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STAGE

February, 2003

Daniel Kitson: Watch this face



Daniel Kitson and friend

With his unruly beard and lank hair, Daniel Kitson may not look like your average comedian. But his gig at the Lescar pub shows he's a face to watch, writes John Murphy.

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The Last Laugh Comedy Club, based at Sheffield's Lescar pub, has been playing host to up and coming comedians for over ten years now, and it's popularity shows no sign of being on the wane.

In the past, the likes of Johnny Vegas and Ross Noble have trod the boards, and it was recently the turn of the Perrier Award winning Daniel Kitson.

With his unruly beard, lank hair and big thick glasses, Kitson may not look like your average comedian, as he freely admits himself.

"I've looked like a paedophile for nearly two years now..." was his opening gambit, which in the current climate may not have played too well in anyone else's hands.

Luckily, Kitson's self-deprecating manner meant he won the audience over immediately.

After apologising to anyone in the audience who only came to see

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him because he was in Channel 4's Phoenix Nights ("nothing to do with me...I'm not very proud of it to be honest"), Kitson was away and taking us on one of his many flights of fancy.



Does this man look like your average comedian?

Grabbing a spare stool and perching on it, his show feels more like an intimate chat than a stand up performance.

There are two sides to Kitson's act - firstly there's a sweet and vulnerable side, as evidenced by the long routines he devotes to his prominent stutter, and the touching and funny tribute he pays to his grandmother, who died recently.

Kitson's completely unselfconscious stage manner adds to his charm, and soon everyone in the audience is thinking of him as their new best friend.

However, it's the other side to Kitson's performance that demonstrates his real talent. He had some in the audience reduced to helpless tears with various hate filled rants against well chosen subjects such as Army recruitment adverts, Heat magazine, and award winning pop stars who thank God.

The latter was particularly well observed, as Kitson pointed out the absurdity of any deity prioritising Mary J Blige's Grammy win over war and famine.

At only 25 years of age, the future is certainly bright for Daniel Kitson. But he shouldn't be filed away as a face to watch in the future.

Kitson is a star for today, not just tomorrow and it's only a matter of time before he becomes a household name.

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