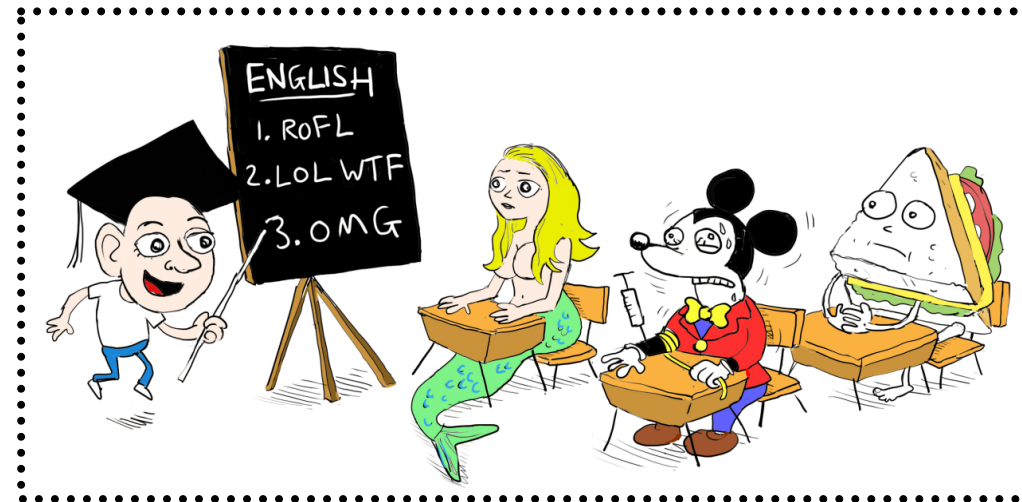


Lock up your sons,  
Recycle your daughters,  
It's...

# SPENCER FACEY IS OKAY!

**EDINBURGH SPECIAL!**



"I don't understand the jokes.  
-- A happy customer, last month.

## Hello Jeff!

Do you like fun? Scientists claim that 84% of people do. (4% said they were undecided. The other 12% didn't think it would be fun to return the questionnaire, so the scientists had to make some assumptions.)

Everyone who matters likes fun. But isn't it interesting how different people have fun in different ways? For example, some people like fishing for pike. Other people like shoplifting. Still others enjoy nothing more than a nice relaxing evening indoors, with only some soft-flame scented candles, three kilos of goose fat, and a CD of Kenny G for company.

Scientists believe there could be over 24 different ways to have fun. And most fascinating of all, the same scientists have discovered that it's even possible to have fun just by thinking about the different ways in which you can have fun! Try it yourself. Think of a way to have fun. Now ask yourself: was it fun to think about it? Hey there: you're welcome!

Personally, once a month I like to sellotape a carrot to a donkey's face. Sometimes they like it. Sometimes it upsets them. And once in a blue moon, the donkey convinces the carrot to start a semi-improvised jazz combo called *Donk-oh Carrot Jazz*. Whatever the outcome, I always enjoy taking part. The thrill of finding the right carrot. The semi-illegal hunt for the perfect donkey. If you can find a more entertaining way to spend a Wednesday, I'll show you a confused and moderately regretful man.

But forget about literally everything I just said: this is a special Edinburgh Festival issue of Spencer Facey is Okay, a collection of protips and life advice I've written to make you delighted. Thank you for coming to my gig. Honestly, I really appreciate it. My gigs wouldn't work if people didn't come. I tried it once with a completely empty room, but with the best will in the world, it was impossible to escape the nagging feeling that it was just a massive waste of my time. As luck would have it, the pub was haunted, so I got some laughs from the ghosts of a few civil servants. There was the ghost of a farmer in there, too. He'd brought his sheep along, but it's hard to count livestock as punters, even if it sort-of sounds like they're laughing.

If you live in London, you might like to come to Lolitics, my political comedy club in Camden. It's on the third Tuesday of every month, and I get amazing comedians down to try new political jokes, to smash the Tories. People like Mark Thomas, Josie Long and Andy Zaltzman do it, so you'll be in good hands, Steve.

