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Dispatches from The Fringe - The Blanks fire some pretty solid shots

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The Blanks' Big Break

Rating: ★★★★★

In *The Blanks' Big Break*, The Blanks, otherwise known as Ted's band from the T.V. series Scrubs, show they are more than capable of standing on their own eight feet and delivering a fun and memorable night of entertainment.

The Blanks' Big Break follows the band as they try put on their greatest show yet in order to impress a powerful agent sitting in the audience. There was a touch of meta-theatre here as the guys revealed all the necessary ingredients needed to create a perfect show. These, naturally enough, were written on a roll of toilet paper. In what followed there was an unhurried lightness to the routines, a refreshing sense of innocence almost, that harkened back to the classic days of vaudeville, Laurel and Hardy and The Marx Brothers. Including the best Christmas song of the festival, Sanity Clause jokes, "get your ice-a cream" gags delivered a la Chico Marx and a broad selection of songs delivered a cappella (providing you overlook the ukulele that featured at some points) The Blanks' Big Break made for a clever, funny and entertaining night.

Granted none of this is particularly original and in an era of often in-your-face, edgy comedy, The Blanks good, clean fun approach may not be to everyone's liking. Even so, their homage to an often forgotten style of comedy is not only funny, entertaining and refreshing, its neo-vaudville stylings are also charmingly subversive.

The Blanks' Big Break plays nightly at The Gilded Balloon until August 27th. Doors open at 9.30. p.m. Tickets range from £12.00 to £14.00

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