

# The Herald

TITLE SPONSOR OF THE EDINBURGH INTERNATIONAL BOOK FESTIVAL



**DAVID CROWE, EDINBURGH  
COMEDY ROOM, TRON BAR**

★★★★★

**CHARLIE PICKERING –  
BETTERMAN, GILDED BALLOON  
TEVIOT ★★☆☆☆**

There has been much talk at this Festival of trying to nurture more home-grown comedy talent. Forget altering the structure of competitions such as the Perrier Award, just get them all to go to watch the American comic, David Crowe, at work.

He has a deceptively slight stage presence, but that wiry frame generates a lethal comedy whiplash. A shrewd potted history of the UK sets the tone for some of the sharpest observations on offer in Edinburgh this year – from God using tornados as a vacuum to Hoover up white trash in the midwest, to why a mouse head rather than a moose head on the wall says much more about your ability as a hunter.

Crowe pirouettes in and out of contentious issues with the surefooted assurance of a comedy

Nureyev, while using the microphone to create an impressive array of sound-effects to illustrate many a good point well made: the cost of bottled water compared to petrol being one, and his analysis of the cost to America of being in Iraq another. Some \$300bn sounds much more up close and personal when broken down to \$1000 a head, and allows the introduction of the absurd notion of individual states sponsoring weapons. I mean, that could never happen could it?

Fears over the introduction of comedy characterisation to close the show proved unfounded, as rather than just filler they turned out to provide a surprisingly killer climax.