

# ThreeWeeks IN EDINBURGH

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## CHILDREN'S SHOWS

### The Amazing Bubble Show

The Amazing Bubble Man

Bubbles, excited kids, and a lovable bubble man, what's not to like? Unlike a magician, who must maintain a distant mystique, the Amazing Bubble Man is able to create an immediate rapport with his young audience based upon a shared, enthusiastic love of bubbles. If his bubbles don't get you, his witty asides will, and by the end of this forty-five minute show, your spirits will be soaring up with the helium-filled bubbles floating about the ceiling. Square bubbles, bubbles inside bubbles, fog-filled bubbles, cute three year olds inside bubbles, solar system bubbles, edible bubbles. Oh, for heaven's sake, just go. It's like the very best birthday party, ever.

C 100, 5 - 30 Aug (not 17), 12.30pm (1.30pm), £5.50 - £9.50, fpp 8. [sl]  
tw rating 5/5

### Patrick Monahan - Stories and Tales for Kids, Who Can Run Faster Than Snails

Phil McIntyre Entertainment by Arrangement with Vivienne Smith Management

Patrick Monahan's rapport with children is heart-warming. In this colourful mish-mash of stand up, story-telling, music and movement, Monahan has them giggling and clapping along with delight, and their parents all seem thoroughly entertained too. The charismatic stand up hugs dads, squirts water pistols and teaches kung fu moves as well as wittily responding to questions and quips from his enraptured audience. Every child is also generously offered the chance to clamber onstage and join in the fun, which is brilliant, as kids can get involved regardless of where they're seated. The interaction is effortlessly quirky, and even the rather haphazard structure of the show adds to the eccentric charm of this jolly slice of children's slapstick.

Gilded Balloon Teviot, 4 - 29 Aug (not 9, 10, 23, 24), 3.15pm (4.15pm), £5.00 - £8.00, fpp 15. [gjs]  
tw rating 4/5

### The Princess And The Pea - And The Pigman

C theatre

The audience of three to seven year olds was in no mood to be toyed with; entertain us or we'll squirm and squeal and make life unpleasant for anyone unfortunate enough to be on stage! Luckily, the kids and their parents were enraptured by this engaging re-imagining of 'The Princess and the Pea'. Five hard-working performers tackled multiple roles, moving fluidly from live action to shadow puppets, playing talking pigs and cross-dressing as other characters. The complicated story line was probably impossible for younger audience members to follow, but made the play more engaging for their parents, and with the friendly actor/kid interaction, the enthusiastic ensemble kept their young audience mesmerised.

C, 4 - 30 Aug (not 16), 12.15pm (1.00pm), £4.50 - £8.50, fpp 16. [sl]  
tw rating 3/5



**SNAP OF THE DAY:** Intimidating stuff, Fourth Monkey Theatre Company bring 'A Clockwork Orange' to the stage, at theSpaces on the Mile. Photo: Kate Edwards

## COMEDY

### Andi Osho: Afroblighty

Stand Comedy Club/Just For Laughs Live

Where do you come from? That, Andi Osho tells us, is the question she asked herself some time ago, and this engaging and open hour of comedy is the result of her self-interrogation. 'Afroblighty' is a celebration of identity and culture, and Osho skips from wry observation to deftly drawn caricatures of her friends and family (as well as people she's just seen on the bus) with warmth and wit. Each joke seems to strike a particular cord with someone different in the audience, and she's great at playing off these responses to create a brilliant atmosphere. The show is a genuine triumph: Oshi is a comedian who has a lot to say, and she says it very, very well.

The Stand Comedy Club III & IV, 5 - 29 Aug (not 16), 5.35pm (6.35pm), £6.00 - £8.00, fpp 26. [crc]  
tw rating 4/5

### Tony Law: Mr Tony's Brainporium

Tony Law/The Stand Comedy Club

Law is scrappy, under-prepared and leaps on whatever bonkers comments pop into his head - he is also the best comedian I have seen so far this year. Wearing a body glove made from "buoyant Kevlar", he effortlessly displays possession of that enviable talent of infecting his audience with his own sense of humour, meaning jokes which from other mouths would seem lamely 'whacky' are, in

his company, instant hits. A favourite was a skit in which he convinced us that the venue's black curtains concealed "forty acres of sea" with "loads of tugboats moving around". He has a singular turn of phrase and when a joke doesn't land - a frequent but never awkward occurrence - he makes back the laughs with riotous self-deprecation and grinning charm. Highly recommended.

The Stand Comedy Club II, 5 - 29 Aug (not 16), 12.30pm (1.30pm), £7.00 - £8.00, fpp 135. [kb]  
tw rating 4/5

### Gary Delaney: Purist

CKP

The blurb for this show promises lots of jokes but no narrative or themes, and it does exactly what it says on the tin; Delaney delivers an almost non-stop torrent of one liners, which are constantly, consistently funny. From time to time he varies the pace - giving us time to catch our breaths - by incorporating some AV material, but the quick-fire one-liners are what Delaney is famed for, and rightly so. As promised there was no whimsy, no storytelling, just hilarious gag after hilarious gag. He judged the audience on our response to his more off-colour jokes; luckily we appeared quite depraved, and were treated to a brilliant barrage of bad-taste humour to close.

Pleasance Courtyard, 4 - 29 Aug (not 16), 8.30pm (9.25pm), £7.50 - £9.50, fpp 66. [al]  
tw rating 4/5

### Geraldine Quinn - Shut Up And Sing

Geraldine Quinn

As infectious as a really good pop song, the spandex-swathed Geraldine Quinn straddles comedy and cabaret while guiding us through what it takes to write a hit. The Wagga Wagga-born performer (perhaps a career in comedy was inevitable) serves up sharply-observed parodies, covering everything from bubblegum beats to tween country angst. This last perhaps lacks some of the originality of the rest: Pippa Evans has already brought the crazy-girl-with-acoustic-guitar character to prominence. Quinn's song-writing and her voice are genuinely impressive on their own merits, especially in the show-stopping 'Camel Toe' and the deliciously tasteless 'Gallipoli'. Like a black thong under a sheer leotard, her affection for and knowledge of pop shines through.

Underbelly, Cowgate, 5 - 29 Aug (not 18), 10.20pm (11.20pm), £8.00 - £10.50, fpp 67. [gg]  
tw rating 4/5

### Bonus Material

The Lincoln Company

Framed against the backdrop of a dysfunctional behind-the-scenes film, 'Bonus Material' comprises content that is rich and varied, and boasts some strong performances, as well as moronic mess-ups. Unquestionably, the comic highlight of the piece is the character of the scriptwriter -

cont>>

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