



## The List Operators for Kids

List Operators

### Pleasance Courtyard

**“That was great,” a young boy shouted up at his mother at the end of the packed-out show, and there’s no arguing against that level of conviction.**

The List Operators for Kids is a colourful, boisterous production, a medley of pantomime, slapstick and sketch, performed by two animated Australian performers, Matt Kelly and Richard Higgins. They take on suitably opposing roles, perfect for dynamic conflict - Richard playing the straight-laced uptight one, Matt the naughty goofball.

The children listen and laugh throughout at the entertainment, which includes the interesting animals list, a competitive yawn-off, a fart machine and a game involving different names for Nan.

Matt and Richard display a sure hand for audience interaction, and a relaxed manner with the kids. The show is brash and deliberately stupid, but also well-planned and executed. The use of music and soundtrack lifts the energy of the production, and leads to a strong sketch in which a young audience member is put in charge of sound effects.

Although this particular performance felt slightly flat, it didn’t seem to bother the youngsters present. Besides, everyone was won over by the final scenes. In Ninja Nan, the kids were directed under their chairs to find tea towel aliens, and encouraged to hurl them at Nan, played by Matt. It was, predictably, a scene of frenzied airborne excitement. And their piece de resistance, a scene entitled The Ultimate Sandwich, was spectacularly stomach-churning, and consequently a smash hit. The List Operators for Kids isn’t clever, but it is big and funny.

Review by **Maria Hodson**

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