

# Three Weeks

EDINBURGH



## EDINBURGH FESTIVAL PREVIEW GUIDE

featuring Rhod Gilbert | Simon Evans | Phill Jupitus | Thom Tuck | Doug Segal | Chilly Gonzales  
Angelin Preljocaj | Mark Grist | Richard Tyrone-Jones | and no less than 90 recommended shows



PHIL MCINTYRE ENTERTAINMENTS BY ARRANGEMENT WITH LISA THOMAS MANAGEMENT PRESENTS



★★★★★ TIMEOUT

★★★★★ SCOTSMAN

★★★★★ THREEWEEKS

★★★★★ FEST

# JOEL DOMMETT



33

PLEASANCE  
COURTYARD

8.15PM  
1-26 AUG

AS SEEN ON MTV NEWS (MTV), SKINS (E4) LIVE IN CHELSEA (E4)  
RUSSELL HOWARD'S GOOD NEWS (BBC3)

PLEASANCE.CO.UK / 0131 556 6550 JOELDOMMETT.COM @JOELDOMMETT



2|entertain

# Welcome to the Edinburgh Festival 2012

**Welcome one and all to the world's biggest cultural festival, the biggest ever staged, taking over the whole of Edinburgh once again this August.**

## Festival of festivals

The Edinburgh Festival actually consists of a number of different festivals that all take place in the Scottish capital during August, including the **Edinburgh International Festival** (9 Aug - 2 Sep [www.eif.co.uk](http://www.eif.co.uk)), the **Edinburgh International Book Festival** (11 - 27 Aug [www.edbookfest.co.uk](http://www.edbookfest.co.uk)), the **Edinburgh Art Festival** (2 Aug - 2 Sep [www.edinburghartfestival.com](http://www.edinburghartfestival.com)), the **Festival Of Politics** ([www.festivalofpolitics.org.uk](http://www.festivalofpolitics.org.uk)), the **Military Tattoo** (3-25 Aug [www.edintattoo.co.uk](http://www.edintattoo.co.uk)), the **Mela** (31 Aug - 2 Sep [www.edinburgh-mela.co.uk](http://www.edinburgh-mela.co.uk)) and the flippin massive **Edinburgh Festival Fringe** (3 - 27 Aug, with previews from 1 Aug, [www.edfringe.com](http://www.edfringe.com)).

## Biggest Fringe ever

The Edinburgh Fringe is, just on its own, the biggest cultural festival in the world, and its comedy strand is the biggest comedy festival on the planet. And this year it's bigger than ever, with 2695 shows listed in the official programme. There will be something like 22,457 performers involved, from 47 countries, with 1418 world premieres and 814 free shows. The Fringe alone dwarfs that sporty thing happening down South this month. And in Edinburgh, no sponsorship director will tell you what chips you can eat and what credit cards to use.

## Fringe strands

The Fringe programme is split into genre strands, including cabaret, children's shows, comedy, dance and physical theatre, exhibitions, music, musicals and opera, and theatre, plus, for the first time this year, spoken word. Yes, the ever increasing number of great shows that have appeared at the Fringe in recent years featuring poetry, stories, rapping or other similar art forms will no longer have to decide whether to file themselves under comedy, theatre or cabaret. There's a particularly fine selection of spoken word shows within the Free Fringe.

## Venues old and new

The Fringe is based around a network of independently run venues, and every year new venues appear, old favourites disappear, and some buildings end up being run by a totally new set of people. The **Assembly Rooms** on George Street are back as a Fringe venue this year, though run by a new team,



the people behind Edinburgh's year round comedy hub The Stand. The original Assembly team are still here, though, at Assembly Hall, in Edinburgh University's George Square Gardens and, for the first time, at the Roxburgh Place church.

Also new this year, **Northern Stage** are running St Stephens, once the Fringe-time home of Aurora Nova, and talking of 'nova', that's the name of the newest **C venue**, taking over the building at the top of Victoria Street. A new year-round comedy club in Edinburgh, **The Shack**, is hosting its first Fringe season. And if you didn't check out the new **Summerhall** venue on the corner of the Meadows last Festival, make sure you do this year.

The International Festival is also having fun with its venue spaces this year, staging shows at the **Royal Highland Centre** in Inglinton, and one event on **Arthur's Seat**.

