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Dispatches from The Fringe - Danny's got some funny friends

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All My F(r)iends
Danny O'Brien

All My F(R)IENDS

Rating: ★★★★★

Danny O'Brien. You know the type. He's the guy who has everyone laughing over a few beers. The one whose sharp observations and wicked turns of phrase have everyone going, "that's just so true, so funny." Smart, good looking, he has just enough youthful nervousness to take the edge off his confidence and make him appear boyishly appealing. The one everyone agrees would be great on telly. Or a great model. Or better yet: a great stand-up comedian. In the cold, sober light of day, ninety nine percent of the time this usually is just not the case. But in *All My F(r)iends*, Danny O'Brien proves he is that rare, one percent exception to the rule. For O'Brien has the makings of a great stand-up comedian.

Playing to a full house of a mostly younger demographic, O'Brien's show, *All My F(r)iends*, is an autobiographical rollercoaster ride through O'Brien's life to date. Tales of teenage school dances in Wicklow, of working on an Australian building site, morning after hangovers or worse, all form the friends, come fiends, come friends which make up O'Brien's life. And all are subject to O'Brien's quick fire, confessional, story-telling style with its disarming honesty and engaging

directness which made for lots of laughs.

O'Brien was ideally suited to his venue, which operates as a youth hostel outside the festival. For the under 35's is O'Brien's target audience. His material is stronger in some places, especially his tales of sexual prowess, failure and disaster which form the backbone of the show. At times his delivery did feel a little rushed, as if driven by a kind of nervous energy he never quite got under control. But overall the set was smooth and sharp. Generating lots of laughs, interactions with the audience were incredibly successful and the closing video sequence wrapped up proceedings in a neat and clever way, sending everyone home with a smile.

All My F(r)iends effortlessly lures you into its web of vitally funny and charming stories. And this is no surprise, for O'Brien is already the recipient of the prestigious FM 104's Best Irish Comedian 2012 Award. And rightly so. For on the evidence of *All My F(r)iends*, Danny O'Brien is a serious, young talent in the making.

All My F(r)iends plays nightly at Laughing [Horse@Bar](#) 50 until August 26th. Doors open 9.50 p.m. Admission is free.



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