

ROB SPENCE | FULL BIOGRAPHY

With a seemingly boneless body and a face made of rubber Rob Spence is a comedy hurricane, often compared to the likes of Robin Williams or Jim Carrey. With dazzling speed and precision, he fuses stand-up, mime, physical comedy, and slapstick into a style all his own. His performances have been described as “mime with punchlines.”

The Early Days: “When I grow up, I want to be a clown”

Rob Spence knew early on that he was born to make people laugh. At the tender age of four, he announced to his family with a deadpan face: “When I grow up, I want to be a clown – if I graduate from kindergarten!”

Growing Up Down Under

Rob split his childhood between Penrith, a suburb in Western Sydney, and the rural town of Mudgee, where his father ran a small farm... slightly smaller than Belgium. It was the perfect playground for an imagination destined for the stage.

Training: From the Streets to the Stage

Rob’s performance career kicked off in 1984, at just 18, as a break-dancer in Sydney’s nightclubs and variety shows. In 1986, he was spotted for his movement skills and hired by Australia’s Wonderland, a major theme park. There, he spent weekends performing as a mime and stuntman, fine-tuning the physical comedy that would become his trademark.

Weekdays he studied acting and directing at the University of Wollongong, where he developed his performance skills during the day and perfected his comedic timing with regular gigs at Sydney’s Comedy Store at night.

During his student years, Rob created his first one-man show, “Comedy Madness”, and took a gap year to perform as a street performer around the world. He added juggling and magic to his toolkit, financing his journey through Australia, North America, Europe, and Asia. On one of these adventures, he met his future wife Silvie, who introduced him to the wonders of Switzerland.

After graduating, Rob traveled to London to train with legendary French clown Philippe Gaulier — an experience that was as bruising as it was illuminating. Gaulier’s famous critique still echoes in Rob’s ears: “Does anyone think this shit is funny?”

Global Breakthrough: Just For Laughs

In 1991, after a standout performance at the Montreux Comedy Festival, Rob was invited to the iconic Criterion Theatre in London. Soon after, he opened the televised gala at Just for Laughs, the world’s biggest comedy festival in Montreal, alongside comedy legends Milton Berle, Bobcat Goldwait and Mary Tyler-Moore. A North American tour followed before Rob

returned to Europe, establishing Switzerland as his creative base. TV appearances and international festival shows followed.

European Spotlight: Freiburg Kulturbörse

In 1993, Rob took the stage at the Freiburg Kulturbörse, Europe's largest performing arts marketplace — a key moment in his European breakthrough. Eager to connect with audiences across the continent, he threw himself into learning German, French, and Italian. The results? As he wryly puts it, "Still not perfect — but funny enough." His fearless, often self-deprecating approach to language only added to his appeal, helping him become a beloved presence on European TV and a standout in the live comedy scene.

TV Stardom: Rob's Comedy Club

In 1998, after a standout performance at Zurich's "Züri lacht" comedy festival, Rob's popularity exploded in Switzerland. He was given his own show, Rob's Comedy Club, where he hosted 44 episodes featuring top German-speaking and international comedians from over 20 countries.

In 2001, he joined the hit German TV show on SAT1 "Die Wochenshow", later performing on the Wochenshow Live Tour across Germany—playing in stadiums for crowds of up to 12,000 screaming fans.

Back on Stage: 100% Live, 100% Rob

In 2003, Rob returned to his roots with a new solo show: "The Odyssey"—a riotous reinterpretation of Homer's classic tale. The show was a hit with both critics and fans. Mainzer Zeitung raved: "Whether he's a drooling Cyclops, a stoned cow, or Zeus in Clint Eastwood mode – Rob plays them all. Brilliant ideas fly fast and furious, but he always brings them full circle. A rich, layered performance that lingers in your memory."

Circus Meets Comedy

In 2004, Rob starred in the Australian comedy production Shoosh, earning the title "mime genius" from the Sydney Morning Herald.

In 2006, he toured Scotland, Germany, France, Canada, and Switzerland with his show "Animalistic", and in 2008, he fulfilled a dream by performing at the legendary Olympia Theatre in Paris. That same year, he took a lead role in Salto Natale, the Swiss Christmas circus created by Rolf and Gregory Knie.

In 2011, he performed 50 sold-out shows with Circus Roncalli at Berlin's Tempodrom, wowing 3,000 people per night.

New Shows, New Laughter

From 2012–2013, Rob toured with his solo show “The Kangamoo” selling out theaters across Switzerland. The Neue Zürcher Zeitung wrote: “Two hours of non-stop belly laughs guaranteed by this cheeky Aussie marsupial!”

From 2014–2017, he returned with “Strong” (*Echt stark*), proving once again that he was a creative force with an unmatched live presence.

Between 2017 and 2019, his next original show, “Very Mad Men,” kept Swiss audiences roaring with laughter as Rob continued to grow his dedicated fanbase.

Turning Lockdown Into Laughter – The Comedy Crash Course

When the world shut down in 2020, Rob Spence geared up. Instead of retreating, he created what many consider the most in-depth online comedy course on the planet:

Drawing from decades of global experience—from busking on Sydney streets to commanding major stages—Rob filmed 80 video lessons, covering everything from physical comedy to stand-up techniques. He turned a tough time into a goldmine for aspiring performers. www.comedy-crash-course.com

The Best of Rob – Still Going Strong

Since 2023, Rob has been touring with his “Best Of” show, giving audiences a thrilling ride through the greatest hits of his career. Originally planned as a one-off, the show became a long-running hit. The “mime genius” takes fans on a personal, physical, and hilarious journey through decades of comedic brilliance—always with a knowing wink and zero signs of slowing down.

The Next Chapter: Spence Academy

In 2024, Rob launched the Spence Academy to share what he’s learned with the next generation of performers, speakers, leaders, and teams. Blending the latest insights from neuroscience, improv, theater techniques, and stand-up comedy, he now helps businesses, teams, and individuals unlock their creativity, build resilience, and bring more laughter into their lives.

For Rob Spence, comedy isn’t just performance—it’s connection, transformation, and pure joy.