

Co-directed by the director of Hannah Gadsby's Emmy Award Winning *Nanette*, this is James' coming out; as a victim – and survivor – of domestic violence.

James Barr: Sorry I Hurt Your Son (Said My Ex To My Mum)



Photo Credit Steve Ullathorne

"One key takeaway point from James's masterclass of a show is that sharing your story matters" ★★★★★ Metro

"I guess it's a bit awkward for my ex that I'm doing a show about the things he did to me, especially when dealing with such a delicate and deeply traumatic experience - but it's not my fault he did this to a comedian" JAMES BARR

James Barr, is a multi-award-winning comedian, radio TV presenter, (and gay icon, obv's). He's delighted audiences with his own brand of outrageous and upbeat comedy on-air, on stage and online - and he can count major names in entertainment as his fans including **Ed Sheeran**, **Fleur East** and **Dannii Minogue**.

Now, in his raw and brutally honest new show, James is opening up about his journey as a victim and survivor of domestic violence in a relationship that lasted four years. **Sorry I Hurt Your Son (Said My Ex To My Mum)** takes the audience on an emotional rollercoaster exploring the trauma cycle in an hour of poignant stand-up comedy.

For James, laughter has always been a powerful weapon against life's harshest blows. With a clever mixing of tension and release, the cycle of abuse permeates the show, mirroring James' lived experience and ultimate triumph. In this deeply personal hour, James explores the devastating impact of his ex-partner's actions and brings light to the often-overlooked issue of domestic violence within queer relationships and between men.

By speaking out, James becomes a voice for the 1 in 5 adults who experience domestic abuse in the UK in their lifetimes. This statistic is even higher for LGBTQ+ people, with reported domestic abuse rates in relationships at nearly double for Lesbian and Gay Individuals: 7.6% in the last year alone, compared to 4.3% for heterosexuals (Office for National Statistics 2023).

"I started writing this new hour as a way to ignore my trauma and get over it by making jokes and telling the audience I was FINE. But that process made me realise I actually needed to speak up in a much more authentic way. So - at a spontaneous and somewhat chaotic Work in Progress in Edinburgh last year, I wrote down all of my raw feelings on a piece of paper and began to read them aloud to the audience. By the end, I was crying, and some of the audience (although perhaps helped by copious wine) were also crying. At the end, a woman I didn't know came to me and said "I didn't want to be strong either, but we needed to be safe". And that's when I truly began to write this show." JAMES BARR

This hour is intended as a triumphant stand against abuse, a call for awareness, and an uplifting hour of resilience intended to break the silence.

Sorry I Hurt Your Son (Said My Ex To My Mum) is co-directed by **Madeleine Parry**, director of **Hannah Gadsby's** Emmy Award-winning "*Nanette*" (Netflix) and an **Australian Directors Guild** award winner.

James Barr is currently presenting every weekday morning on **The Hits Radio Breakfast Show**, alongside **Fleur East** and **Matt Haslam** (Silver - *Best Breakfast Show*, ARIA Awards). His provocative appearances on **Piers Morgan Uncensored** have racked up over 15 million views. He is also the co-founder and host of the UK's top LGBTQ+ podcast, **A Gay And A Non Gay** (Silver - *Best Sex & Relationship Podcast*, British Podcast Awards) and he was recently named in the **Top 10 Online Influencers** at the **British LGBT Awards**.

LISTINGS

Underbelly Bristo Square (Buttercup)

17:15

31 July – 25 August

(not 12th)

60 mins

Venue box office

Venue website

"Charming, witty and funny... his show is bright, cheery and cleverer than you might expect. Barr has a clear talent when it comes to punchlines."

★★★★ - Broadway Baby

"Demonstrates considerable skill in tackling some weighty matters in such an animated and engaging way."

★★★★ - London Theatre1

"he quickly impresses his guests with his strong punchlines and witty personality... always ensures his dialogue is on point."

★★★★★ - Deadline

"It's funny, it's filthy, it's relatable and relevant"

★★★★ - Broadway World

"Rip-roaringly funny and ridiculously relatable" Heat

"Fun, fruity and frank! He really does raise the, ahem, Barr!" Attitude

Unapologetically honest and brilliantly hilarious, an absolute triumph"

The Sun

Press Contacts:

MADELAINE BENNETT

07977 290416

Madelaine@GingerBreadagency

.com

ROSIE MAI DYLAN

07432 567 558

RosieMai@GingerBreadagency

.com