## Festivals within the Fringe

Some of the strands within the Fringe are sort of mini-festivals in their own right. Once again five of the bigger venues - Pleasance, Assembly, Gilded Balloon, Underbelly and Just The Tonic - have combined their respective comedy programmes under the banner **Edinburgh Comedy Festival** ([www.edcomfest.com](http://www.edcomfest.com)). But don't be thinking that's all the comedy. Many more Fringe venues have great comedy line-ups, and don't forget the huge amount of free comedy shows on offer in PBH's Free Fringe ([freefringe.org.uk](http://freefringe.org.uk)) and the Laughing Horse Free Festival ([www.freefestival.co.uk](http://www.freefestival.co.uk)).

## The Edinburgh music festival

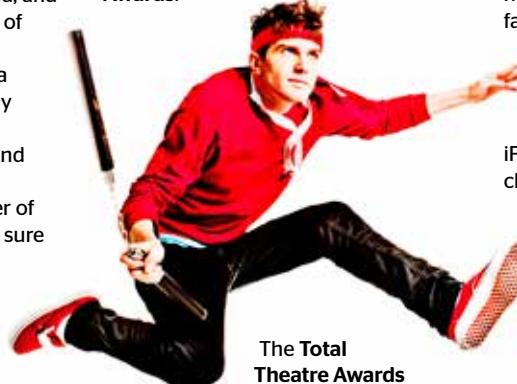
The Fringe's traditional pop and rock strand, the Edge Festival, may not be along for the ride this year, but there is still a huge music programme in the city during August. Both the Fringe and the International Festival boast fabulous classical programmes, plus do make time to browse the Fringe's wider music section, with pretty much every genre you can think of represented. And if in doubt, the

**Acoustic Music Centre at St Brides** ([www.acousticmusiccentre.co.uk](http://www.acousticmusiccentre.co.uk)) is always a great place to start when looking for the music Fringe. And for those of you who make music, do check out the exciting new **StageTime** event ([www.stagetimeconf.com](http://www.stagetimeconf.com)).

## Awards galore

There's no shortage of awards at the Edinburgh Festival. The Scotsman champions new plays with its **Fringe First** prizes every Friday, and other media celebrate excellence too, The Herald with the **Angel Awards**, Broadway Baby with the **The Bobby Award**, Fringe Review the **Outstanding Theatre Awards**, and The Stage with their annual awards for acting talent.

In comedy there is the all important **Edinburgh Comedy Awards** (the one what was once called the Perriers), plus look out for **The Malcolm Hardee Award** too, a personal favourite of ours. There's also a number of competitions for new talent in the comedy space, not least **Gilded Balloon's So You Think You're Funny** and the **Amused Moose Laughter Awards**.



The Total Theatre Awards

celebrate 'total theatre experiences', the **MTM:UK Awards** musical theatre, and new for 2012, look out for Time Out and Soho Theatre's new cabaret awards **TO&ST**.

And, of course, there's the **ThreeWeeks Editors' Awards**, celebrating the ten things we reckon made the festival extra special, to be presented this year at theSpace @ Symposium Hall on Saturday 25 Aug at 10.30am. And this section hasn't even mentioned all of the Edinburgh Festival awards. Keep an eye on [www.ThreeWeeks.co.uk/news](http://www.ThreeWeeks.co.uk/news) for all the latest awards news.

## Tickets on sale now!

Tickets for most Fringe shows can be bought via [www.edfringe.com](http://www.edfringe.com) or by calling the **Fringe Society Box Office** on 0131 226 0000. The Fringe Society also runs a walk-in box office on the Royal Mile (180 High Street), and this year, for the first time, in Glasgow at Queen Street Station too. Most venues can also sell you tickets direct, by phone, via their websites, or at their box offices, and sometimes when the Fringe Society has no tickets left for a show, there will still be tickets available at the venue. Most

other festivals sell tickets direct via their own websites; meanwhile at the **Edinburgh International Festival Hub** building at the top of the Royal Mile, you can buy walk-up tickets for the EIF, the Mela and, before its own venue opens at Charlotte Square Gardens, the Book Festival. After 11 Aug Book Festival tickets are on sale on site. The Tattoo box office is in Market Street by Waverley Station.

If you're on a budget, there are plenty of ticket offers available, especially in the Fringe. Many shows participate in a Fringe-wide 2 for 1 ticket offer party on 6 and 7 Aug, and from 8 Aug other ticket offers are available at the **Half Price Hut** on The Mound. Many venues also run ticket offers via their websites, and if the budget is extra tight, don't forget the plethora of free shows on offer, in PBH's Free Fringe and Laughing Horse's Free Festival, but also elsewhere across the Festival.

