

SURREAL

■ ‘I’ve lots of cardboard cut-outs’

Crunch time with Adam’s tasteful tale

BY YASMIN DUFFIN

THE self-proclaimed wonderfully-weird and comedy genius that is Adam Larter is bringing his latest show to Leicester.

It’s called Gary and the Crisp Factory, which tells the tale of a young footballer, who wins a golden ticket to a crisp factory. Of course, Adam insists it is purely co-incidental it might resemble a well-known story about a young boy visiting a chocolate factory.

“I’ve wrote it specifically for Leicester,” said the 27-year-old.

“It’s got a whole host of characters in from the city and county, including Kasabian and David Attenborough.

“Although I must point out, it is very low budget and full of cardboard cut-outs,” said Adam, who works in advertising by day.



“It’s just a bit of fun, the audience doesn’t have to think too hard about it at all.” Adam’s show includes songs, bad accents and even worse costumes.

“It’s very loud and is all about interacting with the audience,” he said. This is the second time Adam has visited Leicester. But it’s the first time in a while that he’s doing his own show again.

“I like to write stories, more than perform,” he said. “I like going up to Leicester though – there’s a certain friendliness up there, the people are jolly.”

He founded of The Weirdos Comedy in 2010 – a collective of “daft comics” mostly based in London. You might have seen some of them performing during this year’s festival.

“We haven’t got an official membership list, people drift in an out. Each of us is quite unique and different.”

Gary and the Crisp Factory, which is free entry, will be on tonight at the LCB Depot.

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WITHOUT his trademark moustache, Mike Wozniak looks like an entirely different person but, as soon as he opens his mouth, you know it’s really him.

Speaking in a characteristically gruff tone that falls somewhere between Griff Rhys Jones and Dr George Ryegold, Wozniak has a deft tone of phrase and a voice that makes great use of emphasis on certain words or syllables, that lends the sort of weight to his material that can only be achieved by a seasoned voice-over artist. The material is verbose and

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REVIEW

MIKE WOZNIAK

Firebug

REVIEW BY PAUL BANKS

lyrical like Ryegold, but not nearly as dark and disturbing.

Tonight’s show, flagged early on as a preview, centred on the story of Wozniak discovering a cat in his car upon arrival back in Exeter after driving from Edinburgh, and his subsequent efforts to reunite the Scottish stowaway with its rightful owners. Along the way, we’re

treated to his dad’s overly militaristic approach to the problem, his shock discovery that Katie Hopkins lives in his school catchment area and is judging him on his children’s names, and his constant attempts to appear ethical and liberal, which were immediately confounded at every stage, to great comic effect.

Throughout the show, Wozniak appeared relaxed, barely checked his notes at all, and maintained an impressive command of the audience’s attention. The story itself was varied

and well-told enough to remain entertaining throughout, and broken up every so often with some ridiculous animal “facts” that sound convincing at first but quickly reveal themselves to be nonsense.

Wozniak proved himself to be a fine storyteller whose yarns, though based on real-life events, are laced with just enough surreal flights of fancy, skewed observations and dark asides to give his show an edge, while remaining accessible enough to appeal to a mainstream audience.

Daily diary...



HE’S BACK: Henning Wehn

Ahir Shah: Texture 9.30pm-10.30pm, The Crumblin’ Cookie, High Street, Leicester, £7. Ahir Shah presents Texture, a stand-up show about adulthood, romance, drinking, loneliness, deer and other things of that nature.

Alfie Moore: The Naked Stun 7.30pm-9pm, Firebug, Millstone Lane, Leicester, £7. Anecdotal humour about life as a police officer.

Austentatious: An Improvised Jane Austen Novel 7.30pm-8.30pm, The Little Theatre, Dover Street, Leicester, £10. Each day, an all-star cast improvise a new Austen work based on audience suggestions.

A Bellyful Of Laughs In Aid of Charity Link. 7pm-midnight, Colourworks Restaurant, Westbridge Close, Leicester, £20. With Anthony King and Scott Bennett.

