



## The Life of Lee

by Lee Evans

Michael Joseph

Hardback

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### LEE EVANS: SAME WORLD, DIFFERENT PLANET

*"If comedy is the new rock 'n' roll, then behold the new Elvis Presley."*  
Jane Moore, The Sun

**From a Bristol council estate to selling out six nights at the London O2 arena, Britain's favourite comedian tells his life story.**

Lee Evans is one of the best-loved comedians in the country; a Hollywood star able to sell out arenas in the blink of an eye.

But he was not always such a roaring success.

*The Life of Lee* is an utterly hilarious and very moving autobiography charting his ups and downs on the way to the top. Lee takes us on a darkly humorous journey through his childhood spent running wild on a Bristol housing estate and his unconventional school days, when he was publicly derided as 'a failure' by a sadistic teacher.

In this brilliantly entertaining and engaging tale, he also guides us through a grim teenage period of numerous dead-end jobs. When he was cleaning toilets and plucking turkeys, he could never have imagined that one day he would be playing to thousands of adoring fans at the O2 Arena.

The book also reveals how as a boy Lee got his first taste of showbiz, living out of a suitcase and accompanying his entertainer father around the smoky, rowdy, unforgiving working-men's club and theatre circuit.

Desperately struggling to be accepted, this quiet young loner always saw himself as an outsider. But he finally met the love of his life and accidentally discovered the one place where he felt at home: the stage.

***The Life of Lee* is a story that is like its subject: compelling, touching, charming and, above all, fantastically funny.**



In November 2005, the comedian **Lee Evans** smashed the world record by playing to the largest ever comedy audience, 10,108 people at the Manchester Evening News Arena. The record merely underlined his status as the most popular comedian in the UK. A former boxer, Lee went on to break more records. On his 'Big' tour of 2008, he sold more than 500,000 tickets on fifty-nine arena dates. He has now sold in excess of four million DVDs.

The Perrier Award-winning comedian, who was born in Bristol in 1964, has also enjoyed great success as a movie star, headlining in such films as *There's Something About Mary*, *MouseHunt*, *The Fifth Element*, *The Martins* and the critically acclaimed *Funny Bones*. In addition, he has made a big splash in West End shows such as the musical, *The Producers* (with Nathan Lane), *Endgame* (with Sir Michael Gambon) and *The Dumb Waiter* (with Jason Isaacs), receiving numerous theatre awards along the way.

Lee has been happily married to Heather for twenty-seven years. They live in Essex and have a daughter called Mollie.

### Notes to editors:

- **'WIRED AND WONDERFUL'** was huge... **'XL'** was big... **'BIG'** was even bigger... now the legendary Lee Evans embarks on his most ambitious tour to date. **'ROADRUNNER'** is Lee's amazing new show with 67 nights in the biggest arenas in the country. Lee will be playing to more fans than ever on this record-breaking tour of the UK and Ireland.
- Lee's manic energy, uncanny observations, hilarious delivery and side-splitting material have made his live performances a must-see for comedy fans worldwide. His tours and DVD releases year-on-year continue to smash sales and box office records. From 2002 to 2008 alone he has performed to well-over a million people through his three live arena shows (**'Wired & Wonderful'** - 2002, **'XL'** - 2005, **'Big'** 2008), not to mention the millions of fans he has entertained from the comfort of their own living room with his massive selling stand-up DVD releases.
- In 2008 Lee's previous 59 date arena tour, **'Big'** saw him sell out his first show at London's O2 Arena in just 60 minutes, making it the UK's biggest solo live comedy gig ever at that time. This broke his own previous record from 2005 at the MEN arena where he played to over 10,000 people. The subsequent DVD release for **'Big – Live At the O2'** broke all previous stand-up DVD sales records when it sold a staggering 259,399 during its first week and became the biggest week one release for a non film DVD of all time – a record it still holds today.
- Lee Evans has won many accolades in the comedy world including the highly coveted 'Perrier Award' and the *Time Out* Award for Comedy. He has experienced huge success as an international film star with major starring roles in *There's Something About Mary* (1998), *The Fifth Element* (1997), *Mouse Hunt* (1998) and *Funny Bones* (1995). In 2007, he starred in the lead role of Alfred Polly in the ITV1 drama production of the H G Wells novel *The History of Mr Polly*. In addition Lee has also appeared on BBC ONE in his own sitcom series *Lee Evans- So What Now?* Lee was also recently seen on our TV screens in 2009 when he appeared in the *Doctor Who* Easter special (BBC ONE) where he played an evil Welsh scientist, again to much critical acclaim.
- During the past five years Lee has received rave reviews for his West-End theatre roles. These include; Samuel Beckett's *Endgame* alongside the legendary Michael Gambon, Mel Brooks' musical *The Producers* with Nathan Lane plus the Harold Pinter play *The Dumb Waiter*, with Jason Isaacs, where he received the London Theatregoers' Choice Award.
- Lee Evan's autobiography, *Life Of Lee*, will be published on Thursday on 29<sup>th</sup> September, released by Penguin Books.
- *Lee Evans Roadrunner Live* will be released on DVD by Universal Pictures (UK) on Monday 21<sup>st</sup> November. Pre-orders available now from [www.amazon.co.uk](http://www.amazon.co.uk).

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