

# Pleased as punch

## DANCE REVIEW

Trick Boxing ★★★★★

Some shows take you by surprise, like an uppercut to the chin. There appeared to be little about Trick Boxing to suggest it would pack such a punch. A mixture of boxing puppets, dance routines and Damon Runyon-esque comedy, it doesn't look like much of a match on paper.

Dancing Danny David (Brian Sostek) is a street con-merchant who gets involved in the world of boxing, meeting a picareque selection of characters along the way, including Bella (Megan McClellan), a dancer who truly appreciates his sense of rhythm. Sostek takes on most of the characters, while engaging with McClellan for a series of dance routines that positively brim with life.

Sure, it lacks traditional Fringe elements such as nudity, swearing and references to the war in Iraq, but Trick Boxing ducks and weaves well enough to make for a surprisingly engaging show. While the scale of the story is small, the grace of the dancing and the knock-about of the boxing matches makes a neat comparison.

There are a couple of neat punch-lines to wrap the whole story up and by the time the show finishes with the song Get Happy, you are likely to have caught the mood.

Five stars, four swinging dance numbers, three ridiculous puppet fights, two energetic and charismatic performers making their Fringe debut and one great show. A technical knockout.

*Eddie Harrison*

Until Aug 25, Metro Gilded Balloon Teviot (V14), Bristo Square, 15:30 to 16:45, £8.50 and £9.50, £7.50 and £8.50 concs. Tel: 0131 226 2151.  
[www.gildedballoon.co.uk](http://www.gildedballoon.co.uk)



**Upper cut:**  
Megan McClellan  
and Brian Sostek