

Plenty of laughs

"Things are going to get awkward at breakfast"

Melbourne International Comedy Festival is back next month from March 24 until April 18. The average ticket price is just \$22, so check out all the laughs at comedyfestival.com.au

David Quirk

At the 2010 festival, Quirk reinterprets his 2009 Melbourne Fringe show, Neanderthal Brow, an absorbing hour of dry observational comedy, and what *The Age* described as 'a chainsaw with cheekbones', which certainly works best as a metaphor.

With comics like Felicity Ward, David Quirk stands at the vanguard of the new wave of 'car-accident comedy' - honest and frank, painfully funny storytellers. Quirk's material travels between the profane and profound, often finding comedy in our darkest moments, and ultimately questioning what is appropriate to laugh at, as audiences indulge their guilty smiles.

Felicity Ward

Multi award-winning comedian and performer, Felicity Ward (pictured) presents *The Book of Moron*, an intimate performance of humorous stories; experienced, written and read out by the lady herself. From an awkward interaction with a handicapped *Big Issue* vendor to her personal struggle with Irritable Bowel Syndrome (or IBS as the kids are calling it on Twitter) to an inappropriate Hawaiian massage, there is no dose of personal truth that Felicity thinks should stay in her diary.

Accompanied by her trusty canine, Dan Ackroyd (James Pender) who always attempts to impress, she waxes lyrical about why hash is a bad idea, why she'll never attend a poetry night again and why Martin Lawrence is the basis of her spontaneous hate group.

Sammy J and Randy

Meet Sammy J (skinny man) and Randy (purple puppet), two very different housemates with very different pasts.

Together they live in a house on Ricketts Lane, sharing the cooking, avoiding the cleaning, and passing the hours playing 'Chebble' - an original combination of Chess and Scrabble.

Sammy's an underpaid, overworked, shit-kicking tax lawyer. Randy hardly works at all. He's been married, divorced, thrown from a hovercraft and seen the world from all angles. But when Sammy uncovers some financial skeletons in Randy's closet, things are going to get awkward at the breakfast table.

Smart Casual

This two-piece "same mother, different fathers" pictured on the cover of *Utimes* will bring their low fi-com-rock to the Adelaide, Melbourne and Sydney comedy festivals in 2010, and ask that you be ready, and on time. Smart Casual are from Sydney and are apologetic for that, but it is Melbourne, that has taken them into their hearts, minds and backstage riders.



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IMPRO MELBOURNE



Free sounds loud

There is one music festival in 2010 that everyone can afford to attend and that's coz it's free.

Formerly known as the Moonee Valley Youth Week Festival, last year's event attracted 5000 young people from all across Victoria. Event organiser Ella Mason said that it was only natural that the festival evolved in response to its growing popularity. "The event has gained so much momentum over the past six years that we've decided to open it up to a wider audience, hence we've re-launched it as the Sounds Loud Festival", Ms. Mason said.

Featured in the line-up include Bluejuice (pictured), Whitley, Hungry Kids of Hungary, Calling All Cars, Scientists of Modern Music, Yacht Club DJs, Break Even, Dream On Dreamer, Behind Crimson Eyes, Polo Club, Seth Sentry, M.A.F.I.A, DJ Peril, Mz Rizk with more to be announced.

Sounds Loud Festival, an all ages, drug, alcohol and smoke-free music festival at Queens Park, Moonee Ponds, Sunday April 11, 11am to 7pm

myspace.com/soundsloulfestival

twitter.com/SoundsLoud

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