

15-21 Oct 2016 **guide** 28

talks



From paintings to performance, pop culture-oriented artist Jessica Voorsanger reviews her work

Stars On Starting Out: Jessica Voorsanger Sheffield

Jessica Voorsanger is an obsessive. She has been this way since she ran away from home in Manhattan at the age of seven to be with David Cassidy following an infatuation with 70s sitcom *The Fonz and the Rich*. Such is the enormity of Voorsanger's fascination with celebrity that the multimedia artist has built her career on it; an early work from 1994 comprised items from Bob

Geldof's bin, and she's pictured above in *Men In Black* mode as part of a series reinterpreting dances from famous flicks. Appearing as part of Sheffield's Catalyst festival which runs to 23 Dec and celebrates creativity of all stripes, Voorsanger will be introduced by local artist Alison J Carr in what will undoubtedly be an illuminating discussion about fame, fortune and uber-fandom. **Danielle Goldstein** Sheffield Hallam University; Adsets Learning Centre, Wed

The chipper telly personality lets fans under his skin again with a second autobiography, Alanatomy

An Evening With Alan Carr Edinburgh, Yeovil With Alan Carr's enjoyably chintzy *Chatty Man* reportedly facing the axe, his second autobiography is auspiciously timed, albeit likely missing one fairly crucial detail. His first tell-all tome, 2008's *Look Who It Is: My Story*, mined an upbringing in a north-east footballing family (his dad was a professional coach) and a rocky puberty

that left Carr "with a huge pair of knockers and the voice of a pensioner", leading the comedian through these awkward salad days to light-entertainment success. This leaves its follow-up - the somewhat lumpily titled *Alanatomy* - dealing with Carr's years of fame, though self-awareness, self-deprecation and gawky likability will surely prevent it from becoming a tiresome "woe-is-me" account

It's not just Americans baring their souls on stage, as true-life stories cross the pond

Tellit festival London

In the fifth season finale of *Girls*, Lena Dunham's Hannah stands on stage at famed open-mic competition *The Moth* and tells the story of Adam, Jessa and a fruit basket. She's not the only one to have discovered the redemptive power of publicly sharing your personal narrative. And it's not just an American thing. Running across London this week, *Tellit* is the UK's first festival of true-life storytelling. Building on the success of partner clubs such as *Natural Born Storytellers* and *Speak Easy*, the 24-event programme is a platform for spoken-word artists such as English teacher-turned-YouTube battle rapper Mark Grist and regular joes alike. The festival closes with *The Quest* (Hoxton Hall, N1, 22 Oct), the culmination of a search for the UK's best amateur raconteur. Expect tales charged with honesty and vulnerability. **Bella Todd** Various venues, Sun to 22 Oct

of a man whingeing as he counts his cash and signs DVD cases for adoring fans. More likely, it will deal with the frail absurdity of a life in the spotlight, alongside his eight-year relationship with his boyfriend, to whom he became engaged in September. Here, the affable Carr will answer questions about both the look and his life, which promises to be - at the very least - an entertaining and probably quite filthy hour of anecdotes. **Luke Holland** *Traverse Theatre, Edinburgh, Sat; Octagon Theatre, Yeovil, 22 Oct; signings in Waterstones shops to 29 Oct*

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