

Helen Lederer Biography

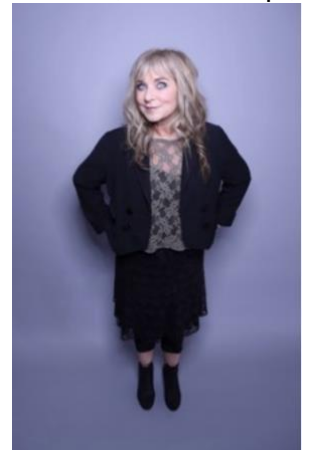


Helen is probably best known for her role as the dippy 'Catriona' in 'Absolutely Fabulous' alongside Jennifer Saunders in all six series and more recently in 'Absolutely Fabulous: The Movie'. She created the 'Girl at the Bar' in the BBC comedy sketch show 'Naked Video' and is known for her unique wit and observational humour. A comedy writer with an extensive portfolio that includes writing and performing her own material, not only as a stand-up comedian but also as a comedy novelist and contributor to various respected publications.

Helen has starred in a great number of top TV comedy and radio shows. Helen was part of a group of early 1980's comedians, including Dawn French, Jennifer Saunders, the late Rik Mayall and Ben Elton who made their names at London's Comedy Store. She was a guest on ITV's 'Saturday Night Live' with her solo comedy act as well as performing at the first 'Just for Laughs' comedy festival in Montreal with Lenny Henry. TV appearances span such shows as 'The Young Ones', 'French and Saunders', 'Happy Families', 'One Foot in the Grave', 'Bottom', 'Love Soup', 'Miss Marple' and 'Hollyoaks'. Children's TV includes the much-loved children's favourite 'Miss Bowline-Hitch' along with Bernard Cribbins for CBeebies' 'Old Jacks Boat'. She starred as Rich Aunt Ruby in 'Horrid Henry: The Movie'.

On BBC radio she has written and performed her own comedy series 'Life with Lederer' and 'All Change' as well as being a panellist on shows such as 'The News Quiz', 'Just a Minute', 'Quote...Unquote', 'A Good Read', 'Open Book' and 'Woman's Hour'.

A columnist for Woman&Home, she is currently guest columnist for i newspaper and 'Funny old world' in Woman's Weekly as well as writing for The Mail on Sunday, The Express and The Daily Telegraph. She has a weekly humour column in Best Magazine.



Theatre work includes 'Educating Rita', and Alan Bleasdale's 'Having a Ball'. She has been in 'The Vagina Monologues', 'Calendar Girls', and 'The Killing of Sister George', in London's West End. This is interspersed with many fringe plays. Her first comedy novel 'Losing It', published by Pan Macmillan, was nominated for the PG Wodehouse comedy literary prize. Helen set up her own [Comedy Women In Print Prize \(CWIP\)](#) in 2018 in order to celebrate and enable witty women's writing and create a platform for women's wit - procuring a publishing offer for the winner of the Unpublished Fiction category. Since then, CWIP has enabled more than 35 authors to become published. Judges include Marian Keyes, Maureen Lipman, Lolly Adefope, Llewella Gideon, and Joanna Scanlan.



Helen's appearance in Celebrity Big Brother led to her temporarily trending on Twitter. Her Stand Up show 'I might as well say it' was a 'sell out' at the Edinburgh Fringe Festival to rave reviews. She is a sought-after panellist and commentator. Her memoir '[NOT THAT I'M BITTER](#)' was published in April 2024 by Mirror Books and is receiving five star reviews. Her book tour includes many key festivals and venues. Helen was one of a few celebrities chosen to take part in [BBC2's The Pilgrimage](#) where she walked through the Alps. This was the most well received series yet. The paperback with new

chapters of behind-the-scenes secrets of being on BBC TV The Pilgrimage and the passing of Tony Slattery was published April 10 2025. She also has read this for the audiobook version. Read more in [The Guardian](#), [The Observer](#), and read the ["Not That I'm Bitter" reviews](#). Helen is currently rehearsing her role as Mrs Richardson in '[Fawlty Towers](#)' by John Cleese at The Apollo Theatre West End opening June 25.