Christian Talbot: Work In Progress. 4pm-4.50pm, LCB Depot, Rutland Street, Leicester, free. The stand-up tries out new material.

Comedian Rap Battles 10.45pm-11.45pm, Just The Tonic At Hansom Hall, Wellington Street, Leicester, £6, concs £4. Guest comics compete to see who has the fastest hip-hop wit.

Count Arthur Strong: Somebody Up There Licks Me 7.30pm, Curve, Rutland Street, Leicester, £16. Character comedy.

Damian Kingsley: Frank 10pm-11pm, Exchange Bar, Rutland Street, Leicester, free. Anecdotes and dry observations.

Dane Baptiste: New Stuff 9.45pm-10.45pm, Belmont Hotel, De Montfort Street, Leicester, £5. Sharp observational stand-up.

David Trent 9.15pm-10.15pm, Just The Tonic At Hansom Hall, Wellington Street, Leicester, £7, concs £6. Inventive humour.

Devvo’s Friday Night Show! 9.45pm-10.45pm, LCB Depot, Rutland Street, Leicester, £5. Offbeat humour.

Festival Fiver Friday. 8.30pm-11pm, Just The Tonic At Hansom Hall, Wellington Street, Leicester, £5. With David Trent, John Hastings, Keith Carter and Darrell Martin.

Fool Members Club: Ultimate Late Show. 11pm-midnight, LCB Depot, Rutland Street, Leicester, free. With MC Bob Slayer and special guests.

The Geek All Death Stars. 9pm-10pm, 10.30pm-11.30pm, Duffy’s Bar, Pockingtons Walk, Leicester, £5. With Niels Forsberg and Mads Brynnum.

Henning Wehn: Eins, Zwei, DIV. 8pm, Loughborough Town Hall, Market Place, £16.50. Satirical humour.

Iain Stirling: Everything 6pm-7pm, The Crumblin’ Cookie, High Street, Leicester, £7. Upbeat wit and gags.

Jamali Maddix and Tim Renkow 8.30pm-9.30pm, The Belmont Hotel, De Montfort Street, Leicester, £5. Jamali Maddix and Tim Renkow come to Leicester to bring you an hour of hilarious rack cutting edge comedy both recently coming from the Edinburgh fringe festival with awards.

James Acaster: Recognise 7.45pm-8.45pm, The Crumblin’ Cookie, High Street, Leicester, £7. Stories, anecdotes and audience interaction.

James Cook: Always Be Rolling 6pm-7pm, Exchange Bar, Rutland Street, Leicester, free. Inventive and interactive humour.

John Hastings: Work In Progress 6.15pm-7.15pm, Just The Tonic At Hansom Hall, Wellington Street, Leicester, £6. The stand-up tries out new material.

Keith Carter: Welcome To Sunnyside! 7.45pm-8.45pm, Just The Tonic At Hansom Hall, Wellington Street, Leicester, £6, concs £4. Character comedy.

Lucy Frederick And The Claws Of Anxiety 7pm-8pm, The Belmont Hotel, De Montfort Street, Leicester, £7, concs £5. Just when you thought it was safe and you hoped you were cool, there comes... Anxiety Claw! The creeping suspicion that you might not be as socially able as you thought you were

The Mitford Sisters Are Dead, Long Live The Mitford Sisters 9pm-10pm, The Criterion, Millstone Lane, Leicester, £5, concs £3. Sketch comedy.

Morgan Berry: Pet Bereavement Counsellor 9.15pm-10.15pm, Kayal, Granby Street, Leicester, £5. Character comedy.

Mr B The Gentleman Rhymers Chap-Hop Superstar 7.15pm-8.15pm, LCB Depot, Rutland

Street, Leicester, £8. Musical comedy.

My Dog’s Got No Nose 7.45pm, Curve, Rutland Street, Leicester, £10-£14. Drama about a stand-up comedian’s first ever performance.

