

THE CAVE TO THE RAVE – THE STORY OF DANCE

Anyone who has seen Damian do stand-up or indeed spied him on the dance floor at a festival club would know he doesn't mind shaking his thing. The Cave to the Rave brought all of this together into an exhausting hour of dance related comedy.

Originally conceived in a brainstorming session of 'abandoned show titles' with Wil & Adam on JJJ Breakfast, the idea soon gained momentum as Damian seized on the opportunity to get people to pay to watch him dance.

Aside from a Duran Duran party piece and a nearly successful audition in footy shorts and thongs to dance at the opening of the Darwin Performing Arts Centre, Damian brought virtually no dance experience to the stage.

Unperturbed, the show developed into a partly biographical account of Damian's journey to the microphone via the dance floor. Along the way he delivers his observations on everything from wedding dance floor behaviour to the antidote to dance for Australian men ... beer.

It's not all talk. Damian takes to the dance floor with a series of highly choreographed tributes to everything from 80's dancing to suspiciously funded fringe movement ensembles.

SHOW HISTORY

2003 Melbourne Comedy Festival

REVIEW

David Stockman
Inpress – April 2003

"It's a mystery to me why Damian Callinan is not one of Australia's most popular comedians. He consistently produces some of the best comedy in the [Melbourne Comedy] Festival and his work in Skithouse brings to the small screen the same high standard of humour. Yet, for some reason, the audience last Wednesday to see his new show "The Cave To The Rave – The Story Of Dance" was surprisingly small. And, despite the meager attendance, Callinan swept them away with his comedic sidestep.

While the dance sequences in the show are performed with a rather tongue in cheek style, it's obvious there has been good planning and rehearsal in their development. The Cave To The Rave is a fine example of a show that draws on many different comedic elements, yet manages to maintain a solid narrative throughout. Callinan deftly changes from the very clever to the outright silly, managing to work both effectively.

In short "The Cave to the Rave" helps argue the case why Callinan should be regarded as one of Australia's premier comics, and is one of the festival's must see shows.