

The Best Bits of Mr. Bean goes to extremes

By Pauline Villapando
Staff A&E Writer

Throughout history the Brits have cranked out some pretty hot musical bands. And lately, they've been pushing their way into the comic arena as well with the hit show, *Absolutely Fabulous*.

But what would British comedy be without that hip and happening **Mr. Bean** prancing around in his signature brown suit and red tie, accompanied by his raggedy stuffed teddy bear?

Along with the creation of the critically acclaimed smash-hit **Bean: The Movie**, which contained many scenes containing Oscar-winning performances (ah, sarcasm is a wonderful comedic tool, isn't it?) by the real-life Bean himself, Rowan Atkinson, several videos have been released in high demand of this speechless comedian.

These videos of Mr. Bean have been sprouting up left and right. The latest is **The Best Bits of Mr. Bean**. Just as there are extremes between scorching hot and freezing cold, or butt-ugly and unbelievably gorgeous, Mr. Bean has its moments of hilariously comedic scenes intertwined with predictable corny spectacles.



photo courtesy of Tiger Television / Polygram Video Inc.
Mr. Bean (Rowan Atkinson) uses tweezers to pry an electric razor off his nose in "The Best Bits of Mr. Bean," which is currently available on video.

The highly intense and deep plot (sarcasm once again) of the video surrounds Mr. Bean searching through the attic for an umbrella so that him and his bear friend can go feed the ducks in the rain. While rummaging through his dusty, clattered attic he finds various items that remind him of his past Bean adventures.

The first is a piece of paper containing the time 9:00 and a big smile drawn on top of it. Mr. Bean reminisces back to his memorable trip to the dentist. Probably one of the most funny scenes occurs when he struggles to change in his car after waking up late for his appointment. Once he gets to the dentist's office, his Curious

George-like ways get him and the doctor into some painfully hilarious happenings.

Another memorably scene surrounds Mr. Bean stuffing the Christmas turkey. Now, the gargantuan size of this mother of all turkeys, which could probably feed a whole Third World country might send you rolling to the floor, but the sight of Mr. Bean stuffing the darn thing will make your sides hurt with laughter.

Later, his poor watch is lost in the massive dark hole of this poultry nightmare.

The pool scene is another success in the comedic realm of Bean history. His crazy antics at the local swimming hole will never let you see a public pool the same way.

The look of terror on Mr. Bean's face when attempting to jump off the high dive for the first time will brighten your day with laughter. After spending at least ten minutes up on the platform, searching for an easy way to jump off the high-rise board, Mr. Bean is finally pushed off by some kids waiting impatiently for the old fart to make his big exit splash.

One of the other scenes involves Mr. Bean packing away for

a vacation. This dim-witted comedian will make you laugh as he idiotically attempts to make his clothes and other travel material fit into his minuscule suitcase.

In the midst of his struggle, he cuts his pair of pants in half, only packs one shoe, squeezes all the toothpaste out of its casing for more room and nearly cuts off the appendage of his best stuffed bear friend before thinking otherwise.

There are other numerous displays of Mr. Bean's comedic foolery on the video, but these are the ones that stand out the most as far as the laugh factor is concerned.

But even though there is a shallow level of intellect on these beanie babies, Atkinson does do a great job of acting out this form of slapstick comedy despite the lack of dialogue — a true talent in itself. In comparison, the British actor could perhaps be a mixture of Jerry Lee Lewis' comedy and Pee-Wee Herman's nerdiness.

So if you're willing to settle for a laid back night of slapstick foolery, then Bean is

the way to go, but if you're looking for a more intellectual type of humor, then dump this sprout and opt for a more nutritional grade of comedy.

A&E Calendar

MONDAY
Metcalfe Gallery: Bachelor of Arts Exhibit, Richard Tam Alumni Center, Monday through Friday opening each day at 9 a.m. Admission Free. For info: 739-3502.

Elementary Choral Festival II, Artemus W. Ham Concert Hall, 10 a.m. Admission Free. For info: 895-3801.

George Carlin, Bally's Hotel & Casino, daily at 9 p.m. Admission: \$35.20. For info: 739-4567.

TUESDAY
UNLV Chamber Chorale, Department of Music, Clark County Library Theatre, 7:30 p.m. Admission: \$4. For info: 895-3801.

Mark Morris Dance Group, UNLV World Dance Series, Artemus W. Ham Concert Hall, 8 p.m. Admission: \$23 to \$56 (\$10

student rush tickets). For info: 895-3801.

WEDNESDAY
Elementary Choral Festival III, Artemus W. Ham Concert Hall, 10 a.m. Admission Free. For info: 895-3801.

Drood!, Department of Theatre, Judy Bayley Theatre, 8 p.m. Admission: \$8, \$10 (general admission). For info: 895-3801.

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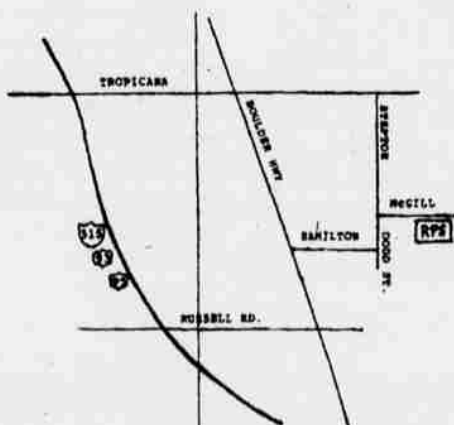
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