



Info@AdoptionArena.com



MAKE IT HOME

Training & Seminars

Campaigns

Events

Speaking

"Joy delivered a really helpful workshop that gave the group so much food for thought"

Jan Cleave, SWAC Co-ordinator, South West Adoption Consortium

'What a treat to be listening to Joy Carter'

Tanya More, Principal Social Worker, Hertfordshire County Council

'Super thought provoking' Rachel Jennings, Social Work strategy and development officer/principal social worker, Wakefield

Seminars & Training

For conferences, teams and training days
Sessions/talk durations range from
30, 60, 90 minutes to 2hr, 3hr or full day



Transracial Adoption: A Personal Reflection. Drawing on my own powerful transracial adoption experience I'm excited and honoured to deliver this seminar for Black History Month and to celebrate National Adoption Week. I shed light on the complexities and intricate bonds that make up transracial adoption, will open up lively conversations, examine best practice and explore new revelations on the concept of overseas adoption, DNA bonds and identity lost and found.

Beyond Black Lives Matter is designed to help adoption organisations, social workers and families develop better communications around race. We look at the power of language to help us build cohesion and trust. What can science tell us about racism & trauma? We look at transracial adoption, placements, identity, birth story work and we encourage professionals to share their knowledge, discuss and find creative solutions.

Diversity and Difference is a powerful unifying and fun seminar, aimed at any team, seminar or conference group that want to expand their understanding about what difference is, means and how to be equipped to deal with today's ever-changing cultural issues. We learn how to re-shape and navigate divisive words and attitudes and much more.

Wellbeing Wealth is as it says on the tin! We look at ways to develop a 'wellbeing toolkit' and how to explore and share wellbeing to our teams/people we serve? What is the science behind racism or conflict? This is either a stand-alone seminar or combined with both other seminars.

All seminars come with pre-course reading, an interactive powerpoint presentation, slides for all attendees, notes and post-seminar reading.

*Please get in contact for a more detailed breakdown of the seminars, training and fees - Info@adoptionarena.com

Campaigns

#YOU CAN ADOPT

I was honoured to be commissioned to write the campaign poem and feature in the media campaign along with Sinitta and David and Carrie Grant.

The campaign centre's around busting myths and stereotypes surrounding adoption in the UK. Interest in adopting rose nationally by up to 60% in some areas in the first few months.

Later on this year I also hosted a podcast episode for them called 'Growing Up as an Adoptee', and continue to advocate for them.

If you are interested at working with Adoption Arena on campaigns or for consultancy please get in touch

Info@adoptionarena.com



#YouCanAdopt



Events

Comedy Adoption Show #SpotTheDifference

In June 2014 I staged the first ever 'Comics 4 Adoption' comedy fundraiser event at the Embassy Rooms in Mayfair. It was a sellout and the first ever show to feature comedians who had all been either adopted or fostered. Clip <https://youtu.be/FUsREmV5RNY>

Following on from this success in 2015 I went to the Edinburgh Festival with the show 'Aspects of Joy' where I spoke about my own adoption. In 2016-17 I developed my material into a 1hr comedy show called 'Spot the Difference' and embarked on a National Tour of theatres, universities, churches and community centres.

This exciting and original production was updated in 2020 and is still as topical as ever as it explores race, identity, loss and mental health issues. It's a great show that is seriously FUNNY! Clip Camden Fringe: <https://youtu.be/xU0t7OL62EA>

