

## PSYCHIATRIST AND COMEDIAN FINDS THE HUMOUR IN HER TUMOUR



Jo Prendergast and A Mulled Whine present

### **CANCER AND CARTWHEELS**

A Jo Ghastly production on tour – January 2024

Golden Bay | Māpua | Hokitika | Oamaru | Dunedin

#### **Comedian's life flipped over by cancer.**

Jo Prendergast was always good at cartwheels. It was her thing. In 1981, Jo did a cart-wheel-a-thon for Telethon. She was that good. In 2021, she was diagnosed with cancer and her right arm was significantly disabled. Would Jo be able to cartwheel again?

In her brand-new solo comedy show, comedian and psychiatrist Dr. Jo Prenderhast brings both silly fun and personal truth to the stage. Featuring stand-up, storytelling, skits, and songs, *Cancer and Cartwheels* is an uplifting hour from a break-out star of Christchurch comedy. A comedy show about cartwheels, cancer eviction, and Bad and Better wigs.

#### ***Cancer and Cartwheels* is a show about life.**

When Jo was diagnosed with breast cancer in May 2021, she asked herself what good she could do with the treatment experience. As someone who cannot be idle - even during chemo - she put together a website on managing chemotherapy side-effects, wrote a book on mental health, made a semi-viral TikTok, and penned her second comedy show – now finally making its premiere this summer. It is nearly three years on from her diagnosis; Jo is cancer-free and ready to laugh about the tough stuff. You are invited to laugh with her: *Cancer and Cartwheels* tours to five locations across Te Waipounamu in January 2024.

#### **The second production from the creator of smash-hit comedy *The Cool Mum*.**

Jo Prendergast is an award-winning Ōtautahi-based stand-up comedian, improviser and MC, known on the comedy stage as 'Jo Ghastly'. Ghastly rocketed to success with cringeworthy self-help satire *The Cool Mum* which sold out venues across New Zealand and Australia. Combining her wit, psychiatric knowledge and lived experience, *Cancer and Cartwheels* is an empowering show that is a much needed representation of cancer survivorship and a hearty laugh. Jo's humour and experience resonates loudly with women 45+ and her informed approach to crafting comedy makes it a meaningful – and at times educational – night out for a wider audience.

Complementing her comedy talent and psychiatry practice, Jo is also an author, with a new release book for parents about teenage mental health, *When Life Sucks*, published by Harper Collins. Her guiding kaupapa on the page and stage is to look after yourself and keep finding the humour in life.

*Cancer and Cartwheels* embodies this wholeheartedly; it is just the tonic required for anyone struggling with change, feeling overwhelmed after bad news or wanting to be entertained.

**Laugh through the tough stuff - with a hilarious night of gutsy comedy!**

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***Cancer and Cartwheels***

18 January – The Mussel Inn, GOLDEN BAY

19 January – The Playhouse Café & Theatre, MĀPUA

24 January – The Old Lodge Theatre, HOKITIKA

26 January – Oamaru Opera House Inkbox, OAMARU\*

27 January – New Athenaeum Theatre, DUNEDIN\*

Bookings from Eventfinda or \*direct from venue. Advance bookings highly recommended!

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**For more information, images and interviews please contact:**

Eleanor Strathern // [A Mulled Whine](#)

027 370 0244 // [amulledwhine@gmail.com](mailto:amulledwhine@gmail.com)

