

Tatty Macleod: Funge
Monkey Barrel Comedy

4 Stars

Tatty Macleod will, in all likelihood, have cropped up on the discover page of your instagram, with her zany short-form sketches humourising the differences between the French and the English. From sex education, to how the differing cultures book holiday's, her videos have amassed her a significant online following from both sides of The Channel. This year, in her stand-up Fringe debut, these sharp comedic observations have been transformed from the brief snippets that garner millions of views across TikTok, into a well-executed hour of comedy.

An autobiographical chronicle that charts the origins of her online success, the show explores how she became both French and, later, *that* 'French TikTok lady'. Prompted by her mother's decision to move from London to the French countryside of Brittany - with four daughters in tow - Macleod paints a vivid portrait of a cross-cultural upbringing. From her development of distinctly French sensibilities when it came to school dinners, to her riotous role as translator to her mother at parents evenings, Macleod ends each anecdote with a well-set up punchline.

Involving the - packed - audience from the offset, Macleod expresses a secret talent, born from years of experience, of being able to deduce the French members of the audience from looks alone. After weaving through the stripey top members of the audience - a Brazilian - to asking a Scot how he'd hold a cigarette - not elegant enough - Macleod eventually hit jackpot with a French man named Clement sitting next to a man called Micheal from Milton Keynes. The two are instantly weaved into the show, and when Macleod acts out the differences of the French and English flirting, it is then she takes aim at, with good natured mocking.

Occasionally, as seems inevitable with comedy based largely on stereotypes, the observations feel a little predictable. Yet despite this, Macleod's clear personal connection to the topic allows her to underscore even the more obvious of observations with a witty personal experience, or at times with a genuine emotional resonance. From the difficulty encountering reverse culture shock when returning to England, to the feeling of having to try to be more French, or more English to fit in, Macleod touches on bigger themes of how cultures and nationality are valued in today's society.

Towards the end of the show, she laments how, despite having spent half her life living in France, without having nationality there (here she decries her lazy admin skills) Brexit has denied her the opportunity to stay there for any more than three months a year. It is a sobering moment after a show that so celebrates her cross-cultural upbringing and the joys of belonging to different cultures and places, not by formality but by choice. Ending with a beautifully sung rendition of a French children's show, Macleod proves that it is possible to bridge the gap from the online world to the comedy stage, and she does so with a show that has as much heart as it does laughter.

Aug 26-27th, @14:10

<https://tickets.edfringe.com/whats-on/tatty-macleod-fugue>

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