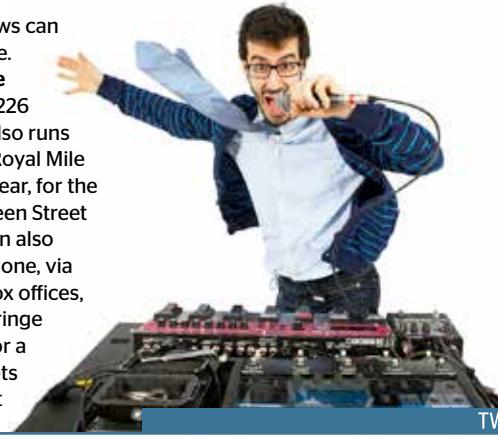
## Have an appy Festival

For those of you navigating the Fringe with a smart phone in hand, there are a number of Festival apps available. Our favourite is **iFringe**, which will expertly guide you around the Fringe Festival. Not only that, but it will also deliver ThreeWeeks reviews direct to your phone. Download iFringe for free from your app store of choice, or check [www.ifringe.co.uk](http://www.ifringe.co.uk).

## Let ThreeWeeks guide you

ThreeWeeks is the complete guide to the Edinburgh Festival, seeing more, saying more, and delivering it all for free, in print, online, and via podcast, Facebook and Twitter. Every year we have a brand new review team - participants in the acclaimed **ThreeWeeks Media-Skills Programme** (more on p22) - who are supported by our experienced editorial team, led by two editors with no less than 17 years experience covering Edinburgh's festival month.

Look out for the **ThreeWeeks Weekly Edition**, free at venues and cafes across the city; the **Daily Edition**, a daily helping of reviews at central Fringe venues; plus logon to [www.ThreeWeeks.co.uk](http://www.ThreeWeeks.co.uk), and follow us at Facebook.com/ThreeWeeks and Twitter.com/ThreeWeeks, and at Twitter.com/twittique for the latest reviews.



## Contents

### ThreeWeeks 2012 wk0

<b>S P</b>	<b>Spoken word Fringe</b>	04
	<b>New cabaret award</b>	04
<hr/>		
<b>I N</b>	<b>The Venue Directors</b>	06
	<b>William Burdett-Coutts</b>	
	<b>Charles Pamment</b>	
	<b>Adam Alton</b>	
	<b>Jonathan Mills</b>	07
<hr/>		
<b>C O</b>	<b>Quick Quiz</b>	08
	<b>Rhod Gilbert</b>	08
	<b>Comedy 3 To See</b>	09
	<b>Simon Evans</b>	11
<hr/>		
<b>T H</b>	<b>Theatre 3 To See</b>	12
	<b>Phill Jupitus &amp;</b>	13
	<b>Thom Tuck</b>	
<hr/>		
<b>C A</b>	<b>Cabaret 3 To See</b>	14
	<b>Doug Segal</b>	14
<hr/>		
<b>P H</b>	<b>Angelina Preljocaj</b>	16
	<b>Physical 3 To See</b>	16
<hr/>		
<b>M U</b>	<b>Chilly Gonzales</b>	18
	<b>Music 3 To See</b>	18
<hr/>		
<b>M O</b>	<b>Musicals 3 To See</b>	19
<hr/>		
<b>A E</b>	<b>Quick Quiz</b>	20
	<b>Mark Grist</b>	20
	<b>Events 3 To See</b>	21
<hr/>		
<b>C S</b>	<b>Children's 3 To See</b>	22
<hr/>		
<b>C L</b>	<b>Shows Guide</b>	23
<hr/>		
<a href="http://www.ThreeWeeks.co.uk">www.ThreeWeeks.co.uk</a>		
<a href="http://facebook.com/ThreeWeeks">facebook.com/ThreeWeeks</a>		
<a href="http://twitter.com/ThreeWeeks">twitter.com/ThreeWeeks</a>		
<a href="http://twitter.com/twittique">twitter.com/twittique</a>		



CARO WRITES...

## It seems like about ten minutes since last year's festival.

Which puts me in mind of something old people used to say to me when I was a young girl. "Every year of your life goes faster than the one before", they'd drone. The worrying thing is, with hindsight they probably weren't that old. They seemed it, but probably weren't much older than than I am now. But they were right. Each year does seem to pass by more quickly. And I measure out my life by Edinburgh Festivals. But I am always, without fail, glad to be back. Even though I ended the previous Festival in a state of nervous prostration, with no immune system left to speak of. And I know that I'm not alone. Not least because Rhod Gilbert says the same on p8.

