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# Dispatches from The Fringe - Clowns with big shoes and little laughs

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Dead Cat Bounce...Clowns

*Dead Cat Bounce*

## Dead Cat Bounce's Dead Cat Bounce...Clowns

Rating: ★★★★★

Three clowns with egos bigger than their shoes sit around for an hour and talk. Do they still have it as clowns; should they pack it in or start afresh? And that's all there really is to Dead Cat Bounce's *Dead Cat Bounce...Clowns*, an uncharacteristically disappointing offering from a usually vibrant comedy act.

An ageing clown struggling to meet child support, who sat for most of the performance, argued with the pretentious clown, trained in LeCoq techniques, who argued with a third clown who pines himself because he doesn't feel he can count on the other two. Less a play, *Dead Cat Bounce...Clowns* is essentially a sketch stretched to breaking point, utilizing every verbal gag possible about clowns while bypassing, for the most part, the welter of visual and physical humour available to it. There were occasional funny moments, some genuinely funny lines which included a healthy

dose of sexual innuendo, but belly laughs were thin on the ground. For the most part the show moved along at smirk level, always bordering on laughing out loud which didn't happen anywhere near enough. The show ended with a short Chippendale routine that was more vibrant, engaging and funny than most of what had gone before, leaving the feeling that these comedians are capable of delivering so much more.

It was hard to reconcile Dead Cat Bounce's *Dead Cat Bounce...Clowns* with their excellent *Howl of the She Leopard* that recently took Edinburgh by storm, and deservedly so. There's no doubt Dead Cat Bounce are a first rate act capable of producing top notch comedy. Unfortunately *Clowns* isn't their funniest moment.

*Dead Cat Bounce...Clowns* runs at Smock Alley Theatre until September 22nd. Doors open at 9.00 p.m. Tickets are €14.00



**Chris O'Rourke**  
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