



HOST ALICE FRICK

WHERE SERIOUS MEETS HILARIOUS

AN EVENING OF COMEDY TO BENEFIT THE LONDON AMBULANCE CHARITY

PRESS PACKET

The past two years have been some of the most difficult in the lives of much of the global population. Covid has wreaked havoc on all of our lives, in one way or many others, none more than on the lives of those tasked to care for the sick and the dying, and their families and friends. There has been much focus on the role of the hospitals and the doctors, nurses, support staff, and others who have had to deal with unimaginable stress and tragedy on a daily basis. That said, there is no place in any town or city that is better suited to handle medical emergencies than a hospital-- every hospital is set up to handle sick people. What we may not have adequately appreciated is how those who are sick and dying actually *get* to the hospital, and what is involved in responding to someone's home or workplace where the patient is experiencing a medical or trauma emergency.

The ambulance service is the front line who wades into a completely unknown situation, in a completely unknown environment, where who-knows-which obstacles await. The ambulance services are faced with the fact that they are unfamiliar with the homes or workplaces they are entering, or the personalities of the people (patients, family, friends, others) they are encountering, often making the pre-hospital diagnosis a challenge. That's a prescription for immense stress on many fronts. And that's why we believe a night of comedy to highlight some of those issues and to ask for the public's support for their local ambulance service is much needed.

The Don't Be So Selfish Tour is an opportunity to reach out to Londoners through humor, and to educate them about the importance of the ambulance service that has been so instrumental to the health and

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DON'T BE SO SELFISH
EURO TOUR '22

**TO BENEFIT THE
LONDON AMBULANCE CHARITY**

LONDON, 28 MARCH, THE MILLER (96 SNOWFIELDS)

DOORS OPEN 1800 | SHOW STARTS 1900 | TICKETS £20 TO THE LAC

wellbeing of their communities over these past two years. That's why one Canadian, living in America, visiting London (try and keep up) has seen fit to organise a night of comedy to raise funds and awareness for and of the London Ambulance Service.

WHEN: Monday 28 March, Doors open 6pm, Show starts 7pm to approx 9pm

WHERE: The Miller Pub, 96 Snowfields SE1 3SS

WHO: Allyson June Smith, Alice Frick, Nelson Gombakomba, David Ward, Alex Prescott, and more.

HOW TO BUY TICKETS: Visit www.RunsAndHoses.com



TAKE THREE WITH THE ORGANISER

You're a Canadian, living in the United States, volunteering at a fire department, and having just graduated Emergency Medical Technician school. What are you doing in London raising money for the London Ambulance Service?

It's exactly because of my new association with the Emergency Medical service in the U.S. that I felt raising money for the LAS,

while I happened to be in London, simply made sense. While I was training, one of my first ambulance calls was to a woman with Covid. As we loaded her into the back of the ambulance one of the paramedics told me to take her vitals, which included her temperature. We don't use forehead scanners since they cannot be trusted, but instead we use under-the-tongue thermometers. So I had to remove her mask while she was coughing, to take her temperature manually. It was then that I reflected on the thousands of times others must have been required to do this—putting themselves in

obvious harm's way for the benefit of a stranger—which is the definition of selflessness. I saw this repeated time and again—strangers whose job it was to come to the aid of another human being, and doing it without fear of consequences to themselves. A more noble endeavor I can't imagine. And that's why I thought I would combine my love of comedy to help those whose job it is to put others' needs over their own. The London Ambulance Service was the logical choice for the beneficiary of what we're doing on Monday.

How does the ambulance service in the United States differ from that of the UK?

Most of the ambulance services, which we call Rescue in the United States, are run by the local fire department, and 75% of U.S. fire departments are 100% volunteer, except for perhaps a few top-level firefighters, like the Chief and Fire Marshall. The ambulances are staffed by either Paramedics (the top line pre-hospital emergency responders), or Emergency Medical Technicians (EMT's), and while these pre-hospital providers do get paid, you could make double their salary if you worked stuffing boxes at an Amazon warehouse, so you really have to be dedicated to want to put yourself in harm's way every single day in benefit of your fellow citizens. While the employment and compensation may be different in the UK, the dedication and selflessness is not—that's universal.

Ironically, you were diagnosed with Covid just this week. How has that affected organising this event?

Luckily I had the venue and most of the talent in place before I got Covid, and while it's not ideal hosting a comedy show from 1000 km away in Covid isolation, it kind of fits, right? Ambulance service members put discomfort aside and do what they can until they can no longer. This is for a worthy cause, so the show must go on.

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