

DUTCH footballers not only regularly outplay their English counterparts in the Premiership, they generally outshine them in the post-match interviews as well, often employing three- or four-syllable words well beyond the grasp of our homegrown sportsmen.

Six Dutch comedians managed a similar trick at the Widcombe Social Club on Thursday night as the Amsterdam Comedy Collective came to the Fringe Festival.

Compere Micha Wertheim opened proceedings with a hearty "Hello, Bathonians!" only to be told by a wag in the crowd that the correct term of address is Bathwegians.

Micha proved to be an excellent host, giving as good as he got with the hecklers and keeping proceedings moving smoothly, no mean feat with the well-oiled crowd.

In the first half, Hans Sibbell, Ronald Goedemondt and Wouter Meys – respectively likeable, brash and goofy but uniformly excellent – entertained the packed room, providing a constant stream of laughter that any homegrown comedians would have been proud of.

After the interval Theo Maassen was wonderfully grumpy as he muttered his way through the problems of being human.

"There's never been a crocodile with mixed feelings," he observed, "or a buffalo who wasn't hungry . . . but just fancied a snack."

The undeniable star of the evening was the final act, Hans Teeuwen, who gave as fine a stand-up comedy performance as Bath has ever seen.

He started bug-eyed and terrified at the prospect of performing in English, but after caressing a nipple (his own) he started scaling heights of absurdity that are indescribable . . . so I won't even try.

Suffice it to say that his



**DUTCH MASTER:** Hans Teeuwen

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## **REVIEW: Amsterdam Comedy Collective**

### **Bath Fringe Festival**

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impersonation of his father trying to teach a rabbit to say 'nevertheless' and 'thus' (his old talking rabbit had died, you see) will remain long in the memory.

The Amsterdam Comedy Collective will be appearing at the Edinburgh Fringe this year, and anyone in the vicinity is strongly recommended to seek out the show.

**Matthew  
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