



Producers' alliance Festival Highlights announces 22 theatre, comedy, kids and music shows at the Edinburgh fringe 2008

COMEDY

Premieres

CLARKSON & CROUCH: AWAY WITH THE FAIRIES - *Gilded Balloon* 30 July - 25 Aug (not 13 Aug) 4.15 pm
Hairline Highlights winners Rob Crouch and Jonathan Clarkson present sketches on the supernatural side of city life. The 21st century is turned on its head as they reveal the magic amidst the mundane in a sideways look at the world.

ELIZABETH AND RALEIGH: LATE BUT LIVE - *Udderbelly's Pasture* 31 July - 25 Aug (not 13 Aug) 10.35pm
Stewart Lee, Simon Munnery and Miles Jupp return with a new show that puts the wittiest, wisest and most unforgiving of English Queens back where she belongs - upon a throne, in front of an audience, being complimented by Sir Walter Raleigh. From the team behind 2007 fringe hit *Johnson And Boswell: Late But Live*. Directed by Owen Lewis.

LEARN TO PLAY THE UKULELE IN UNDER AN HOUR (HOW GEORGE FORMBY SAVED MY LIFE) by Donal Coonan and Sam Brown with Sally Phillips - *Gilded Balloon* 30 July - 25 August (not 13 August) 5.45pm
This isn't just a story of how George Formby and his little ukulele lifted the spirits of two people who were depressed. Sam Brown and Donal Coonan recount their unbelievable story, and they teach every audience how to play the ukulele.

ZOE GARDNER'S FAULT - *Smirnoff Underbelly* 31 July - 24 August 5.20pm (except 13 August)
Debut solo show for this character comedian best known as one third of *The Congress Of Oddities*. As featured on *Radio 2's Out To Lunch*, *BBC3's Comedy Shuffle*, *BBC1's Spoof!* and *Radio 4's Mouth Trap*. Directed by Hannah Mackay.

Revivals

ED HAMELL - *Underbelly's Baby Belly* 18 - 24 August 5.40 pm (except 22 August)
Hame'll's first UK residency at the 2007 fringe won a handful of five star reviews and a Herald Angel, and led to a West End run at Soho Theatre. He returns for one week only with his very special brand of shock and awe in an updated version of the show, featuring his unique and acclaimed mix of angry, political music and stand-up comedy.

REBUS McTAGGART: CRIME WARRIOR - *Pleasance Dome*, 18 - 25 August 4pm - 5pm
The List's Best Breakthrough Act, Richard Thomson is back with riotous escapades from the not-so-quick-witted crime-fighting phenomenon, following a successful tour for this show which premiered to acclaim at last year's fringe.

THE TIGER LILLIES: SEVEN DEADLY SINS - *The Spiegel Garden* 7 - 30 August 9.45pm
Edinburgh premiere of the sell-out London show. Travelling from heaven to hell with tales of distorted morality, this extraordinary three-piece draw out the darkness, fear and loathing inherent in all of us with their sinful songs.

X-FILES IMPROV WITH DEAN HAGLUND - *Underbelly's Baby Belly* 31 July - 17 August 5.40 pm
Haglund, who featured as one of the Lone Gunmen in nine series of the cult sci-fi show, returns to the fringe with an updated version of the show premiered to great reviews and sell-out audiences last year, in which he improvises a new episode each show based on audience suggestions. Hot on the heels of a sell-out West End run and tour.

KIDS

CLOUDCUCKOOLAND - *Pleasance Courtyard* 30 July - 25 Aug (not 1, 13 August) 12.50pm
Our feathered friends get eco-friendly and turn on human polluters, as they battle to save the planet with bird poo. Seven all-singing, all-dancing actor-musicians in a riotous hour inspired by Aristophanes' *The Birds*.

POTTED PIRATES by Dan & Jeff and Richard Hurst - *Pleasance Courtyard* 30 July-25 Aug (not 6, 13 August) 3pm
Everyone's favourite pirates stories retold in just one hour. After the hilarious success of *Potted Potter*, delightfully daft double act Dan and Jeff return in this new compressed caper, featuring a full-scale Armada re-enactment.

POTTED POTTER - THE UNAUTHORISED HARRY EXPERIENCE - A PARODY BY DAN AND JEFF
Pleasance Courtyard: 31 July - 25 August (not 6, 13 or 14 August) 12.45pm
All seven Harry Potter books in seventy minutes. Watch the heroic comic double act Dan and Jeff take on the ultimate challenge. This brilliantly funny show has played three sell-out London seasons and has toured nationally since May 2007. Now it returns to Edinburgh, where both the show and the Potter books began, for its third and final season.



