# Kate Dolan showcases vibrant comedy at Melbourne festival



Kate Dolan's recent performance, reviewed by Steve Bennett for Chortle, showcased an hour of vibrant and whimsical comedy at the Melbourne International Comedy Festival on 9 April 2025. The show opened with a striking image of Dolan emerging from the back row with a large potted shrub perched atop her head, setting the tone for what was described as a "silly hour" characterised by absurdity and playfulness.

Throughout her set, Dolan engaged in a rapid-fire, fragmented stream of consciousness that frequently morphed into daft accents and spontaneous musical moments, often devoid of clear context. This eclectic performance style drew comparisons to renowned comedian Harry Hill, with Dolan delving into surreal and whimsical thoughts, creating a tapestry of humour that both entertained and confounded the audience.

A notable feature of Dolan's performance was the presence of her inner critic, rendered through a deep-toned voice modifier. This character served to externalise her insecurities and provided commentary on the performance, weighing in on how the crowd perceived her delivery. This innovative device, a technique also employed by fellow Brit Terry Alderson in differing ways, added a layer of depth to Dolan's exploration of her psyche.

Dolan’s comedy was rooted in personal narrative, with one standout routine focused on her experiences trying on wedding dresses ill-suited to her shape and style. The material tackled themes of societal sexism, using heightened ludicrousness to critique the patriarchal assumptions of industries, including the aerospace sector's apparent ignorance regarding the needs of female astronauts. Dolan's satirical take on the masculine energy often found in traditional comedy and business settings lent a playful edge to her commentary.

The frenetic energy of Dolan's performance was captivating, often resembling a "frenetic fever dream," as she candidly addressed her own mental state and the relentless pace of thoughts that bombard her. Just as the intensity appeared overwhelming, Dolan provided a moment of calm with a poem dedicated to the stars, only for the mood to swiftly shift back into her signature absurdism.

Despite the ongoing battle with her internal critic, Dolan exuded a powerful confidence on stage, effectively drowning out her anxieties and evoking frequent laughter from her audience. Her ability to weave complex themes into such an energetic and entertaining performance strongly affirmed her star quality, making a robust impression at the festival.

Source: [Noah Wire Services](https://www.noahwire.com)

## References

* <https://www.katedolancomedy.com> - This URL provides background information on Kate Dolan, including her performances and tours, which supports claims about her comedy career.
* <https://www.comedyfestival.com.au/browse-shows/the-critic/> - This URL offers details about Kate Dolan's show at the Melbourne International Comedy Festival, corroborating aspects of her performance style and events.
* <https://www.noahwire.com> - This URL is the source article discussing Kate Dolan's performance and style, though specific content is not directly available. However, it is the original source mentioned for the review.
* <https://www.chortle.co.uk/> - While not directly linked to Kate Dolan's specific review, Chortle is the outlet mentioned for reviewing her performance, providing credibility to the critical reception of her shows.
* <https://www.melbournecomedyfestival.com.au/> - This URL is related to the festival where Kate Dolan performed, supporting the context of her show being part of a larger event.