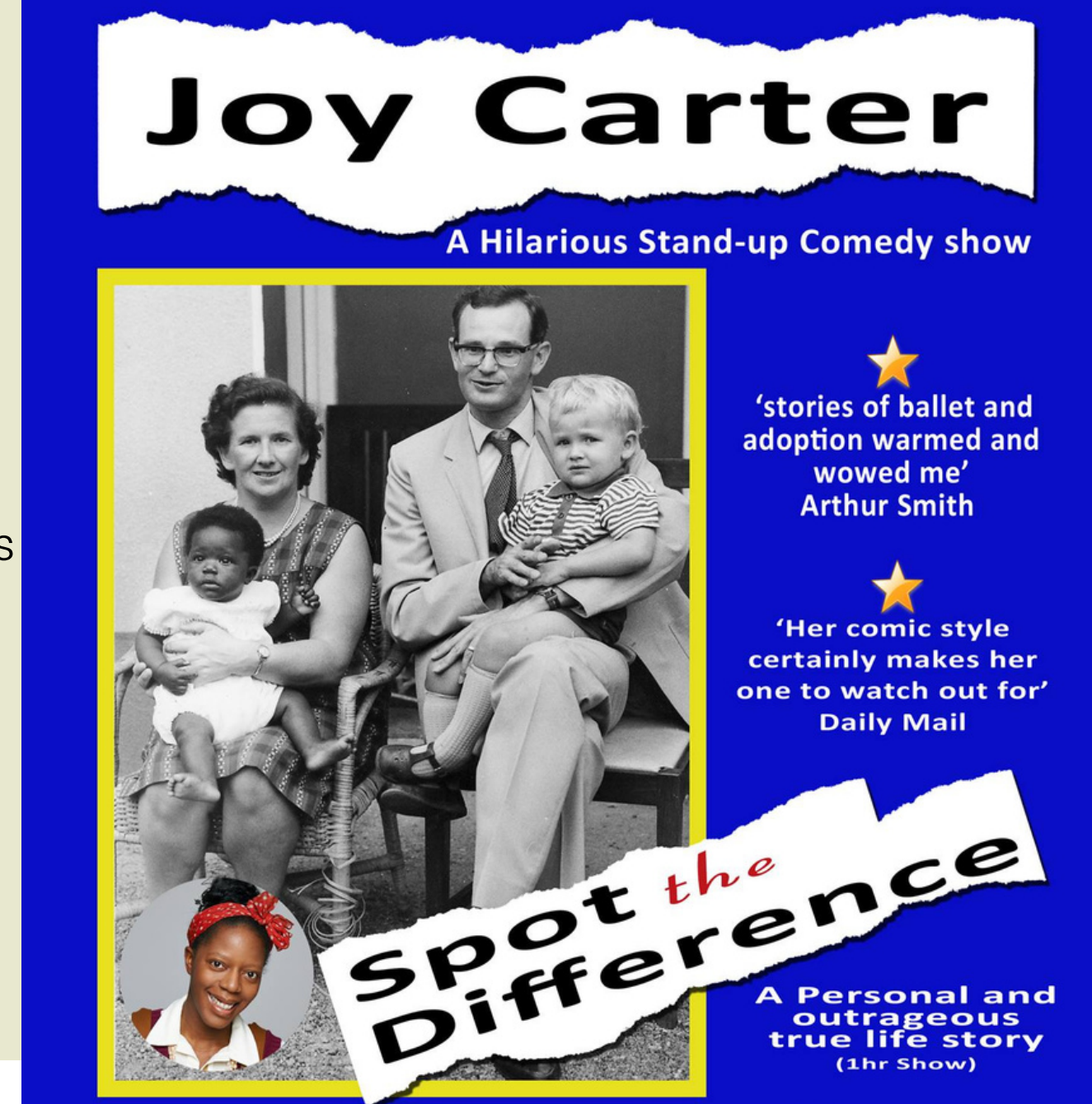
Her warmth, passion and incredibly high energy levels captured the audience's imagination'
Dr Sharon Lockyer, Director at Centre for Comedy Studies Research, Brunel University

'Joy mines a rich seam of gold in her hilarious stand up material. She is sharp as a pin but she is fluid too' Lemn Sissay OBE, poet, author, broadcaster

Funny, intriguing, entertaining, respectful'
Philippe Granger, CEO Rushey Green Time bank

'So Brilliant' Jo Brand. Comedian

*For Show bookings/Enquires please contact Joy@Adoptionarena.com



Corporate Work Highlights

Principal Social Workers Joint Conference

I am honoured to have been recommended by Simon Homes the Principal Social Worker on the Isle of Wight to present 'Diversity & Difference', for nearly 200 UK delegates

IAC – The Centre for Adoption Ambassador

I'm honoured to take on this important role giving talks, press and media interviews to help raise awareness about overseas adoption in the UK and abroad

Autumn Staff Conference, One Adoption West Yorkshire

Theme: 'Black Lives Matter'. It was great to draw on my BLM seminar and talk about racism in the market place and adoption.

You Can Adopt Campaign

I was asked to write the campaign poem and feature in this highly successful National Campaign with Sinitta and David and Carrie Grant MBE.

You Can Adopt Podcast

"Growing up as an adoptee' I interview 2 young adult adoptees about their adoption challenges, goals and advice.

Social Work England National Advisory Forum

I was honoured to join firstly the 'Experts by Experience' group 2018–2019 and National Advisory Forum in 2020 to help reform social work and best practice issues.

Public Policy Exchange Adoption Symposium

Adoption Arena's team spoke on the future of adoption in the UK. Attended by 200 delegates at the Park Plaza Hotel, Westminster.

