

live+kickin'

dara o'briain @ dot.comedy | the warehouse | April 23

The Dot.Comedy crew have kept busy through April. Recently they brought Dara O'Brian to the Treaty City. He is well known for his appearances as a team captain on former Network 2 cult hit 'Don't Feed the Gondolas'. He has now progressed to hosting his own show on BBC 2 on Saturday nights, 'Live Floor Show' featuring the best in Comedy and Music all MC'd by the man himself. He is obviously going places so if you want to know how he got on his Limerick stopover, read on!!

A full house packed into their seats in Dolan's and waited for the appearance of the man himself. Before the main act we were treated to local man Karl Spain, the regular compere at The Dot Comedy Club, he got the crowd nicely warmed up and doled out the usual abuse to random punters in the crowd. Before the interval he also treated us to a glimpse of his alter ego "Fitzy" who has previously been seen on our television screens on future dot.Comedy guest, Colin Murphy's Xit File. All the Limerick gags went down a treat with the audience who seemed well able to laugh at themselves and Limerick in general.

After a short interval Dara O' Brian hit the stage and from moment one he had the crowd well under control. He bombs through story after story at an unbelievable pace each one as funny as the next. He did let us know that the last time he had played in Dolan's was three years ago the day that Munster had lost to Northampton in the Heineken Cup Final so not only were there shag all people there, not only were those that were there inebriated, but nobody was in a mood to laugh so all in all it was an experience that he would rather forget! By the end of the gig he said that he felt fully exorcised that the memory of the previous gig was gone and that he now had a new memory of a Limerick comedy audience and that it was a good one!!

The material covered included everything from the Military burial of his grandmother to his experience with a prostitute in Australia last year. My particular favorite was the bit about the mobile phone on the London underground, where you programme the phone to ring deep underground answer it pretend to have a conversation, whilst everybody around has no reception, in the conversation point out that everyone in Ireland has phones as good as these and really piss off all those English people without reception sitting around you. Always a good thing pissing English people off! and the crowd, judging by the cheers, seemed to agree.

Talking to him afterwards, I commented on the nature of his material how he very much takes the story teller approach. He swears that most of his stories are true stories with a small bit of embellishment for comic effect. He also suggested that he is not necessarily the funniest person in the world, but that funny things always happen to him and produce a wealth of material for him to keep audiences entertained. We reckon that this is a bit on the modest side. Whilst his material is great and they really are great stories, his delivery is just as good. He's a whirlwind on stage, the pace of his show is unrelenting and his interaction with the audience is also razor sharp, all the hall marks of a great comedian.

An example of what he meant by funny things happening to him was illustrated on the night in question. About seven years ago he used to host a show called kids TV called Echo Island on Network 2. One aspect of that was they used to occasionally run a competition where Dara would take two kids on a trip to London, kind of a date for want of a better word. Anyway the gist was that Dara would take the winner and their friend away to London where they would stay in a hotel, take in a show, do some sight seeing - all very innocent but as he pointed out if you were to do that in today's climate it would all be much more sinister. A 24 year old male taking a 12 year old & 13 year old girl away for the weekend with TV cameras, this country has changed a lot. The reason he brought up the story was that the two girls in question had turned up at the gig; they were from Limerick and were now in college in Mary I. Small world!!

As with all comedy gigs its impossible to re-capture the feel of the gig in a review, it really is in the way they tell them. The encore he got was a definite sign of how much the Limerick audience enjoyed the show. He gets the ICG seal of approval, if you get the chance to see Dara O Brian then grab it.



woodstar | the warehouse | April 26



Last Saturday I found myself enticed into a smoky, dimly lit Dolan's Warehouse to witness some fine offerings indeed. I could sense immediately that each and every member of the hungry crowd was there for a common reason, the love of a good gig.

For starters, there was Anne Scott's gentle, well received set, and The Pennywhores foot to the floor mayhem, complete with hymn sheets! With our appetites sufficiently whetted, Woodstar took to the stage for their first limerick show since the launching of their new independently released album, life sparks, to produce what can only be described as their best gig so far.

A hush of expectation fell over the crowd which was quickly broken with the adrenalin of 'Amphetamine Lights'. They eased into 'Through Our Lives' and then displayed their more tender abilities with 'Life Sparks' 'These Scars'. 'Time To Bleed' followed, acting as a pace maker to regulate the audience before being brought up a gear into 'Blunt' and lead into a total frenzy with 'Suicide Way' which saw the lads at full throttle with Alan taking Fin's guitar and Fin assuredly rocking the mic.

The next few minutes saw a familiar latex clad face, peeping coyly around corners and band members. Which led to the climax of the gig as Bob McGlynn (as seen dancing in the video for 'Dumb Punk Song') fully appeared and graced the stage with his funny peculiar presence, as he worked his bendy charms and bendy booty to 'Dumb Punk Song'.

Woodstar followed the highly enjoyable spectacle with their excellent single 'Sorry Skin' and they rounded off their masterful set with 'The Sky'. The crowd of course, being Woodstar followers, were very impressed with what they had seen, but none the less roared and clapped until the lads had no choice but to come back and fully satisfy us with dessert.

By the time they returned to play 'Blue Sarong', there was a feeling in the air that they could have played for the night. But alas, it was time to go, so the crowd polished off the final tune, 'Can't Let Go', and went home nourished.

It was clear from start to finish that the lads themselves were completely comfortable on the stage, extremely contented with not only their clean efficient togetherness and full bodied sound, but also with the reception from the adoring crowd. The atmosphere was infectious and delicious and one to be remembered.

Mike McGrath
Rachel Beare