

A Genuine article genius

DAVID SCHEEL in Maestro

The Steamerwharf, Sat. 29th April

David Scheel is not a TV star, he doesn't sit and chat with Oprah, yet he's sold out three Edinburgh Festival seasons, West End performances and has toured 30 countries to standing ovations.

Now, just reading that you'd expect to know this fella's name as well as you know that of Elton John or Michael Crawford.

But in truth you're more likely to remember him from his last astonishing appearance here on Saturday night.

If you weren't there, let me enlighten you. David Scheel's an expert in an art close to my heart. He's a comedian cum character actor who delivers his material from behind a piano. And that material is nothing short of knicker-wettingly funny stuff.

His show brought to life 25 of music's greatest eccentrics in an unstoppable parade of dramatic and musical parody and impersonation.

Getting Out

with Chris Parvin

The audience was treated to a complete Beethoven sonata played in jazz style, then Pavarotti singing Moon River, and and the full house laughed till it had collective stomach cramps.

Other brilliant modern impersonations too, like the great phonetic punctuator himself, Victor Borge. I've got a lot of time for old Vic, the only man I've ever seen who could bring an apostrophe to life.

As it happens, David Scheel is also a concert pianist of international stature, so laughs aside, the audience was well and truly wowed by his deft touch and sensitive playing.

This was a class show we'll be talking about for ages afterwards. You can never complain the big acts don't come to town when there's entertainment of this calibre going on.