

net dating wasn't the high-tech subject she disd. The dangers of ing your own name clear-uck a chord with the

ehow, Porter took all of sparate elements of her and, within the final ten es or so, linked most of back together, making hole rambling conversa-ome to a point. The couple ad picked on earlier were nted with a flapjack with names iced on nks to some work back- On top of that, et, her techni-

is- e- ably MP3 full of roman- (ongs) the Dirty

Dancing song mentioned earlier and she left the stage with it playing, while the entire audience quietly went "awwww".

■ *Until August 27*

MARTIN LENON

Stephen K Amos: More of Me

Pleasance Beyond, Pleasance Courtyard

★★

STEPHEN K AMOS (below), begins his new show, *More of Me*, in disguise. He is Jesse Aloysius Jones, a loud-mouth American preacher in a plastic wig, who welcomes us to the "holy room of comedy" and shouts about sin.

Although Amos is a good actor and convincing in his role, the audience doesn't quite know what to make of

this character and the show gets off to a somewhat bizarre start.

After a misjudged, but thankfully brief Michael Jackson impression, Amos dispatches with Reverend Jones and the stand-up begins.

Following last year's Fringe show, in which Amos came out as a homosexual, this gig is claimed to be even more revealing. The overarching theme is Amos's formative years; there are a few references to racism encountered as a child, and to his mildly abusive (by today's standards) parents, but the material is far from shocking.

Amos himself admits that the photograph of him in drag on the show's poster is merely a publicity stunt. Anyone expecting edgy comedy would do better to look elsewhere.

What Amos offers is far more traditional comic fare. Joking about national and racial

stereotypes, his upbringing, his comedy career to date, Amos delights an audience largely composed of hardcore fans.

This more mature crowd – one that can afford tickets priced at an arguably excessive £13.50 – arrived ready to be entertained and were not disappointed.

Amos is at his most natural and charming when engaging with the audience, responding with quick wit to situations as they arise. Much of his rehearsed material is very funny, but at times his arrogance (whether true or put on) can be off-putting.

He also has a tendency to flit schizophrenically through his material, making the whole appear unstructured.

Lots of laughs, but nothing new from this experienced performer.

■ *Until August 27*

JO CAIRD

Edinburgh Evening News 17/8/07

