

her own material.

Caulfield's areas of interest this year include the wisdom of inciting foreign folk to drop by if they're ever in Scotland, the trouble with New Town bars and kiddies who expect to be worshipped. And as ever with Caulfield, there's plenty of bouncing off the audience, not literally, of course (though that might be fun). Caulfield has few peers in this area.

If you've never seen Jo Caulfield live, I could list plenty of reasons why you should. Or have I done that already?

**MARTIN GRAY**

Until 26 August. Tomorrow 7.45pm.

## **COMEDY**

### **Richard Todd: We Need The Eggs**

Pleasance Courtyard (Venue 33)

★★★★

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Richard Todd is the king of the convoluted comedy simile and it is a glorious thing to enjoy. He is still a bit obsessive and still in pursuit of

what he calls "the irrational, the crazy and the absurd". At the risk of seeming uncaring about his mental health (it's OK, he is fully medicated), long may that continue because it provides him with a rich seam of uniquely neurotic humour. He did not have a good Fringe last year, but he has been inexorably drawn back to the scene of his disappointment to try again.

He has, he assures us, "a rip-roaring hour". I am happy to attest to that. He ripped and his audience roared. From quite possibly the worst Woody Allen impression you will ever see to his relationship with Henry the Hoover, this is crazily funny stuff.

As always, Todd's narrative is painfully personal: childhood rejection by Goths, a complex relationship with his father, coitus with his girlfriend interrupted by crisps. All of this comes at you in a torrent of word-packed noise and you find yourself not so much listening to the Richard Todd Experience as surfing it. As always, the hour is

péppered with a fabulous bestiary of characters from Ken with the virile nasal hair to Brian the Triangle Man. Todd's obsession with the unexpected prawn cocktail crisp in the bed is beautifully woven in and out of the hour and is a reminder of the clever method in this glorious madness.

Live comedy is in danger of simply becoming an industrial production line for TV. It is the Richard Todds who will save it.

**KATE COPSTICK**

Until 26 August. Today 10.45pm.

**THEATRE**

### **As It Happened (Contemporaneous Notes)**

theSpace on North Bridge  
(Venue 36)

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Starting on 1 January this year, the Reactivists, a young theatre company based at Warwick University, set themselves the task of writing on a weekly basis in response