

The Pun

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EDITION

Your free, independent guide to the Melbourne International Comedy Festival 2009

Saying Goodbye to Ruby Tuesday

by Lefa Singleton Norton

Goodbye Ruby Tuesday is the latest offering from ambitious comic Justin Hamilton. It's a show that mixes stand-up and theatre, raises questions about the role of comedy for the punter and offers a refreshing perspective on both comics and audiences.

For Ruby (Hannah Norris) who has just moved to Melbourne, a chance meeting with comic Jason Harrington (Hamilton) leads to an unlikely friendship and a developing interest in the local comedy scene. Through their quirky friendship, she is forced to confront the past she's been moving away from since leaving her hometown of Canberra, and a future she can't quite face yet.

From the moment Hannah Norris takes to the stage she shines as Ruby, part obsessive in her need for routine and order, part desperate for that



special something that will make her life interesting or unique. Hamilton has written a truly likeable character, and has gifted her with some great dialogue. She doesn't play straight man to his funny man, nor is she a prop for a story about him. This is a show about Ruby, and Hamilton has done well to play Harrington as a second fiddle to her narrative.

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Queen Victoria's Secret Catalogue



by Sandi Tighello

Stepping down into fortyfive downstairs was a step into the unknown. What treasure, what comedy, was waiting for me? *Queen Victoria's Secret Catalogue* sounds like a lingerie parade from the 1800s. Alas, it's not. It is, however, a theatre show cum stand up cum sketch cum narration of a show. And, whilst somewhat silly, terribly unrealistic and, at times, slightly confusing, it's a great deal of fun.

The one hour show is a whirlwind of monologues and accents – all expertly and brilliantly delivered by the talented five member cast – Libby Ahearn, Cait Harris, Trent Newman, Zoe Norton Lodge and Mark Sutton.

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Dave Bushell

by Travers Purton

Dave Bushell is a manic little red ball of energy, a collapsed comedy star gone supernova, like the love child of Dylan Moran and a ginger Tasmanian devil. *Let the Kid Go* is an errant vehicle for Bushell to drive along the tumultuous streets of his mind like a third world tour bus operator. He is a man on a mission to 'embrace life' and if he can't embrace it he will at the very least grab life by the ears and lick its face.

Working twin narratives of living a full life and winning back his girl, Bushell spins tales of travel and lost ardour. He laments his lot to a Spanish mountain and gambles the fate of his love on a game show, intertwining jokes and voyages of fantasy into his stories with confidence and ease.

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