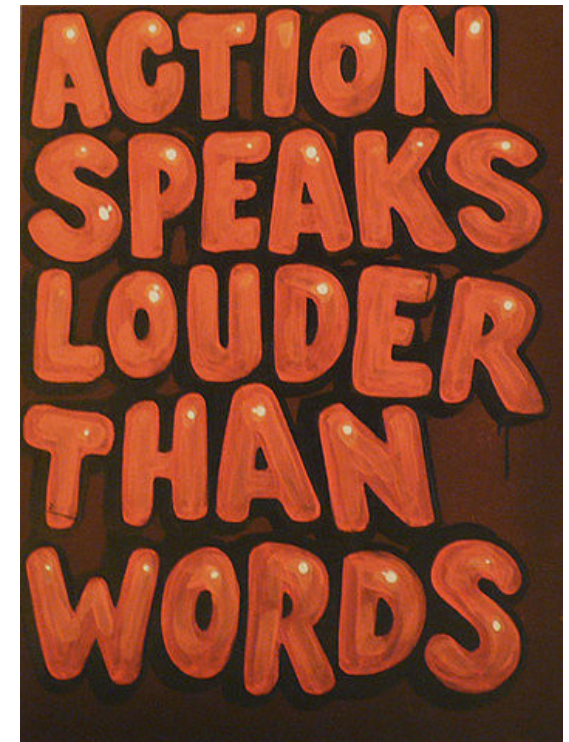
There's free cake and badges, and we have competitions to win booze and books. If that sounds dandy to you, then find me on the information superhighway. I'm on Twitter at @chris\_coltrane, and I'm on Facebook at [www.facebook.com/chris.coltrane.comedy](http://www.facebook.com/chris.coltrane.comedy). If you ain't not on neither of them, then I've got nothing for you. I guess you could just find me in real life, and ask me when the next gig is. I'm often in London, so if you want to ask me a question, come and find me in London. (And, I blog at [chriscoltrane.com](http://chriscoltrane.com). If you don't like politics, you should totally give it a miss, I guarantee you won't find anything you like there.)

If this 'zine made you laugh, give it to a friend. If it didn't, give it to a friend who has a different, and better, sense of humour than you. And if you really hated it, try eating some pineapple. No-one has ever been angry while eating pineapple.

- Chris x

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I found this picture on the internet. It really inspires me, because I always worry that I spend too much time talking about things I want to do, and not enough time actually doing them. This picture gives me a little motivational kick. Perhaps it'll do the same for you.



## ALTERNATIVE MEDICINE

### The Facts

When I was a teenage goth, I loved anything alternative. So naturally, I was into alternative medicine. I sneered at the fashionable "proper" medicine the trendies used. "I'm too alternative for that!", I'd shout in my doctor's face. "Give me rock 'n' roll medicine". Luckily, my doctor knew how to cure my gothic personality: he gave me a slap, and told me to sort my life out. I was instantly cured!

Alternative medicine, or "rrlrrrrntrrv mrrdrccrrnrr" as zombies call it, is an increasingly popular cure for many diseases, from conjunctivitis to Brackenbury's Disease, from glandular warts to "Chekhov's Waste". Many celebrities frequently boast of their late night alt-med blow-outs. Jimi Hendrix was said to swear by frogs legs, to cure his constant craving for frogs legs. More recently, Prince Charles has used homeopathy to rid himself of all traces of logical thought.

Fans claim it is a natural way to heal disease; as natural as a daffodil on a child's face; as natural as a naked man excreting on flowers from atop a sycamore tree; as natural as an earthquake on a sunny day. However, skeptics worry that infusing people with too much positive chi, yang and life-force will leave excess negative energy in the air, ripping an even greater hole in the ozone layer.

Clearly, we need to be careful. How can you separate the true cures from the quackery? Easy: you come to me. I've performed extensive first-hand research into some of the most interesting new alternative medicines on the market. I randomised the results, I reviewed my peers, and I even "double-blinded" myself. Also, I wore exclusively women's underwear during every experiment. That wasn't for science; it was just a personal preference. But forget about that: here's my guide to Alter-Native Medicine.

**CRY-KI:** An ancient cockney form of spiritual meditation. The patient is adorned with a necklace of jellied eels, then placed cross-legged next to an East-End market stall, while reciting traditional Chas & Dave incantations, such as "You've got more rabbit than Sainsburys". Practitioners claim this controversial new treatment can "cure all nonces".

