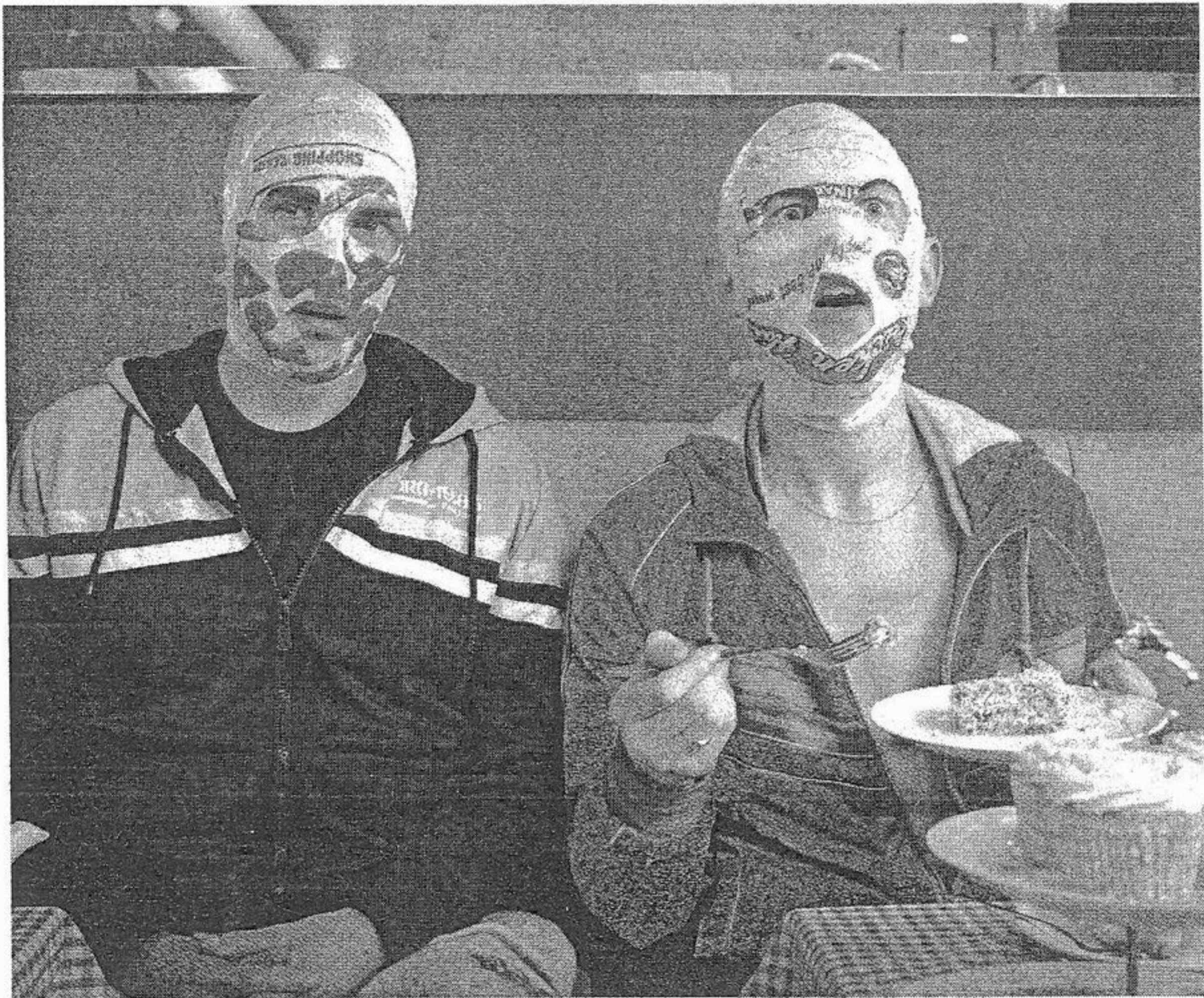


## Duo to perform 15 dates in London theatre



Good feedback: Blind Boy Boat Club and Mr Chrome - The Rubberbandits.

Picture: Ken Coleman

# The 'Bandits all set for Soho run

**Alan Owens**

LIMERICK'S Rubberbandits are gearing up to perform a whopping 15-night run in London's Soho Theatre, starting next week.

The acerbic, plastic-bag wearing rappers will perform from January 15 to February 2 in the theatre, billed an "underground comedy and cabaret venue" that is also playing host to Rich Hall and David Baddiel in the coming weeks.

The run was booked in the aftermath of the duo's television pilot for Channel 4, from which they have received "really good feedback" in the UK, according to their management.

The duo's show - performed along with the hilarious Wil-

lie O'DJ providing a deep house backing track - is a riotous mixture of hip-hop, dance and physical comedy, with the 'Bandits proving effortless performers on stage.

The duo have previously taken the show to Edinburgh's Fringe Festival where they won the prestigious Malcolm Hardee award and performed for 12 straight nights, as well as numerous festivals in Ireland and across the UK.

In a recent interview they dispelled any notion of controversy at playing one of their most popular songs, Up Da Ra, to an English audience.

"The song is more about arm-chair Republicans who don't know what they are talking about," said Blind Boy Boat Club,

one half of the Rubberbandits.

"Sometimes you wonder what the British audience is going to think, but in fact we are treated better in Britain than we are in Ireland, where people just shout and try to throw drugs in our drinks. In Britain, they listen to what we say between songs, and clap. It's a level of respect we are not used to."

The duo also ruthlessly lambasted the crossover success Irish comedian Brendan O'Carroll has enjoyed for his television show Mrs Brown's Boys in the UK.

"Brendan O'Carroll was forced to get a sex change in order to get famous in England. We'd rather hang on to our mickeys, thank you very much," joked Blind Boy.