

# A quick word with...

## Feargus Woods Dunlop

### Anarchy-inducing panto rebel

Interview Rachel Wilson



**"TALLER PEOPLE MUST BE MORE HIGHLY EVOLVED, RIGHT?"**

**W**hen he's not dodging extremely skinny men in hoodies and aspiring to invisibility,

Feargus Dunlop is the man behind Anti-Panto. Sounds like an Italian naturist movement? Not quite. These guys keep their pants on (we assume) whilst revolutionising the tired old world of the seasonal pantomime. Less "He's behind you!" and more 'Cinderella' meets Hitchcock's '39 Steps', in what has been described as "a bawdy comic mash-up of fairytale and thriller". Anti-Panto have reclaimed the ancient art of pantomime from hordes of sticky-fingered kiddies (shows are refreshingly *not* recommended for children) and gifted it back to an adult audience. Out with the tired old gags and in with anarchy and comedy. Feargus is also part of New Old Friends, who produce sell-out shows in London and Bath, geared at getting the young back into theatres. His philosophy on life? "We only get one go. Smile."

CATCH **ANTI-PANTO** AT THE RONDO, BATH, FROM WED 8-SAT 11 DEC. SEE PERFORMANCE LISTINGS FROM P74 FOR DETAILS. FF: RONDOTHEATRE.CO.UK

#### Where are you right now?

Coffee in hand on my free-cycled armchair at my flat.

#### If you could be anywhere right now, where would you be?

Here's pretty good, but I'd almost

always rather be somewhere making somebody laugh.

#### What's the first thing you can remember?

Using reverse psychology on my sister when I was tiny to try and get her to stop spraying me with the cold shower: "Let me spray you...You'll have a luxury time!" Still proud of it today.

#### What are you scared of?

Heights. More specifically falling from heights. More specifically, landing after falling from heights.

#### Who is your hero?

Comedically, Andy Kaufman. In life it's gotta be (pause to apply schmaltz with trowel) my parents. Also Will Smith, but that's the same for everyone, right?

#### What do you most like about yourself?

I like to think I'm easy to talk to.

#### Have you ever stared death in the face?

I thought I did once: turned out to be a REALLY thin guy in a hoodie.

#### What three things would you save if your house was on fire?

My guitar, my photos, and my insurance policy. Unless this is an act of god – that guy is a massive arsonist.

#### If you could instantly remove anyone from the earth, who would you choose?

Cameron is probably the sexy choice right now on account of the cuts. But I'll go David Tennant – controversial I know, but I want his career.

#### What would your superpower be?

Way too much time spent in the pub discussing this one: invisibility.

#### What makes you angry?

Taking it all too seriously. We only get one go. Smile.

#### What's your favourite flavour?

Are you paraphrasing the mighty Craig David right now? I'm a fan of cinnamon.

#### What's your least favourite word?

'Cuts'.

#### What do you like about your appearance?

My height. Every generation is taller than the last, so Darwinianly speaking, taller people must be more highly evolved, right?

#### If you could bring in one global law, what would it be?

Be nice... assholes.

#### What is your most guilty pleasure?

'Strictly Come Dancing'.

#### What will you be doing in 10 years' time?

Making people laugh, touch wood.

#### Pet hates?

Pedants and hypocrites. Oh, and when people use incorrect grammar.

#### If you had to have a motto, what would it be?

Put the kettle on. (Won't suit me.)

#### Have you told the truth?

With poetic licence.

**NEXT WEEK BAH HUMBUG! HOW TO SURVIVE YOUR AUSTERITY CHRISTMAS! PLASTICINE PIONEER NICK PARK SOFIA COPPOLA PIXIE LOTT 'ALICE THROUGH THE LOOKING GLASS'**

