



Culture

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# Geek with comic genius

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*Melbourne Town Hall,  
Tuesday to Sunday, 8.30pm,  
until April 21*

Stand-up comedy is the only truly egalitarian arm of the entertainment business. Plastic surgery and social graces are an irrelevance. If you're funny, you will be worshipped as a god no matter how overweight, ugly, snaggle-toothed or freaky you are.

And so it is with Daniel Kitson, a bearded, bespectacled, swearing, stuttering geek from England. Every aspect of his painfully awkward 25-year-old misfit demeanour screams out that he has nothing in his life except a complete back

collection of individually wrapped and cross-referenced mint-condition X-Men comics.

But Kitson has been tapped on his limp-haired head by the fairy wand of comedy brilliance, and thus is forever transformed into a creature of grace and beauty. Kitson's gift is the alchemic power to spin ugly dross into comedy gold. He is deeply, affectingly funny.

He talks of the loneliness of masturbation, about looking retarded, clumsiness, adolescence, school sports, Down syndrome and romance. He swears a lot, but somehow it's charming and naive rather than gratuitous. Kitson has a pure spirit that beams out from behind his rampant beard and Coke-bottle glasses.

Kitson, a fairly new face even in the UK, was nominated for a Perrier at last year's Edinburgh Festival. It is, essentially, exactly the same as the self-titled show he is performing here, the only difference being that in Edinburgh the show was called Love, Innocence, And The Word Cock. This is one of the most perfect titles in comedy history; Kitson is profane but sweet, naive but knowing, clear-of-heart and achingly funny. A class act.

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