



COMEDY

## Arabella Weir

ASSEMBLY GEORGE SQUARE

★★★★★

If nothing else, Arabella Weir quips, she can thank her mother for providing the material for her first Fringe show. For *Does My Mum Loom Big In This?* is the *Fast Show* and *Two Doors Down* actor/comedian's reflections on motherhood, both her own to her two now twenty-something children, but more importantly, that of her own mother – posh Scottish, Weir tells us, Oxford-educated, and permanently dissatisfied by her disappointment of a daughter.

So we duly discover the eccentricities of Weir Snr, from moaning about being bored by her teenage daughter's trivial conversations to victim-blaming at an appalling incident in her daughter's childhood.

But Weir is honest, too, about her own weaknesses, and about how her own desire for approval

and acceptance has appalled her own children.

Weir is good, too, on the sometimes unreasonable demands of motherhood, and her own misguided attempts to get down with her kids.

The elephant in the room is that the show stays resolutely chipper throughout, never really daring to portray the older woman as anything more than a bitchy snob. Weir jumps from anecdote to anecdote, but it feels like we're

never really getting to grips with the painful effects the relationship has had on her.

Her delivery, too, feels too scripted and rehearsed to connect on an immediate level. There's no mistaking Weir's charm, and she skewers issues with a beautifully turned phrase. But *DMMLBIT* feels too polite and well-meaning to confront its own darkness.

**To 25 August (0131 623 3030)**

**DAVID KETTLE**

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**Arabella Weir  
reflects on  
motherhood in  
'Does My Mum  
Loom Big In This?'**