

Local man in final of LAFTAs

✘ Iain Stirling from Edinburgh has battled against the hottest up and coming comedy acts in the UK to secure a place in the finals of the Loaded LAFTAS 'Search for a Star' competition, in association with leading flavoured milk brand YAZOO. Beating off stiff competition, Iain Stirling, 22, is one step closer to receiving the coveted 'Rising Star' award, which will be presented to the winning comedian at the prestigious LAFTAS Comedy Awards alongside comedy legends such as Russell Howard and Frank Skinner at a star studded London ceremony in February 2011.

Iain Stirling has been dubbed one of Scotland's 'hottest newcomers' by The Scotsman after his performance at the Glasgow Fruitmarket. He began his comedy career in his last year of Law at Edinburgh University, appearing in the finals of both the Paramount Funniest Student and the Chortle Student Comedian of the Year competitions. Iain currently presents on the CBBC channel along with his trusty canine puppet sidekick 'Hacker', as well as working as a writer on a number of projects for CBBC and BBC Scotland.

Scouring the country for the next comedy genius on the circuit, 'Search for a Star', in association with Jongleurs – Britain's number one comedy brand, is an X Factor style competition that sees thousands of wannabe comedians vying for that big break. Hand-picked from a series of cross country heats, each lucky finalist will perform in London on November 25th to a panel of comedy experts in a battle for the title of 'Rising Star'.

Whisked to London on February 1st 2011, the overall 'Search for a Star' winner will attend the 'Loaded LAFTAS with YAZOO Comedy Awards', where they will receive the 'Rising Star' award at the red carpet event. The lucky comedy star will also receive a £500 cash prize, laptop, plus appear in the next

edition of the legendary computer game, The Sims, with the creation of their very own 'Sim'.

Iain Stirling comments: "Getting through to the 'Search for a Star' finals has been an amazing experience. Comedy has always been my passion, so when I saw the LAFTAS competition was looking for its 'Rising Star' through local heats; I knew I had to enter. Competition has been tough throughout, but I am confident that Edinburgh could be home to comedy's next 'Rising Star'."

The Loaded LAFTAS with YAZOO is the only awards to be voted for entirely by the British public. Voting is now open at www.loaded.co.uk/laftas.

For further information search 'YAZOO Official' to find us on Facebook.