Nathan Willcock: Backbenching 8pm-9pm, Exchange Bar, Rutland Street, Leicester, free. Gags and anecdotes.

Old Folks Telling Jokes 6pm-7.50pm, The Criterion, Millstone Lane, Leicester, £5, concs £3. With Lynn Ruth Miller and Marc Lucero.

Phil Kay: The Wholly Viable II 8.30pm-9.30pm, LCB Depot, Rutland Street, Leicester, £8. Unpredictable storytelling.

Richard Pulsford Is Going On 7pm-8pm, Exchange Bar, Rutland Street, Leicester, free. Wordplay and one-liners.

Rob Pybus: The Living Cartoon 5pm-5.45pm, LCB Depot, Rutland Street, Leicester, free. Physical humour.

Rob Rose: Through the Looking Ase 7.45pm-8.45pm, Kayal, Granby Street, Leicester, £7, concs £5. Cheeky wit, anecdotes and tales.

The Scottish Falsetto Sock Puppet Theatre 7.45pm-8.45pm, Kayal, Granby Street, Leicester, £7, concs £6. An adult comedy duo performing with sock puppets.

The Secret Tour. 6.30pm-midnight, Secret Location, Leicester, adv £30. Visit three surprise shows in one night.

Sofie Hagen: Jokes & Stories. 7.30pm-8.30pm, Duffy’s Bar, Pockingtons Walk, Leicester, £2. Observational humour and storytelling.

Three Wise Monkeys: Hiccup Theatre (ages three to seven) 10.30am-11.30am, 4.30pm-5.30pm, Embrace Arts, Lancaster Road, Leicester, £7. Mike Kenny’s play about secrets and fibs.

Tim Renkow: I Don’t Know Jack 6pm-7pm, LCB Depot, Rutland Street, Leicester, £5. Dark humour.

Tom Stades: Decisions Decisions 6.30pm-7.30pm, Just The Tonic At Hansom Hall, Wellington Street, Leicester, £12.50, concs £10. Offbeat storytelling from the Canadian stand-up.

Tom Young’s A Work-In-Progress 7.30pm-8.30pm, The Criterion, Millstone Lane, Leicester, £5. Innovative and improvisational wit.

Wallbank & Barnes: Cornish Pastiche 8pm-9pm, Manhattan 34, Rutland Street, Leicester, free. Stand-up and songs.

Yours Desperately, Dan And Lydia. 8pm-9pm, Upstairs At The Western, Western Road, Leicester, £5, concs £4. Sketches and stand-up.

’Allo ’Allo: Le Dinner Show. 7.15pm, Curve, Rutland Street, Leicester, £39.50 inc meal. A comedy dinner performance paying tribute to the popular 1980s sitcom.

REVIEW

Dizney Rascal’s cartoon heroes

REBECCA HUMPHRIES
The Belmont
REVIEW BY GLENN MURPHY

GROWING up. You never quite want it to happen, but as your life-clock ticks ominously to 28 your inner-Queen Elsa bawls “Let it Go” under a cacophony of strings and jangly piano.

I can excuse Rebecca Humphries for not growing up, because she has it all figured out already.

The venue was packed with intrigued punters to welcome Rebecca, who bounds onstage to a jotter-pad slideshow featuring the Little Mermaid’s signature melody, Under the Sea.

This is Disney Rascal, a whimsical account of Disney through the ages, from a self-confessed superfan.

A cabaret-style fanfare quickly takes hold of the evening, as our host’s



graphed backing-track decided to do a “Windows 98” and go into standby.

along with a captivated crowd drew the night’s most noticeable belly laughs, the gist of which was that a sizeable portion of Disney’s animal characters are a bit too good looking. You’d be forgiven for affording a wry smirk the next time you visit a Pets at Home.

Make no mistake, this act is far from bubble-gum and hairspray. To deconstruct your topic this deeply, you can’t help but offer cynicism in equal measure. A controversial closing segment that takes a parting shot at the inner-circles of early Disney is evidence as much

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