**Virgin Trains announce 20% off Advance Fares with Glasgow International Comedy Festival**

         20% off Virgin Trains Advance fares to Glasgow between 12 March and 29 March 2015 when you purchase a comedy festival ticket through glasgowcomedyfestival.com.

         **Glasgow International Comedy Festival is** the largest event of its kind in Europe and has become a renowned annual event in Glasgow's cultural calendar.

         **Headline acts this year include Jimmy Carr, Dylan Moran, Al Murray, Simon Amstell and Stewart Lee**

For those who fancy some rib-tickling fun with family and friends, the Glasgow International Comedy Festival returns from 12 – 29 March 2015, promising more laughs than ever before. Virgin Trains isproud to once again be the Official UK Travel Partner and travellers can enjoy 20% off Virgin Trains travel for them and up to nine friends visiting the festival.

Headline acts include Jimmy Carr, Dylan Moran, Al Murray, Stewart Lee, Simon Amstell, Tommy Tiernan, Rich Hall, Susan Calman and Henning Wehn.  The full programme is launched today and boasts nearly 400 shows in 46 venues across 18 days, with nearly 106,000 festival tickets available.

With 20% off Advance Fares with Virgin Trains, travelling to Glasgow International Comedy Festival couldn’t be easier. Arrive in the centre of Glasgow in the fastest and most comfortable way possible, ready for over two weeks of world-class comedy. There are two trains an hour to Scotland’s second city with a journey time of just 4 hours 32 minutes from London and one train an hour from Birmingham.

Adrian Varma, Senior Partnerships and Marketing Manager at Virgin Trains said: “We’re always trying to bring a little fun to our trains and partnering with one of the world’s most renowned comedy festivals will help us do that even more. Those comedy fans travelling up for the festival will be whisked straight into the centre of Glasgow in the comfort that’s to be expected of Virgin Trains.”

Sarah Watson, Festival Manager at the Glasgow International Comedy Festival said: “We pride ourselves on being one of the biggest and best comedy festivals in the world with people travelling from far and wide to experience comedy across the city. We want people to make the most of their time at the festival and the legendary Glasgow hospitality, and that all begins with the journey here.”

Purchase Comedy Festival Tickets and get 20% off your Virgin Trains Advance train fare at:   www.glasgowcomedyfestival.com.

Standard fares to Glasgow starting from £30 one-way from London and £15 one-way from Birmingham.

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**About Virgin Trains**

Virgin Trains is the brand name of Virgin Rail Group (VRG), which is owned by Virgin Group (51%) and Stagecoach (49%). Virgin Trains has operated the West Coast passenger train franchise since 1997, serving key UK cities including London, Birmingham, Manchester, Liverpool and Glasgow. In June 2014 the Department for Transport (DfT) awarded VRG a new franchise until at least April 2017.

Virgin Trains is committed to delivering a high speed, high frequency service, offering shorter journey times, more comfortable travel and excellent customer service. We provide the most frequent long-distance rail service in Europe (London - Manchester and London – Birmingham, both every 20 minutes).

Since 1997, Virgin Trains has introduced over 70 new trains at a cost of £1.5 billion. The service carries more than 32 million passengers a year and Virgin Trains employs approximately 3,290 staff.

Virgin Trains customers consistently rate the company as one of the top long-distance rail franchise operators in the National Passenger Survey (NPS) commissioned by industry watchdog “Passenger Focus”.

Visit the Virgin Trains Media Room - [www.virgintrains.co.uk/mediaroom](http://www.virgintrains.co.uk/mediaroom) - for the latest news, images and videos. To receive new content, as it is published, go to [**Follow Virgin Train**](http://www.mynewsdesk.com/follow/47939)**s** and click on ‘Create account’.

Press Office: 0845 000 3333. Company website: [www.virgintrains.co.uk](http://www.virgintrains.co.uk).

About the Glasgow International Comedy Festival (GICF)

- The Glasgow International Comedy Festival was established in 2003 and is now entering its thirteenth year.

- The Glasgow International Comedy Festival is supported by main funder, Glasgow City Marketing Bureau.

- The festival is organised by the Scottish Comedy Agency, a sister company of Salt’n’Sauce Promotions Ltd, which owns and operates the highly successful Stand Comedy Clubs in Edinburgh, Glasgow and Newcastle.

- Tickets for all shows are available via the respective venue’s own box offices, direct from glasgowcomedyfestival.com or 0844 873 7353.

- register at glasgowcomedyfestival.com for all the latest news and follow on Twitter and Facebook @glasgowcomedy