversee the project. Writers are Gray, Sawyer and Lyons alongside the four comedians featured.

The Impractical Jokers pilot is part of Comedy Central UK’s remit to commission more original content. Recent shows that have moved through the development pipeline and have entered series production include Drunk History, Brotherhood and I Live with Models.

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About Comedy Central UK: Comedy Central is a leading Pay TV General Entertainment channel and is part of Viacom International Media Networks (VIMN). A joint venture between VIMN (75%) and BSkyB (25%), Comedy Central airs on the Sky and Virgin Media platforms. Comedy Central launched in the UK in April 2009 and has since grown by a phenomenal 82%. The channel broadcasts a mix of hit US acquisitions and original UK productions targeting a 16-34 year-old audience. Popular shows include *Two And A Half Men*, *Anger Management*, *Friends*, *The Daily Show*, *South Park*, *Mike & Molly*, *Tosh.0* and *Whitney*. In 2012 Comedy Central aired its first local commission *Threesome* which received both critical acclaim and high ratings. A subsequent series followed as well as the channel’s second commission *Alternative Comedy Experience*. In 2013 two further commissions debuted, *Seann Walsh World* and *Big Bad World*. In addition to the main Comedy Central channel are Comedy Central +1, Comedy Central Extra and Comedy Central Extra +1 providing audiences with further viewing opportunities and more fantastic content.