**MUSIC THERAPY:** The healing power of song was first discovered by homeopathist Dr Emily Fats, who found that playing Atari Teenage Riot albums at full volume, then gradually turning them down until there was no sound left, proved to be a powerful cure for headaches. Since then, homeopathic songs have gained notoriety, such as John Cage's 4'33", which has no trace of the original tune, or Scouting For Girlss's "She's So Lovely", which has no trace of passion.

For fans of traditional music, try relaxing to a new compilation album out this month, "The Haunting Sounds of the Andys". Lie back and relax as Andy Peters, Andy McNab and Andy Kaufman impersonate the wooing of ghosts, creating spectral soundscapes and phantasmal planes to ease away your "worries".

**OPPOSITE HOMEOPATHY:** A very specific cure for a dry mouth, using the theory of homeopathy. The doctor takes one part water, and dilutes it in a hundred parts salt. The mixture is then shaken vigorously, and a sample of the resulting mixture is extracted, and mixed with another hundred parts salt. The doctor does this again thirty more times. The patient then drinks the salt in one shot, and will be cured of their thirst for the rest of the week.

**HERBAL KFC:** The herbs in Colonel Sanders' secret recipe have extraordinary healing powers. For example, it is said that rubbing KFC on a bruise will help the bruise heal up to 40 times slower, helping you to retain that "off the beaten track" look for weeks. Also, one for the men: if you are able to maintain an erection, try eating KFC twice a day for a month. You'll soon see your erection, your stamina, and your sex drive, almost completely disappear.

**NATURAL SEMEN:** A natural remedy for "what ails ya". Used for thousands of years by the ill and the curious, this fully carbon neutral medicine has recently gained a surge in popularity. Note: doctors believe that it is specifically my semen which is medicinal, and that it is only effective when consumed directly from the source, to avoid contamination by modern chemical pollutants. Please bear this in mind when taking this excellent medicine, which you should definitely try.

### ALTERNATIVE MEDICINE DICTIONARY CORNER!

#### HOMEOPATH

Someone who murders home-owners.

#### HERBAL

A single testicle that belongs to a woman.

#### ACUPUNCTURIST

A group of people who line up to punch you, in between your forearm and your hand.

#### CHIROPRACTOR

The most frightening dinosaur to have ever lived in Egypt.

### SPENCER FACEY VIDEO EXCLUSIVE!

Click to watch! Seriously!



PULL-OUT POSTER: OMG CELEBRITY!

SPENCER  
FACEY  
IS OKAY!



Nicola Kidman!



Jonathan Depp!



Alexander Pacino!



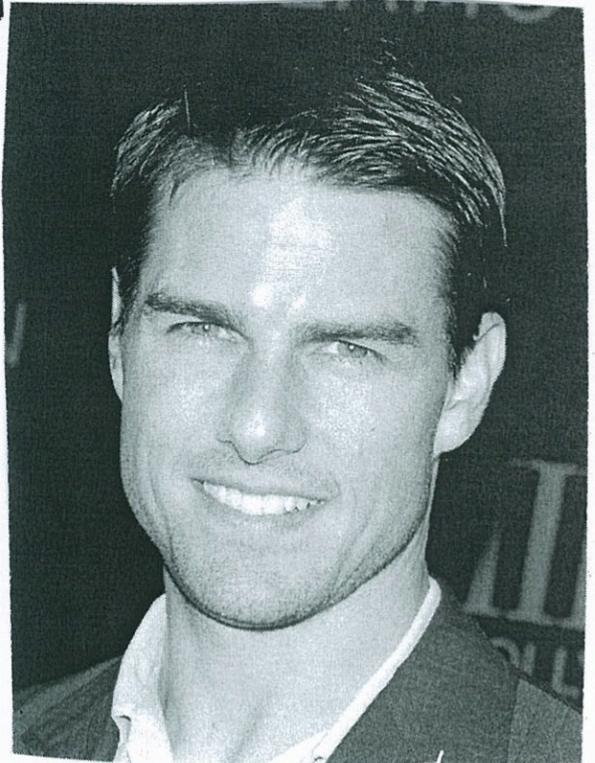
Bradley Pitt!



Miniature Driver!



Steve Fry!



Thomas Cruise!



Gareth Old Man!