But back we are, for ThreeWeeks' seventeenth year covering the Edinburgh Festival, the biggest there has ever been. For the uninitiated, ThreeWeeks is the complete guide to the Edinburgh Festival, covering all the festivities that take place in the city each August. We have a massive review team (participants in our acclaimed media-skills programme - more on p22) visiting every nook and cranny of the city to sample what's on offer, and to tell you what's good and what's bad, via our website, our weekly magazine and our daily reviews sheet (again more on p22). Add to that, a plethora of interviews, exclusive columns, news and podcasts, and ThreeWeeks is the one-stop place to find out about everything that is great at this most magnificent of festivals.

This is our preview edition, where we, the ThreeWeeks editors, tell you what has us most excited this year. We meet the people behind some of our favourite Fringe venues and chat to Doug Segal, Rhod Gilbert, Mark Grist and Chilly Gonzales. We also talk to Phill Jupitus about his latest theatrical adventure with Thom Tuck, find out about Ballet Preljocaj's apocalyptic production, and hear from Simon Evans.

On top of that, you'll find details of 90 shows hand selected by me. Though to be clear, you don't have to go along to all of these, not least because to do so would, in my opinion, be to miss the whole point of this Festival. The Edinburgh Fringe is not just an opportunity for performers to experiment, it's your turn to experiment too. So turn up and see something you have never heard of. Yes, you can take in a few TV comedians and big name theatre shows, but the real gems you don't know the name of yet. Take a risk and you might discover it. Meanwhile, keep an eye on ThreeWeeks - pick us up in venues, logon to [ThreeWeeks.co.uk](http://ThreeWeeks.co.uk) or follow us on Twitter and Facebook - and we'll let you know when our team of hunters find something extra special.

Caro @ ThreeWeeks

# Fringe speaks up for spoken word

**One of the first things you might have noticed about this year's Fringe programme, is that there is a whole new section in it dedicated to spoken word, a genre that has become more prevalent in recent years at the Festival, partly reflecting and partly fuelling a wider growth in the spoken word scene around the UK.**

The emergence of a strong spoken word community at the Edinburgh Fringe is certainly down, at least in part, to the growth of the genre's strand within the Free Fringe, which has been led by performance poet Richard Tyrone Jones, despite him nearly dying from heart failure a few months before his first stint as the free show festival's Spoken Word Director in 2010.

"Spoken word has definitely grown at the Fringe in recent years", Tyrone Jones tells ThreeWeeks. "The first year I was the Free Fringe's Spoken Word Director we programmed thirty shows. This year it's fifty, and the new spoken word section of the Fringe programme lists 22 shows other than ours. And next year I'd expect to see even more, if only because some other performers and shows will realise they fit better into a spoken word strand than they do under the

comedy or theatre banners".

"It's blowing our own trumpet a little to say so", he continues, "but I do think the Free Fringe's spoken word programme has had an effect. We programme about half of all the spoken word shows you'll find at the Festival. Plus, of course, the genre at large is getting a higher profile as you increasingly start to see poetry, storytelling and hip hop/battling curated under one sexy umbrella at other festivals, such as Luke Wright's excellent programme at Latitude".

For Tyrone Jones, having a stand alone section for spoken word in the Fringe Society's big programme is an important development. "As the Fringe grows", he says, "it's as important as having a plumbing section in the Yellow Pages, rather than lumping the plumbers in with the builders or electricians. Like plumbers, spoken word artists might know a bit of building or electrics (so to speak), but when you look in the Yellow Pages (or Fringe programme) for someone who can mop up when emotions burst or provide overly-convoluted classified ad metaphors, you don't want to accidentally end up with a builder (or comedian). Or vice versa. Basically, the more headings (and sub-headings) the better as far as I'm concerned".

