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COMIC RECKONS WW2 LEADER WINNIE WOULD BE CANCELLED TODAY

Hero Churchill gets Kaned



EXCLUSIVE
by NADINE LINGE

COMIC Russell Kane reckons Winston Churchill would be cancelled if he was around today.

The stand-up hosts new show Evil Genius where he examines which category historical figures fall into with the help of a celebrity panel.

Churchill is one of those featured and while he's known for leading the nation to victory in World War Two, Russell also uncovers some less noble facts about him, from his love of violence to his huge appetite for booze.

Russell, 48, says: "If you were to put him in a time machine and bring him forward, he would just be cancelled for smoking indoors - he wouldn't even get to his first sentence."

With the help of a GP, Russell works out Churchill drank 26 units of alcohol per day, or 182 units per week. The NHS recommends people drink just 14 units per week.

He says: "Churchill had a pint of champagne at lunch, a pint of champagne at dinner with whisky throughout the day and night, wine, brandy."

"Was it appropriate to have someone off their t*ts drunk?"

"Go to a Wetherspoons and report back to me who was fighting at the end of the night."

"Was it the people doing Dry January or was it Gary and Dave p*ssed off their heads who drank too much? The more you drink, the more aggressive you are."

Shocking

"Maybe Hitler could have been negotiated with and talked down. You could make an argument he was too aggressive at the beginning and made things worse."

"That was the most shocking thing - the guy was drunk off his head while sending our brothers, dads, granddads off to be shot through the head aged 18. Not okay."

The show reveals how while he was Home Secretary, Churchill sent in the army to deal with protesting miners in South Wales, in what became known as the Tonypandy Riots.

And with protests making headlines at the moment, how would he deal with them?

Russell says: "He loved violence. He would have met any protest with physical violence."

The Essex funnyman would still say on balance, the leader falls into the genius category.

"He might have been involved in getting the fight cooking but there was an existential threat to the United Kingdom and our way of life, politics and freedom of speech," says Russell.

"In my opinion his charm and his diplomatic skills were probably 60% and 40% was military strategy."

Other famous figures covered in Evil Genius include Einstein, Coco Chanel, Pablo Escobar and Richard Nixon.

The concept - which came to Russell in the pub - started life as a BBC Sounds podcast before moving to Radio 4. The TV version is airing on Sky HISTORY.

Russell says: "We do now live in a world where you can wake up next morning and something is cancelled or it's genius. It could be carbs. It could be coffee. There won't be any debate."

He's already hoping for a series two and has decided which special guest he'd like to get on.

"This is my open invitation for Boris Johnson to be on a panel when we discuss Margaret Thatcher," says Russell.

Evil Genius with Russell Kane premieres on Monday, Nov 20, at 9pm on Sky HISTORY and will be available as a box set.

IN FRAME:
Russell with
Coco Chanel, Albert
Einstein, Churchill,
Pablo Escobar and
Richard Nixon

