

69 Sixty.nine



all summered out

GREAT EXPECTATIONS

WRITTEN BY LOUISE BAKER - GRADUATED 2001
DESIGN BY DANIEL CLARKE - GRADUATED 2002

Whether Birmingham, Leicester, Nottingham or one of the smaller cities and towns, no one can deny that the midlands is a hot bed of talent. Some of this talent is fresh from Uni, some have been quietly honing their skills over the past few years and all reside in the midlands and are worth watching out for. It is with great expectations that we present to you 8 of the most explosive talents that the midlands has nurtured. You saw them here first.





**ALBERT JACKSON
PAINTER/SCULPTOR/CLEVER BOD**

AGE: 40years
LIVES: Birmingham currently but originally from US
WHERE DID YOU STUDY: All over!
WHAT DID YOU STUDY: Photography, Philosophy, Theology, Politics and Computer Science at the University of Colorado

CONTACT: www.albertjackson.com

Albert Jackson is forty years old, American and has a truly colourful background. He has worked within corporate advertising (owned his own agency), reprographics, design and art direction at some very high levels, but has also had periods of being that penniless artist living on the breadline, and "no, it is not romantic, it's awful!"

Albert started off in photography; his first camera was a box-brownie, which he won as a prize at a Cub Scout meet. He recalls that he "just went nuts with it" – it was a photographic love affair that has lasted his lifetime.

From photography Albert developed into painting, sculpture and furniture design. "I love functional art" and his steel furniture is at once formidable but strangely practical.

This is the thing with Albert, you cannot box him; he is not just a painter nor sculptor but transcends many levels. He believes "it is important to be on as many creative levels as possible, the more you can learn the more you can absorb and the better you become at improving creativity."

Computers and technology feature heavily in Albert's idea processes, he'll scan in a sketch and then change and view it differently to get "multiple ideas based on an initial one". He comments that "Transitory ideas are wonderful epiphanies but we don't always have time to pursue them." And this way he has everything to refer back to"

One factor that strikes with Albert is his background; there seems to be less, dare I say it, of an 'American' feel to them. Moving to England has prompted Albert to question his American background, "People here (UK) just talk, it's a freer environment and your lives are more fulfilling" – this clearly is an environment that Albert likes to be in. He adds, "By placing yourself in situations and environments that challenge you, you can evolve and grow as a person hence your work changes, evolves and moves forward."

Albert Jackson is exhibiting at Artifex in Sutton Coldfield from July 15.
 Tel 0121 323 3776



**ROB GEE
COMIC**

AGE: 30 (just turned)
LIVES: Highfields, Leicester.
WHERE DID YOU STUDY: Nursing College!
WHAT DID YOU STUDY: Psychiatric Nursing
WHEN DID YOU GRADUATE: 1994
CONTACT: robgeepoetry@hotmail.com

Described by his own mother as John Cleese on Mescaline, Rob has performed over a thousand live shows, toured the UK, Australia and Holland, and supported John Cooper Clarke, Linton Kwesi Johnson, Attila the Stockbroker and Chumawamba's Danbert Nobacon. "Not bad, eh?"

He has performed in prisons, schools, festivals (most notably Glastonbury), raves, street parties and comedy clubs and anywhere else that will give him five minutes and a microphone. You may have come across him (so to speak) as a part of the Brightside at the Leicester comedy Festival, which is the biggest and boldest performance poetry cabaret in the Midlands.

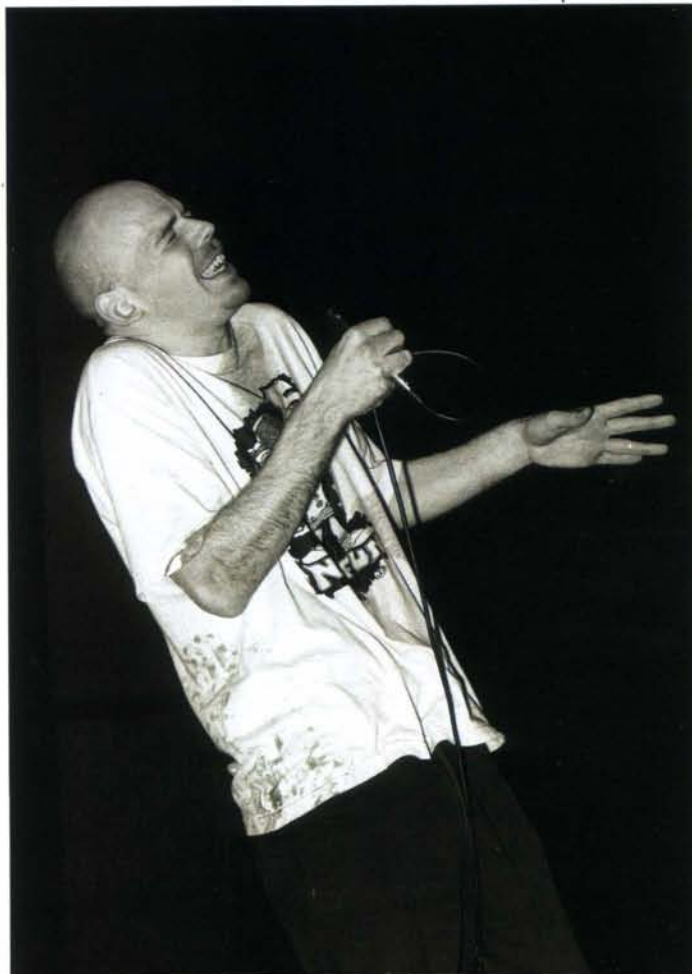
Winner of the 1999 Ledbury Poetry Slam and runner up of The BBC Front Room Slam and the UK Allcomers Slam, he has performed at the Edinburgh Festival for the last three years to critical acclaim and is returning this year.

Here are a few things that have been written about him:

"Represents everything theatrical about performance poetry - filled with energy and amphetamine overload!" **Hybrid Magazine**

"Motormouth and stand up genius" **Home Cookin' magazine**

"Razor sharp wit, machine gun delivery and the ability to see the bizarre in everyday situations – Rob Gee has it all!" **Rideout**



GIVING YOU A LEG UP

Do you know someone (maybe even yourself) that should be featured in the next instalment of Great Expectations? If you do, send in details to us at **69 Magazine, Weavers Cottages, 54 King Street, Leicester, LE1 6RL.**