## **TEXAS HOLD THEM** **A Beginner's Guide**

Chess. Scrabbles. Back Gammons. Craps. We've all played them. We've all loved them. So it's no wonder that literally everyone is talking about the game that promises to be the next big thing: Pokers.

Pokers is a card game with a difference: it's a whole lot of fun, with prizes to be won. All over London people are opening up underground "Pokers Retreats", where people gamble for hundreds of thousands of pence. Amateurs can strike it rich. Experts can clean up, if they ask nicely. And anyone can join in. All you need to host a game is a deck of cards, a Pokers Table, chips, a qualified banker, 30g of cocaine and a dash of mischief.

There are many variations of Pokers, but the most popular is Texas Hold Them. This flavour is said to have been created in the '80s by Rick Astley, during the Houston leg of his controversial "Leg of Lamb" tour of America. Details are shrouded in mystery, but legend has it that he invented the game to appease local fruit farmers, after he set fire to a blueberry. The locals appreciated his apology, and the game has thrived in southern states ever since. It's only since the Anglo-Texan treaty of 2010, that the game has finally come to the UK.

Nowadays, everyone wants to play Texas Hold Them. But it's a complicated game, and it can be daunting for newcomers. Well, if you want to get in on the action, then don't fear. I said DON'T fear. Just make sure you always have this handy beginner's guide to Texas Hold Them Pokers in your pocket.

### **THE BASIC PRINCEPULLS**

Five cards are dealt to the middle of the table, and stored in the "Communist Bank". In addition, each player is given their own two cards. They can either keep them, or eat them, though this is a rare and often futile tactic. Before you can see your cards, you have to "buy in". To make sure that there's money in the pot, one player is designated the Big Dave, and another is nominated the Little Betty, though this round-robins so all bets stay classy.

You get three chances to swap your cards for other, more betterer cards. Before you do, remember the values: aces are high, queens are kings, sixes reverse, and Jacks can switch to the gold standard whenever the price is right. And remember, the five of trumps may be a trap. Always ask your banker if they've "put a knave in the hive" to make sure for certain.

The aim is to get the best hand. To do that, you've got to know what beats what. Here's a handy guide. Memorise it, then forget it, then memorise it again:

Pair	Flushed Lady	House of Lords
Two pairs	Distinguished Gent	Royal Opera House
Three pairs	Four of a kind	President's Pair
Au pairs	Eight of a kind	Prime Minister's Lunchbox
Apples and Pears	Lovely Run	Heaven 17
Luxury Chairs	Pizzicato Five	Platinum Straight
Straight	Six and a lemon	
Running Straight		

### **HOW TO WIN**

The winner is the person with the best hand. If everyone's hands are equally lovely, then the person with the best set of cards wins.

It's tempting to gamble high when you've got a good hand, but be sure to never gamble more money on a hand than there is money in the entire world. Smooth-Eyed Joe once famously gambled £7,000,000,000,000,000,090,000,000,000 on a single hand, and nearly bankrupted the entire planet. Luckily, the United Nations sent in a trilateral peacekeeping force, and the threat was neutralised. But you, the novice, may not be so lucky. Tread carefully.

People will try to guess how good your hand is. Don't give them any clues! To hide your emotions, practice your "pokers face". In the privacy of your own bathroom, deal out a good hand, then look at yourself in the mirror, and try to convince yourself that you have no cards of value. If you can convince yourself, you'll convince everybody. Alternatively, pop down to your local face shop, and ask to see their "under the counter" selection of pre-made faces.

### **PRO TIPS**

Finally, here's a few quick hints and tips to turn you into a sure-fire player:

Fold more than you think you should. Don't quad down on a six, and always re-up on a running diamond. Try to tickle your aces, and never, ever share a pair of Daniels. Only once have I turned down a splendid pair, and I've always regretted it, but once you know how to handle a smoking run you won't drop below seven. And last but not least, you'll never fail if you stand proud on a flush of geese.

All the best of luck in your new found hobby! As we Pokers fans like to say, "Show us your cards please, Stephen!"

## FIRST AID

### **Become A Doctor The Easy/Incorrect Way**

I recently realised that I wouldn't have a clue how to help someone if they were injured. So for example, if someone accidentally cut their arm, I'd probably have recommended cutting the other arm so they had matching scars. After all, there's beauty in symmetry. (I've since learnt that this isn't what medical professionals would refer to as "best practice".)