With fifty shows appearing in his own Free Fringe spoken word programme, how does Tyrone Jones

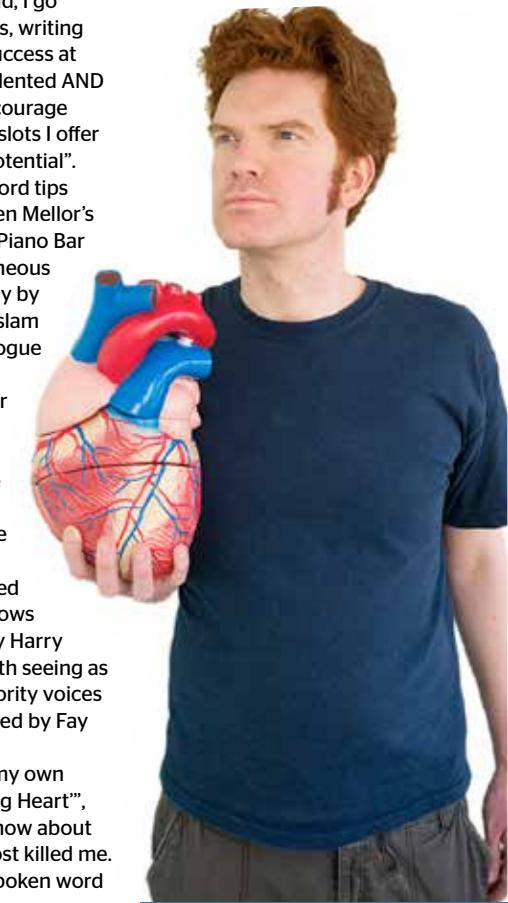
go about securing the acts? "I know half the performers I programme personally, because I've been on this scene for ten years. For the rest, acts from around the world, I go on YouTube clips, websites, writing quality and CVs: to be a success at the Fringe you must be talented AND organised. I try not to discourage anyone, but to match the slots I offer to their experience and potential".

As for his top spoken word tips for 2012, he continues: "Ben Mellor's 'Anthropoetry' at Fingers Piano Bar promises to be a subcutaneous musical, biological analogy by the talented BBC Radio 4 slam champion; Mark Grist's 'Rogue Teacher' will be packed to the rafters with, well, other rogue teachers and some of his 2 million YouTube viewers; and we also have his talented 'Dead Poets' co-star Mixy on at the Free Fringe with his own solo debut, 'Content'. Tea-fuelled Art's four spoken word shows and lanky hip-hop prodigy Harry Baker's two will all be worth seeing as well, but for a host of minority voices try 'Other Voices', compered by Fay Roberts".

"And of course there's my own 'Richard Tyrone Jones's Big Heart'", he concludes, "a poetry show about the heart failure that almost killed me. And 'Utter!' [the regular spoken word

night co-hosted by Tyrone Jones] is back too. Plus the whole thing will climax with the first ever Free Fringe Spoken Word Awards at 9pm on 25 Aug at Fiddler's Elbow".

LINKS: [www.richardtyronejones.com](http://www.richardtyronejones.com)  
[www.freerfringe.org](http://www.freerfringe.org)



TW

## Toasting the cabaret Fringe

**There's no shortage of awards at the Edinburgh Fringe - for comedy, theatre, new writing, musicals and physical shows - though there are still strands of the Festival where there are no bespoke gongs to be won. A new programme launched by Time Out and London's Soho Theatre this year, called TO&ST, aims to fill one of those gaps, by celebrating the Fringe's ever vibrant cabaret scene.**

"We thought it was important to have something that recognised the work and talent in the cabaret section of the programme", explains Time Out's Cabaret Editor Ben Walters, who will also be a judge for the new prize giving scheme. "There are awards for most of the Fringe's other sections, and it can be a way of bringing attention to the scene and confirming its general development, as well as recognising individual artists and performers".

Although always present in the Edinburgh Fringe's annual programme, the cabaret strand has become particularly strong in recent years, probably a reflection of a wider

renaissance for the genre. Walters: "There's always been work that could be described as cabaret at the Fringe - shows that address the audience directly and invite their collaboration, and which use a mixture of different forms and encourage, erm, a well-lubricated atmosphere! But the volume and calibre of that work in recent years has reflected the UK scene's booming popularity and year-round dynamism".

Soho Theatre's Steve Lock, and Frodo McDaniel, Artistic Director of the Glasgow Cabaret Festival, will also judge, and between them they plan to check out any new show listed in the Fringe's cabaret section that hasn't played at 500+ seater venues before, and which has at least five performances this August. A shortlist

of up to six shows will be announced on 15 Aug, with the overall winner confirmed on 23 Aug. They will then be offered a run at the Soho Theatre.