Tri Borough Virtual School Conference, 2nd year. SW1

I was honoured to talk on education and adoption and perform a 30-min version of my comedy adoption show.

Beyond Black Lives matter & Wellbeing Wealth for Adopters for Adoption

I presented a half day 2-part training session for their UK team, really powerful engagement

Comics 4 Adoption

Started in 2013 saw us bring together top UK comedians who have all been either adopted/fostered, this year we explore the NAW theme of 'The Adopter' and communicate our individual stories through some seriously funny comedy

Westminster Celebration of Achievement

Westminster City Council, Tate Modern. Attended by the Lord Mayor of Westminster . I hosted & performed a special 30-minute Comedy adoption show for 150 adults, young people and children (as young as 5) to celebrate the young peoples achievements of fostered and looked after children.

Chosen

Edited by Dr Perlita Harris I write an essay along with 50 other transracial adoptees about our life journey.

Nottingham Trent University

I present a 30-minute version of my 1hr comedy adoption show and talk to social science students, faculty and general public about adoption advocacy in the UK and and social reforms

National Children's and Adults services Conference, Bournemouth

Speaker with Social Work England 2019

Goldsmiths University Celebration for Dr Perlita Harris

The event recognised the exceptional life changing work and contribution to Social Work over her many years of service.

Camden Fringe comedy Adoption show 'Spot the Difference'

I debut the show to sell-out performances and much media interest

Aspects of Joy

This was my comedy adoption debut show that I took to the Edinburgh Fringe in 2015. It led to a National Tour and development of the production to the current show 'Spot the Difference'

“When talking about impact, outcome, action Joy brings all of this and more! Her passion presented through her lived experience truly energises her audience and captures hearts and minds”

Simon Homes, Principal Social Worker, Community Well Being and Social Care Directorate, Isle of Wight Council



Media Work

Highlights

BBC News24 overseas adoption interview

With Jane Hill and Dr John Simmonds CoramBAAF. Discussion on overseas adoption

BBC Breakfast

Discussion on adoption and race UK changes in 2012 with Ian Holmes, BAAF. Watch from 1.43 mins.

ITV News. interview with Nina Nannar

We discuss the celebrity 'Cherry picking' of children debate, ethical & cultural implications. Nina is also from my home town of Scunthorpe in Lincolnshire, off camera we chat chips and gravy!

Channel 4 News with Jon Snow

Discussion on the 2012 changes to adoption legislation in the UK

BBC World Service Radio 'Outsource'

Interview with Kira Fomenko discussing a moving Canadian adoption story that went viral and my own experiences.

BBC World News 'Focus on Africa' with Komla Dumor

I discuss overseas adoption, Africa and my advocacy work.

Times Radio, Mariella Frostop

We discuss the new You Can Adopt Campaign and why it's important to bust myths and encourage adoption diversity.

Adoption Today magazine

For the October 2020 issue write an article about transracial adoption and BAME families.

BBC Africa's Podcast 'The Comb'

I joined Kim Chakanetsa to discuss overseas adoption, complexity and the loss of cultural identity.

Newsnight

I joined a panel to discuss UK race issues and pre-BLM incident with Jade Goody from the 1st Celebrity Big Brother. *I advocate race & adoption

BBC London 94.4 'The Gabby Roslin Show

I often joined the news review slot, but in November I was asked to talk about my comedy and adoption work

Guilford Fringe – Featured show

'Spot the Difference' Comedy Adoption show was featured at the Guilford Fringe in 2015. During my UK Tour 2015-2017

BBC Radio Surrey interview

With Mark Carter about my Guilford Fringe Festival show debut with comedy adoption show 'Spot the Difference'

BBC5 Live interview with Sam Walker

We discuss the personal cost of adoption regarding parents and young people.

The Camden Fringe 2016: Top Picks, Spot the Difference is featured.

'Spot the Difference' Comedy Adoption show was featured at the Camden Fringe to as a 'must see' show.

BBC 5Live

We discuss pop icon Madonna's first overseas adoption and the controversy surrounding the report

SKY NEWS overseas adoption

We discuss pop icon Madonna's first overseas adoption and the controversy surrounding her choice

BBC5 Live

Interview about Sikh adoption case, that later they went onto win.

'She mines a rich seam of Gold'

Lemn Sissay OBE, Poet, Playright, broadcaster, speaker



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Purposeful passion

To support, educate and empower those in the adoption field

Train, learn and grow

Using our partnerships, online platforms, communities and media relationships we reach and engage into new areas of culture & society

Build Future

Pioneers are built. We are committed to working with individuals & organisations to pioneer change