

Tweetin' hilarious – Twitter powers new collection of comedy writing for Red Nose Day

Submitted by: The Marketing Room (Passionate Media Relations)

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A new collection of comedy writing hopes to raise cash for Comic Relief – thanks to the micro-blogging site Twitter.

Journalists Linda Jones (www.twitter.com/joner) and Louise Bolotin (www.twitter.com/louisebolotin) are working on collecting and editing submissions for the TwitterTitters (<http://passionatemediatypepad.com/twitter>) book by tweeting about it regularly.

Just one day after first mentioning the initiative on Twitter, they have found an illustrator and first submissions have been received. The deadline is Friday, February 20 at 4pm.

The resulting book will be published by self publishers Lulu.com, with all proceeds going to Comic Relief.

Short stories, scripts, poems and prose will all be accepted for the anthology and the word limit is 1,400 words. Copyright for the work is retained by the writer.

Staffordshire agency director Linda said: "I'm a fan of having a laugh. I'm a fan of short stories and I'm a fan of Twitter. This project brings the three together.

"Inspired by the Twitchhiker project where the Guardian writer Paul Smith plans to travel as far as he can on a sponsored 'twitch hike' I wanted to do something good through Twitter.

"The blogger Troubled Diva published Shaggy Blog Stories through Lulu a couple of years back for Comic Relief and I thought it would be fun to update it.

"The actual writing for this book will not be published on Twitter as it only allows 140 characters per tweet. But we'll tweet calls for submissions, link to a dedicated blog on Twitter and ask people to help via Twitter.

"We'll also publicise the anthology through the many writers on Twitter and hope to choose the stories to be included with the help of people kind enough to offer their expertise and/or time, again through Twitter."

Manchester journalist, blogger and author Louise Bolotin will edit the writing before publication. Artist Ash Lamont from Glasgow is designing a cover.

There are various ways the organisers hope the Twitter community can help.

These are:

Contributing a piece of writing/ask others to contribute.

Publicising the call for submissions (via Twitter, their blog or included in media coverage of Comic Relief or Twitter)

Taking part in the selection process. They hope to put together an 'expert panel'
Because of the influx of high-profile comedians, writers and TV personalities to Twitter, it's also hoped that the collection can gain an element of celebrity endorsement.

Louise said: "With so many celebrities now frequenting Twitter and broadcasting their activities to a huge number of fans, we hope that some will consider helping put something back and support our Red Nose effort.

"We hope that they can at the very least help promote the book and it would be wonderful if they could consider contributing or writing a foreword."

For more information, please contact Linda or Louise.

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