

Friday 28th March

I got to do a face-to-face interview with the breakfast crew at Triple M radio. These were the guys who I had attempted to speak to from the dark streets of Balham last week. I have to say that the interview was a great deal more successful when I was in the same hemisphere as them. Being in the same room was an extra bonus.

The lady one on the team told me that kangaroos have corkscrew penises, but I was under the impression that the penis of the kangaroo was forked. Can anyone settle our argument? Please email to richardherring@richardherring.com²⁷. Please mark your email 'I know the shape of a kangaroo's penis, but only through academic study. I am not unnaturally interested in marsupial genitalia and anyone who says that I am is lying.' If you know about the shape of a kangaroo's penis through unnatural interest then I do not wish to hear from you.

I met my second Python participant in as many months on the way into the interview. As I pulled up in my cab, Neil Innes was waiting outside and asked if the driver was free to take him. It seemed he was, so we swapped positions and I shook Mr Innes' hand and told him how nice it was to meet him. He looked confused and certainly didn't know who I was. So it seems I don't require alcohol to behave inappropriately in front of my comedy heroes.

Then again, I was pretty jetlagged still, so I can't be totally sure it was Neil Innes. Which explain the man's confusion.

A quick browse through Google suggests that most of the kangaroo species have bifurcated (forked) penises, but a couple of the larger ones have single tipped prehensile ones, which may or may not be corkscrew. To be honest I have done enough research into this subject to last a lifetime, so if you really want to know you're going to have to look it up for yourself.

²⁷ Don't bother. And my email now, should you wish to tell me how brilliant/unnecessary this book is, herring1967@googlemail.com

Saturday 29th March

My body clock is still seriously out of sync and I am spending my days in a bit of a blur of lethargy and confusion. I seem to remember the same sense of disorientation and depression from last year.

Similarly I am slightly worried about whether my show is going to get an audience. I am certainly getting more people in than last year, but the theatre is about four times bigger and I don't know how many people are paying for their tickets. It is too early to worry about it too much and I am hopeful that word of mouth will get round, but there are over 200 shows on in this festival and unlike Edinburgh they are all on in the evening, so there is a lot of competition. And of course no one really knows who I am out here (not that that many do in the UK either to be honest), though I was informed yesterday that a church venue who usually give a room for a festival performance have withdrawn that privilege this year, specifically because the Festival had booked my *Christ on a Bike* show in 2002. So it's good to see that the show had some kind of effect on Melbourne, even if it wasn't to actually get people off their arses and into the venue. In fact by making such a gesture the church in question has probably made more people aware of the show than actually came to it. But it's good to make a stand. I know Jesus would have approved of their action. It's not like he thought it was important to turn the other cheek or anything.

Surely as Christians they should not only have allowed the venue to be used, they should have given another room as a venue as well. As Jesus said, "If someone nicks your coat, fuck it, give them your trousers as well. That'll show them." Look it up, it's in there. Ian 14:2, I think.

I just hope that the genito-urinary department of the local hospital won't take similar action after this year's show.

The whole of this year's Melbourne Festival is a bit of a blur to me now, I must confess. I spent a lot of it unhappy about my disintegrating relationship and the poor attendance at my gigs (actually, as I admit, it would have been respectable if I hadn't been in such a massive venue, but not sure the city that spawned