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Dispatches from The Fringe – Man He Feels Like A Woman

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Conor O'Toole's Manhood by Conor O'Toole
Conor O'Toole

Conor O'Toole's Manhood

Rating: ★★★★★

Self-proclaimed feminist, Conor O'Toole, is a likeable and genuinely funny guy. Some of his razor sharp observations, quirky takes on life and hilariously self-deprecating mannerisms are laugh out loud funny. In his latest show, *Conor O'Toole's Manhood*, fresh from the Edinburgh Fringe, O'Toole's unquestionable comedic skills are in evidence for some of the time. But only some of the time. While hilarious in places, *Conor O'Toole's Manhood* too often settles for being gently amusing.

Part of the reason is that *Conor O'Toole's Manhood* doesn't really do what it says on the tin and explore what it means to be a man. A few, intermittent references to masculinity are lost amidst an array of personal stories about family bereavements and knitting, quirky observations and a rather lacklustre reading of the humourless biography of skydiving Apache chief, Geronimo. The whole

felt unsure of itself, switching uneasily from biographical, confessional stand up to observational [comedy](#), political gags to quirky off the wall routines with a song thrown in for good measure. At times O'Toole's delivery shifted uneasily between gags, being supremely confident on some occasions, at others looking like his confidence was feeling a little shaky. But when the material landed, like his brilliant, sexual harassment joke, O'Toole's showed himself to be a serious talent with some serious skills.

Conor O'Toole's Manhood may not challenge your views on masculinity, but it will present you some genuinely funny takes on life as lived by Conor O'Toole. It may not all work, but when it does it works terrifically well, suggesting that O'Toole may well be one to watch out for in the future.

Conor O'Toole's Manhood by Conor O'Toole runs as part of The [Tiger Dublin Fringe](#) at The International Bar until Saturday, September 20th

Doors open 7.00 p.m.

Tickets €13.00 Concessions €11.00

For more information go to <http://fringefest.com/festival/programme>



Chris O'Rourke

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