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MUSIC AND MUSICALS

DAVID BENSON SINGS NOËL COWARD - *Assembly Rooms, 1 - 25 Aug (not 13 Aug) 3.40pm*

Returning to the character he played in the BBC's *Goodnight Sweetheart*, Benson takes on Coward's masterful songbook, sensitively portraying an iconic performer offering new insight, dark humour and plentiful entertainment.

ELENA DURAN - MEXICO OF MY HEART - *Universal Arts Theatre 1-25 Aug (not 13 Aug) 11.30 am - 12.45 pm*

A multimedia concert from the world-class flautist featuring clips from the golden age of Mexican cinema. This exciting new musical production features songs with piano accompaniment performed against a backdrop of film clips.

GRAFFITI CLASSICS - *Pleasance Dome 9 - 17 August 3.55pm*

This family favourite 'stand-up string quartet' make their fourth fringe appearance with an all-new show directed by Chris George, whose recent credits include *Fascinating Aida*, *Grumpy Old Women Live* and *The Unsinkable Clerk*.

ON THE ISLAND OF AARS - *Pleasance Courtyard: 30 July - 25 Aug (not 6 or 13) 2.10pm - 3.20 pm*

New musical by Chris Lerner and Mark Stevens, creators of fringe hit *The Translucent Frogs of Quuup* (*Guardian Best Musical 2004*). Set on a distant Scottish island, *Aars* shares *Quuup's* whimsical, tuneful take on life as we don't know it.

THEATRE

ANOTHER PARADISE by *Sayan Kent - Club West at Surgeons Hall, 3 - 25 August 4.45pm - 6.35pm*

A new play premiere from Kali Theatre: a dark satire about love, confused identity and being sent to Coventry. Set in a world where ID cards and the all-powerful system still decides who you are, even if you are sure you are someone else.

FOOTSBARN'S A MIDSUMMER NIGHT'S DREAM - *Big Top on Calton Hill, 1-25 August (not 5, 12, 19) 7.30pm - 9.30pm*

The legendary travelling theatre company return with to Edinburgh with big top in tow. This world-renowned show will captivate young and old with a visual feast of music, masks and imagination, played out atop a fairy-lit Calton Hill.

MY GRANDFATHER'S GREAT WAR - *Underbelly's Baby Belly, 31 July - 24 August (not 13 Aug) 2.45 - 3.55 pm*

The WWI diaries of Captain Alexander Stewart meet the modern perspective of his grandson, actor Cameron Stewart. The published diaries, as heard on BBC Radio 4's *Today* programme, are adapted and directed here by David Benson.

NOLA RAE - EXIT NAPOLEON, PURSUED BY A RABBIT - *Footsbarn's Big Top on Calton Hill, 2-15 August 5pm-6pm*

Britain's world-famous performance artist returns to Edinburgh. This new show features an army cook who, inspired by Napoleon, fancies his chances in charge... all he needs is dangerous charisma, iron will and a cheese grater.

ON THE WATERFRONT by Budd Schulberg & Stan Silverman - *Pleasance, 31 July - 25 Aug (not 5, 12, 19) 2pm - 4.15pm*

Steven Berkoff directs an ensemble of 12 with his trademark style of bold physical theatre. This classic story set in 1950s New York follows the search for freedom from the mob by Terry Malloy, the guy who 'coulda been a contender'.

THE IDIOT COLONY by Lisle Turner - *Pleasance Dome, 31 July - 24 August (not 5, 12) 1.10pm*

Premiere of show from acclaimed visual theatre company Redcape. In 40s America, three women have spent decades wandering the wards of the idiot colony: their only respite is the hospital's salon where they can tell their own stories.

THE THREE MUSKETEERS - *Smirnoff Underbelly 31 July - 24 August (not 13 August) 12.40pm - 1.40pm*

Faultless and Torrance play two intrepid idiots attempting a breakneck romp through Dumas' classic tale. Family-friendly hour packed with physical comedy and ingenious plot twists. Directed by Owen Lewis (*Johnson & Boswell*).

Festival Highlights is a producers' alliance established in 2003 to enhance fringe marketing through collaboration. This year it features 12 shows presented by co-founder James Seabright, and ten presented by others: Louise Chantal (*Tiger Lillies*, *Footsbarn*, *Nola Rae*), Erica Fee (*Learn to play the Ukulele*, *Clarkson & Crouch*), Anthony Field (*Elena Duran*), Kali (*Almost Paradise*), MJE Prods (*On The Waterfront*), Onassis (*Clouduckooland*) & Redcape (*Idiot Colony*).

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