

# EDINBURGH 1998 *review*

THE STAGE, AUGUST 27, 1998

## Superstardom will beckon



Manic magnificence – David Tabatsky presents *True Bullshit and Other Stories* at the Gilded Balloon II

Gilded Balloon II

### David Tabatsky – *True Bullshit and Other Stories*

David Tabatsky is a neurotic Jewish New Yorker straight out of central casting. He is a supremely skilful performer, and a fine actor, who tells plausible tales, mostly based on family life, which he stretches to the point of incredulity.

Occasionally, he reaches levels which no other comics have matched at this Fringe. There is one magnificent scene in which he re-creates his wedding, promising fiercely to obey his wife, scattering celebratory rice in the air, then rushing off and returning with a vacuum cleaner.

Too often, he reverts to a fairly standard form of Jewish humour, which has been done to death by the likes of Woody Allen and Jackie Mason in the past. But Tabatsky is a brilliant performer, and it is his performance which enables the material to appear more exciting than it often is.

Tabatsky could fill the London Palladium and reduce it to helpless laughter. He finds the same level of performance for 18 people at the Gilded Balloon. It is making that quantum leap that is Tabatsky's challenge. More original material would aid the quest but, no doubt about it, this man is a superstar in the making.

Phil Gibby

