

The 2008 Malcolm Hardee Award for comedy has been presented to Edward Aczel, former project manager for a marketing company in Aylesbury, who once heckled Malcolm at a London University gig.

The Award is for "comic originality of thought or performance" at the Edinburgh Fringe. It commemorates anarchic comedian and club owner Malcolm Hardee, the late 'godfather of alternative comedy' known for spotting and encouraging comic talent including Keith Allen, Jo Brand, Jenny Eclair, Harry Enfield, Harry Hill, Paul Merton, Al Murray, Vic Reeves, Jerry Sadowitz, Jim Tavaré and Johnny Vegas.

Malcolm drowned in 2005. An award will be made in his memory annually until 2017.

The Award was introduced by TV comedy star Omid Djalili and presented by Malcolm Hardee's son Frank and sister Clare during the "Late 'n' Live" show at the Gilded Balloon, Edinburgh, in the early hours of Saturday 23rd August.

A surprise 2007 Malcolm Hardee Award was given retrospectively to controversial musical act Doktor CocaColaMcDonalds.

The two winners received trophies but no financial prize. In a break from normal Award presentation tradition and to fully honour the memory of Malcolm Hardee, the winners were instead asked to lend each of the judges £50 for an indeterminate length of time. Negotiations on this part of the Award are said to be continuing.

Background on Edward Aczel:

http://www.chortle.co.uk/comics/e/549/edward_aczel/biography/

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Background on Doktor CocaColaMcDonalds:

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