

It's a marriage of comedic convenience

TITTERING TWOSOME: Jo Galloway and Alan Committie in *Happily Ever Laughter*.



I ALWAYS tell Alan that I think there's no way any woman could ever date Johan van der Walt," laughs Jo Galloway, "but he says there are actually a lot of women who come up to him after the shows and tell him they think Johan is attractive."

We don't know, or mind, if Alan Committie is being entirely truthful to Galloway – who will star alongside him in *Happily Ever Laughter*, which premieres in Cape Town tonight – about his popular character, Johan van der Walt.

Directed by long-time Committie collaborator Chris Weare, *Happily Ever Laughter* takes a humorous look at matrimony and what happens after a couple say "I do".

Through sketches and stand-up comedy, Committie and Galloway offer a unique perspective on marriage.

The quirky actress is on a boat in Knysna – fittingly, she was there to attend a friend's wedding – when I get hold of her. Luckily, the couple (married by the time you read this) saw the Joburg run of *Happily Ever Laughter* and still

Happily Ever Laughter star Jo Galloway spoke to **HELEN HERIMBI** about the show, weddings and Johan van der Walt.

wanted to marry.

So how much laughter does it really take to keep a marriage going?

Galloway, who will celebrate her fourth wedding anniversary in March, says: "A lot. You have to have constant laughter. It's not always easy. You have to enjoy it in every aspect of your day and share it with someone who has the same sense of humour as you do."

Unsurprisingly, some of the most attended (if you count watching the ceremony from your couch as attending) weddings are examined in this comedy. Namely, the royal wedding, the Monaco wedding and even Kim Kardashian's union with Chris Whatshisface.

Galloway says one of the things she thought about when she watched the royal wedding was that she's "fiercely jealous of her (Kate) body".

And what about Kim Kardashian? "I know I should have watched

because I do enjoy *Keeping Up With the Kardashians*." But that's a problem that can be solved by Googling the reality TV queen's pictures. In this show, however, what's important is that "we deconstruct how people do get to live happily ever laughter and we discover a few home truths because it is not all that easy, is it?"

Galloway and Committie make a great tag team of funny.

"Alan and I started working on (the farce) *Perfect Wedding* and decided we wanted to work together again. So we wrote this show together.

"We decided to use things like fairy tales and nursery rhymes and the lies parents tell us when we're small" to make up the nitty gritty of this production.

While the pair aren't strangers to each other, stand-up comedy was new territory for Galloway, "so I was very scared".

But perhaps her initial fears of doing stand-up in this show are nothing compared to the fear she has for whoever would dare go on a date with Van der Walt because, after all, "it's one thing to have a man who will make you laugh, but there's the other side of it as well: he has to be attractive".

● *Happily Ever Laughter* is at Theatre on the Bay in Camps Bay until November 19. Tickets priced from R100. Book at 021 438 3300.