

## HELEN LEDERER Writing Biography



Helen began her career in stand-up comedy at London's famous Comedy Store, as part of the early 80s comedians including French & Saunders, Rik Mayall, Ade Edmondson and Harry Enfield.

She wrote her first play aged ten and was an avid diarist which served her well when asked to reveal them in [My Teenage Diary for BBC](#).

On television, Helen is possibly best known for her role as the dippy Catriona in all five series of ABSOLUTELY FABULOUS with Jennifer Saunders and Joanna Lumley, but her creation as The Girl at the Bar in NAKED VIDEO utilised her comedic monologue writing form – which later appeared in regular slots on BBC Radio 4 Woman's Hour and then as reportage when she was as a columnist for 'Woman and Home' magazine.

She wrote and performed several one woman shows which led to her one-woman show 'STILL CRAZY' being a sell out at the Edinburgh Festival in the 90's, transferring to the Purcell Rooms, followed by a national tour concluding at the Donmar Warehouse. Her recent Sell-out show 'I MIGHT AS WELL SAY IT' was also written and performed by Helen herself, receiving rave reviews at the Edinburgh Festival 2018. <https://www.helenlederer.co.uk/edinburgh-fringe-2018>

As a commissioned writer on BBC Radio she has written and starred in two series of 'LIFE WITH LEDERER', ALL CHANGE (pick of the week BBC Radio 4). She has also been writer and presenter of HOME TRUTHS, and regularly written and presented on [PICK OF THE WEEK](#), while being a panellist on THE NEWS QUIZ, QUOTE

UNQUOTE, JUST A MINUTE, SAY THE WORD, guest reviewer for KALEIDOSCOPE, FOURTH COLUMN, BOOKED, as well as literary based radio programmes such as SPEAKING VOLUMES, A GOOD READ, OPEN BOOK and GREAT LIVES.

Other writing: HELEN is the agony aunt for MY WEEKLY MAGAZINE – has written for travel sections (MAIL ON SUNDAY, THE INDEPENDENT), was a regular wine columnist (SUNDAY EXPRESS), and has written features and short stories for THE SCOTSMAN, The EXPRESS, WOMANS WEEKLY, EVE, SHE and THE GUARDIAN. Her TV Sitcom EXTRA TIME, documentary Acting up and film version of her first novel 'Losing it' are all in progress. GRAPES OF WRATHAM was commissioned by BBC Radio 4 as well as BE IN THE NOW by BBC RADIO 2.

Her published books include 'COPING with HELEN LEDERER' (Angus and Robertson), 'SINGLE MINDING', (Hodder and Stoughton) as well as short stories in 'GIRLS NIGHT OUT' and 'GIRLS NIGHT IN' (Harper Collins).

Her first comedy Novel 'LOSING IT' published by Pan Macmillan was shortlisted for the Bollinger Everyman Wodehouse prize in 2015. Helen read this on audio. Read [Praise for losing it here.](#)

Helen has enjoyed reading most of Jacqueline Wilson's award-winning children's stories for BBC Audio including THE WORRY WEBSITE, A CLEAN BREAK and LOLA ROSE. She has also recorded the ADVENTURES OF MS. WIZ and MY NAUGHTY LITTLE SISTER and Roald Dahl's THE MAGIC FINGER - among others.

Helen has been a judge for the **Costa Book Awards**, The Roederer Best Wine Writer Awards while being both **host and judge for The Romantic Novelist Award**. **She was a judge for the Women's Prize For Female fiction** in 2011 – and is setting up her own **Comedy Women In Print Prize** in 2018.

<https://comedywomeninprint.co.uk/> [Recent Press Coverage.](#)