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Daniel Kitson at UEA

review by: [Chris Goreham](#) **This production rated:** ★★★★★

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Daniel Kitson: hands up if you want to be in his gang

It's like being part of a teenage gang, when Daniel Kitson and Russell Howard let you in on their private jokes in a UEA lecture theatre, says Chris Goreham.

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If there's a happier tour bus on the road at the moment I'd like to see it. It can't be down to a rock 'n' roll lifestyle because Daniel Kitson and his support act Russell Howard both claim to be teetotal.

Given that it's hard to explain why these two seem to love life on the road so much - but it does make for a refreshing feel-good night of comedy.

Do you want to be in their gang?

It's like being part of a teenage gang rather than an audience as Kitson and Howard take it in turns to let you in on some of their private jokes and share their favourite moments from behind the scenes on tour.

Each is happy to let the other interject during their acts either from backstage or from in the middle of the audience with a camcorder.

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Perrier Award winner Kitson is one of the country's real rising comedy stars. He played the nerdy barman in the second series of 'Peter Kay's Phoenix Nights' and don't be surprised if higher profile roles follow.



Daniel Kitson tells us **[why he shuns TV stardom](#)** in our interview.

Relaxed isn't the word. He presents his entire act sat on a chair in the centre of stage and with his untidy beard, long straggly hair and Ben Folds Five T-shirt he'd have no problem fitting in on any university campus.

The slightly odd venue, one of the UEA lecture theatres, provided some irresistible opportunities that Kitson didn't fail to make the most of.

Student style and classroom capers

From the childish writing rude words on a blackboard to playing with the house lights from the on-stage podium his spontaneous mischief went down well with an audience of 300 or so, made up mainly of students.

He does engage in some banter with the audience and he's not afraid to experiment with his act.

One of his real strengths is the ability to shrug his shoulders and admit when he's led himself down a blind alley without visibly squirming or resorting to being offensive towards whichever poor unfortunate front row dweller he's picked on as so many other comedians do.

The show ended with three of the audience members carrying Kitson off stage shoulder high.

But before you start thinking that this was due to the most triumphant comedy performance ever, it was completely engineered by Kitson.

The way the audience went with it though would suggest he may not be too far away from getting that sort of reaction without having to ask.

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