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NEWS

NORTH-WEST

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LIFE

COMEDY

the english american

Tonight and tomorrow, Royal Exchange Studio, St Ann's Square, Central Manchester, 7.30pm, Sat 8pm, £5 to £7. Tel: 833 9833

Despite the fact that we are bombarded with American culture and imagery on a daily basis, England has managed to retain unique qualities that Uncle Sam will never erode. Bill Bryson dedicated a whole book to our peculiar ways and how they amuse and confuse overseas visitors.

Cultural difference is a long established comedy staple: Greg Proops regularly bores audiences up and down the country with his tiresome attack on our small mindedness, whilst Mark Little openly praises England over his native Australia.

So it's with a little caution that we welcome hot young US comedian Alison Larkin to Manchester. Coming direct from LA, you might expect her to observe that people here talk to each other on the street and that it rains all the time. Until you realise that Larkin was a British adoptee who returned to America to search for her birth mother in Bald Mountain, Tennessee.

In her one-woman show, *The English American*, Larkin tells the story of the search for and ultimate reunion with her lost parent. Combining stand-up and theatre, Larkin delivers a passionate, witty and enthralling tale, which takes an honest look at the divide between them and us.

A regular headliner of the Los Angeles Comedy Store, Larkin has played Las Vegas as well as featuring in the TV show *Eye On LA* and the Broadway production of *Stanley*. Expect large laughs – with fries.

Daniel Brocklehurst



Comic Alison Larkin bridges the English-American gap