

## Daniel Kitson: standing up for sad people

Oonagh Jaquest caught up with Perrier award winning stand-up Daniel Kitson, to giggle about being shy, shunning TV stardom and tragic humanity.



Daniel Kitson and friend.

**They seek him here, they seek him there, but fans of comic Daniel Kitson will have to see him live as he shuns TV stardom.**

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Do you remember that Saturday morning show which told you to 'switch off your TV set - go and do something less boring instead'?

Norfolk folks who fancy live - not canned - laughter are being treated to some top live comedy with monthly Comedy Store dates Norwich's Forum and the Redcard Comedy Club at Carrow Road. And you can't always see this stuff on TV.

2002 Perrier award winner Daniel Kitson is the most elusive of comedy talents. Currently the hottest property on the stand-up circuit, he shuns TV stardom.

He prefers to bring his blend of self-deprecation and profanity to live audiences.

If you missed his show at the Forum in the autumn don't panic - he's now a regular turn at the various comedy venues in Norwich.

Read on to discover why he's standing up for shy people and the sadder side of life.

### Daniel, you've played Norwich before haven't you? How did you find it?

Yeah it's fine y'know. It's like anywhere else really, it's a place that's got some people in. And I actually really liked it. I barely sort of saw any of the place, but then, erm, I saw a tiny bit and that seemed quite pretty [laughs]. But the best bit was calling at the Red Lodge Travel Cafe on the way back to London.

### What was good about that?

What's the name of the main road from Norwich down to London? Well it's basically moved because that road used to be sort of a different



Daniel Kitson mistakes his water bottle for a microphone

road and this travel cafe's by what used to be the old main road from Norwich to London.

So it's pretty much completely dead but it's just got loads of photos of old music hall and variety acts who used to call there on the way back. It's really great.

**So do you like old music hall acts then?**

Er, no. But I like a bit of tragic humanity now and again.

**Tragic humanity? Is that something that inspires you in your comedy?**

Yeah, pretty much. [laughs]

**You were a hot ticket at the Edinburgh Festival fringe, where you got a reputation for playing on nerdiness and inadequacy.**

It's not very flattering is it really? Anyway it's not a case of using anything or playing on anything it's just more a case of me just sort of talking about what I think and how I feel and stuff. And that's how people just seem to have seen it.

**Do you think that people who are very confident are funny, or do you need to have a bit of self-doubt there?**

No, I think people who are very confident are fairly dull. Erm, y'know I think in order to do stand-up you have to have a certain amount of confidence. I mean I'm perfectly confident in my own comedic ability, but I'm not a particularly socially confident person which is a different thing I think.

**I've heard that you have some of the best put-downs in the business.**

Have you heard that? [laughs] I don't know if I've got the best. But I'm just quite rude. So if people really start to annoy me then it gets quite.... Well it tends to involve some swear words and some quite violent and graphic imagery.

And it depends entirely on what the audience do. So it's not as if I've got a stock of lines really.