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ROAR Group expands comedy arm with CKP agency buyout

MATTHEW HEMLEY

Talent management company Rights Ownership Artist Representation Group has acquired comedy agency Christian Knowles Productions, which represents acts including Micky Flanagan and Mark Watson.

The deal brings CKP into the same stable as acting agency Cole Kitchenn, in which ROAR bought a majority share in 2010.

The company claimed its latest acquisition puts it firmly on the way to becoming “the UK’s leading player in comedy representation”. It opened a comedy division in 2015 to further this ambition.

CKP was formed 16 years ago, and its client base also includes Zoe Lyons and Hal Crutenden. It has been bought by ROAR Group,

founded by Jonathan Shalit, for an undisclosed seven-figure sum.

Shalit said: “Comedy is a serious business and I have long admired the successful agency built up by Christian Knowles. The ROAR Group has always mixed strategic acquisition with organic growth as it has expanded to become one of the UK’s leading players in artist representation and rights ownership.”

He added that the deal would allow the two organisations to “grow faster together than they would have done separately”.

As part of the move, Stuart Piper, director of ROAR Comedy and managing director of Cole Kitchenn, has become director of CKP Comedy.

He said the acquisition “marks another step towards our goal of becoming the leading comedy agency in the country”.