

Edinburgh Fringe 2017



## Ben Van der Velde: Sidekick

Espionage (Pravda Room)  
August 3-27 (not 15)

'A sharp and crafty gagsmith'  
**Steve Bennett, Chortle**

[Images](#) [Footage](#)

Some people are life's heroes: leading men and women full of swash, buckle and derring-do. Others just hold their jackets.

Ben Van der Velde has been peeping out through his drawn curtains and isn't feeling too sure about the future for him, his wife or his vaguely imminent kids. The world seems like a tinderbox ready to explode and he's not prepared for the fallout. He's on the hunt for a hero to see him through World War 3 (and possibly 4 or 5), whilst trying to find any upsides in the life of a perennial sidekick.

Join Ben as he salutes the Barney Rubbles, Boo-Boos and Dr Watsons of the world.

'He must have one of the highest jokes-per-hour counts in Edinburgh this month.'  
\*\*\*\*\* **Reviews Hub, 2016**

**Ben Van der Velde** is a stand-up comedian, actor, improviser and presenter. He is a regular host and act for respected British comedy clubs such as The Stand, Komedia, the Frog & Bucket and The Boat Show as well as hosting stages for Festival among other festivals. Ben is currently helmsman of the Chortle Award-winning **Good Ship Comedy Club** in Kilburn.

Outside the circuit, Ben has performed a voodoo re-marriage ceremony, founded the Church of the Holy Kazoo with comedy legend **Mark Thomas**, and walked the entire London Underground network to raise money for **The Refugee Council**.

Ben is a regular performer at the **Edinburgh Festival**, where he has performed three critically-acclaimed shows. In 2016, his most recent show, *Barbarians*, received 5 and 4 star reviews, whilst several of its jokes made it into 'Best Joke at the Fringe' lists compiled by *The Scotsman*, *i-News* and *The Huffington Post*.

'A sharp and crafty gagsmith, with wittily obtuse takes on an impressively wide range of topics... bringing flair and confidence to them all.'

**Steve Bennett, Chortle**

'Highly promising...an accomplished comic.'

**Time Out**

'Wonderfully improvised riffs showcasing his impressive spontaneity and sharp tongue.'

**Edinburgh Festivals Magazine**

'Turns lazy stereotypes and political messes into biting, personal, satire.'

**\*\*\*\* Ed Fringe Review**

'On flights of fancy, he pushes ideas to extremes and displays a crackling, spontaneous energy in which we're swept up.'

**Fest**

#### **Full Listing:**

**Title:** Ben Van der Velde - Sidekick

**Venue:** Espionage (Pravda Room)

**Fringe venue number:** 185

**Address:** 4, India Buildings, Victoria St, Edinburgh EH1 2EX

**Venue website:** <http://www.laughinghorsecomedie.co.uk/freefestival/espionage-specs.htm>

**Tel:** 020 3287 5533

**Dates:** August 3 - 27 (not 15)

**Reviewers invited from:** August 4

**Time:** 8.45pm

**Age:** 14+

**Duration:** 1 Hour

**Entry:** Free (Donations)

**Website links:** [www.benvandervelde](http://www.benvandervelde) / <https://soundcloud.com/user-132731264>

**Twitter:** @benvandervelde @WorstFoot

#### **Footage links:**

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=g9-f70GBaNQ>

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=WAXaTK4smhE>

**Images:** <http://tinyurl.com/ksykb96>

**Press & media contact:** Julian Hall at Textual Healing PR07810 486658 / textualhealingpr@gmail.com / @TextualHealing2