

Now you can TAKE PART IN TASKMASTER



The TV show has been turned into an immersive experience – and we got the VIP grand tour from Alex Horne himself

We are standing in front of the *Taskmaster* house – except it's not the real *Taskmaster* house. Sure, the life-size model cow (the actual one from the show) is here, but this is a warehouse in south east London, not the English countryside.

It's a sunny September afternoon, and *heat* is at Dock X in Canada Water to visit the set of *Taskmaster: The Live Experience*, a brand-new

interactive adventure that's part escape room, part immersive theatre show. It's based on the hit comedy challenge show, which has gained a cult following ever since it first aired in 2015, putting a rolling cast of comedians through the ringer in the funniest ways possible.

Each series, five stars – comics on the regular series, celebrities on the seasonal specials – take part in a series of wacky, trivial challenges. Across 18 seasons, the challenges

have ranged from painting a picture of a horse while riding a horse, to moving a boulder as far as possible in an hour, but all have been united in their silliness.

TASKMASTER-MIND

Over in Canada Water, the show's team are aiming to recreate the magic we see on television for a live audience. Greg Davies might be the TV series' titular taskmaster, but his on-screen lackey and show

creator Alex Horne is the mastermind behind the whole thing.

Taking *heat* on a tour of the set, he explains that a live experience was on his mind years before the show even made the move from Dave to Channel 4 in 2019. Alex had seen how much former contestants like Katherine Ryan, Lee Mack, and Daisy May Cooper enjoyed themselves, and wanted to give viewers a chance to play *Taskmaster*, too.

'I think we got to a point

about a year ago where we just said, "Well, it's now or never",' Alex tells us. It's a week before the first previews kick off, and things are very much still in production at the live experience HQ, with sets being constructed, painted, and decorated in meticulous detail wherever you turn.

In groups ranging from five to 14, players will be guided through the house, where everything from the tiles to the angle of the ceiling has been faithfully recreated. Inside, they'll take on a series of brand-new tasks inspired