I also suspect that if someone sprained their ankle, I would have just told them to "masturbate it out. On webcam."

My (now ex) employer sent me on a first aid course. It was really empowering; I learnt a lot. For example, I discovered that if you take all the veins in someone's body, and try to stretch them, as far as you can, you'll get arrested. Science is so mysterious...

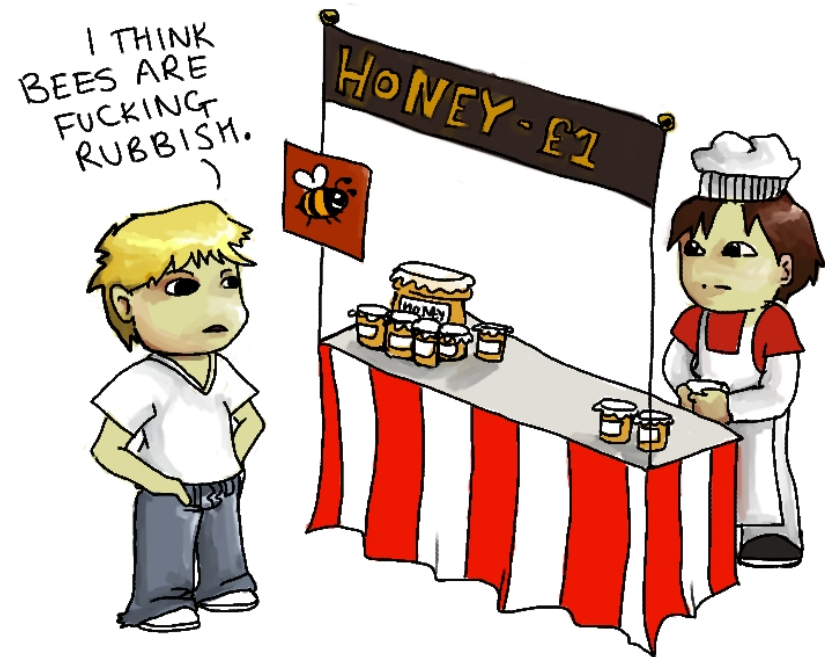
I still have some unanswered questions. For example, our teacher was talking about the fact that "they" put holes in pen lids, so that you can still breathe if you swallow one. I asked him if this was why they also sometimes put holes in the middle of doughnuts. He refused to clarify either way, so I need to do more research there.

This paragraph is genuinely true: on the last day there was a test, which I passed. However, it turns out it's impossible to fail the exam. You're given a dummy to perform full CPR on, and there's about eight things you have to check. But if you forget any, the examiner reminds you by telling you directly what you haven't done. If you forget to check if they're breathing, she'll say "That was good, but did you forget anything? Maybe anything to do with the breathing? And checking the breathing, or something like that? Something about breathing?". If anyone ever boastfully tells you that they passed a first aid test, punch them in their boastful face.

Apparently you only fail if you are actively a danger to the person's life. Nevertheless, although I am not officially a danger to your life, I will probably cause long-lasting heartache and mental anguish. I once became friends with someone

I'd be selfish if I kept all my first aid learnings to myself. Knowledge is power. Here's the most useful things I learnt on the course. They may, one day, save someone's life.

- If someone is having trouble breathing, close the airway to keep the air in.
- The cure for a stroke is a gentle caress.
- If someone is lovelorn, give them the French kiss of life.
- Essentials for first aid box: bandages, plasters, surgical mask, MDMA, wagon wheels, chess set, Dr Watson, £200, spare skin, time machine.
- The cure to illness is health. Lick someone who is healthy to gain their powers.
- If someone cuts themselves severely, kiss it better. Unless the cut is on the leg, in which case they win the jackpot.
- There is no cure for an epileptic fit. Also, they are permanent. Setting fire to the patient is the only humane way to bring it to an end.
- If someone faints, check their wallet for "spare currency" and take what you like.
- If someone is type 2 diabetic, bake them a cherry pie.
- A surprising number of illnesses can be cured by shaking the victim vigorously, then giving them "cock and ball slaps". Try this as a last resort on anyone you cannot cure.





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