



L-R: John Malkovich, Chris Ramsey, Josie Long, Russell Howard

BLAGGING RIGHTS: THE EDINBURGH FESTIVAL

As Edinburgh draws to a close, here's what to say to pretend you were there – even if you were at home watching *Dragon's Den*...

COMPLAIN ABOUT: The rain. A worse monsoon than hit India this year.

PRETEND: You saw John Malkovich handing out flyers for his critically adored show *A Celebration Of Harold Pinter*.

ENTHUSIASTICALLY NOTE: There are more women than ever this year – 20 per cent of the stand-ups were female, a better ratio than FTSE 100 directors.

MENTION: Josie Long's new show – interesting how the whimsical child has

grown into a smart, topical woman.

PREDICT BIG THINGS FOR: Chris Ramsey – dresses a bit too much like Russell Howard, but charms in a soon-to-be-primetime style.

CASUALLY SAY: Isn't it strange how all the male comics look like Russell Howard this year?

MUSE: That immersive theatre like *A Machine To See With* (in which you take part in a heist) will be all over the West End – influencing Jude Law's show at the Donmar, where the audience is enveloped in fog and showered with seawater.

WONDER IF: Those jokes about the riots were too soon.

DECIDE TO: Tell them to all your friends anyway.