

**Deloitte.**The Cambridge Union Society
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Cambridge, CB2 1UBEmail : pressofficer@cus.org**PRESS RELEASE - 09.03.15****Russell Kane**

On Monday 9 March, the Union hosted comedian and actor Russell Kane.

Mr Kane was questioned by Speakers' Officer Elect Katherine Reggler. He first spoke about his style of delivery, detailing the development of his style and stagecraft. When asked about his upbringing in the Essex area, Mr Kane said that an "intellectual buffer" of another county existed between his hometown and Essex. He called Essex a "good place to live" because it provides "stereotypes and truths" that one can interrogate. Mr Kane asserted that British people classify one another by accents more so than Americans and Australians might realize, and called the Essex accent "genuinely funny." Later, he said that one can have no shame when putting together comedy, and that his material "cannibalized [his] autobiography." Next, he said that comedy is one of the only arts in which the person performing "is the vessel." As opposed to music, one embodies and is embodied by one's standup; according to Mr Kane, the two are inseparable.

Next, Mr Kane expressed a desire to do more acting. He described some of his recent and upcoming work as "black comedy." He also spoke about his novel, calling it a "slow process," as opposed to poetry or plays. He called the revising and writing process of his novel "a nightmare." Mr Kane mentioned how difficult it is to perform in Edinburgh, and spoke of losing 12,000 dollars in one trip despite selling out multiple different shows. When questioned about international ambitions, he spoke of the difference between Britain and America, saying that British people are more likely to be suspicious of things that seem too good to be true. Despite what Ms Reggler called "strong views" on British people, Mr Kane said he would never be interested in becoming involved in politics. He argued that fringe figures in British politics such as Nigel Farage were good for provoking thought, and provided "comedy gold." Lastly, Mr Kane spoke of the competitive nature of certain comedy awards in which judges watch shows after nominations are sent out.

When taking questions from the audience, Mr Kane went through different impersonations of regional accents, and warned against "freestyling" comedy without a "safety net" of a linear narrative, albeit with twists, turns, and detours. He said that his comedy is designed so as not to offend certain groups, because "stand up is entertainment...you paid to get in...you don't want to walk out sobbing." He adjusts his comedy to fit the attitude of his audience, unlike others who allegedly stick to their material more strictly. Later, he was asked what he could have been if he had not entered comedy. He responded by saying that he had gotten a place at a "decent university," and "of course got a first." He called himself the equivalent of a "chemistry student in banking" before turning to comedy.

By Ben Atlas

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