The new award comes a year after the Fringe Society added a cabaret section to its big festival programme, so that cabaret shows no longer had to choose whether they be listed under comedy, music or theatre. "The Fringe programme giving cabaret its own section is a massive step", says Walters, "both in terms of encouraging broader recognition and in giving a natural home to artists and performers who might previously have had to shoehorn their show into another genre. It's probably too early to tell how far the move might influence cabaret work but it's a very welcome acknowledgement of how far it's come in recent years".

As for what he and his fellow judges will be looking for come August, Walters concludes: "We're looking for work that represents the best of cabaret's unique power - a combination of an adventurous, progressive sensibility, a lively and fruitful dynamic between artist and audience, and outstanding proficiency in a variety of performance skills, whether that's comedy, music, circus, burlesque or even something we've never seen before".

LINKS: [facebook.com/TOASTAward](http://facebook.com/TOASTAward)



On the cabaret Fringe - Bourgeois and Maurice

TW



Edinburgh Evening News

Brett Vincent for Get Comedy proudly presents

# JIM JEFFRIES

## FULLY FUNCTIONAL

available at [amazon.co.uk](http://amazon.co.uk)

supported by

August 2nd-26th 9.00pm  
**EDINBURGH** Assembly Hall  
0131 623 3030

TICKETS SELLING FAST

August 31st 7.00pm  
**DUNFERMLINE** Alhambra Theatre  
01383 740 384

LAST FEW TICKETS

September 1st 8.00pm  
**NEWCASTLE** Mill Volvo Tyne Theatre  
08444 939 999

LAST FEW TICKETS

September 2nd 7:30pm  
**GLASGOW** Kings Theatre  
08448 717 648

TICKETS SELLING FAST

September 3rd 7.00pm  
**NANTWICH** Civic Hall  
01270 685 577

LAST FEW TICKETS

September 4th 7:30pm  
**MANCHESTER** Opera House  
08448 713 018

TICKETS SELLING FAST

September 5th 7:30pm  
**STOKE-ON-TRENT** Victoria Hall  
08448 717 649

TICKETS SELLING FAST

September 7th 8.00pm  
**MIDDLESBROUGH** Town Hall  
01642 729 729

TICKETS SELLING FAST

September 8th 8.00pm  
**LIVERPOOL** Mountford Hall  
01517 946 868

SOLD OUT

September 9th 9.00pm  
**LEEDS** City Varieties  
01132 430 808

TICKETS SELLING FAST

September 10th 7:30pm  
**YORK** Grand Opera House  
08448 472 322

TICKETS SELLING FAST

September 12th 8.00pm  
**WOLVERHAMPTON** Civic Hall  
08703 207 000

LAST FEW TICKETS

September 13th 7.00pm  
**BOURNEMOUTH** O2 Academy  
08444 772 000

LAST FEW TICKETS

September 15th 9.00pm  
**BERGEN, NORWAY** Ricks Theatre  
815 33 313

SOLD OUT

September 16th 8.30pm  
**DUBLIN, IRELAND** Vicar Street  
0818 719390

TICKETS SELLING FAST

September 17th 7.30pm  
**LONDON** Lyric Theatre  
0844 482 9674

SOLD OUT

EXTRA DATES TO BE ANNOUNCED SOON CHECK WEBSITES FOR DETAILS

9pm 2-26 August (not 13)

[www.jimjefferies.com](http://www.jimjefferies.com) | [@jimjefferies](https://twitter.com/jimjefferies) | [www.getcomedy.com](http://www.getcomedy.com) | [www.brettvincent.com](http://www.brettvincent.com)

**assembly**  
ASSEMBLY HALL  
BOX OFFICE [assemblyfestival.com](http://assemblyfestival.com)  
0131 623 3030

# INTERVIEWS

We've spoken to numerous venue managers from across the Fringe...

Read more interviews online [www.ThreeWeeks.co.uk/thevenuedirectors](http://www.ThreeWeeks.co.uk/thevenuedirectors)

# Differing directions: Meet three Fringe

A large network of independently run venues play host to the Edinburgh Fringe, each very different from the other. Some stage just one show, others hundreds. Some specialise in one genre, others have a more eclectic line-up. Most venues have, at the top, a venue director, the person who leads the programming of shows and sets the whole ethos of the place, and meeting those directors helps you understand the role each venue plays. ThreeWeeks has been speaking to a number of them. Meet three here, then check out more interviews at [www.ThreeWeeks.co.uk/thevenuedirectors](http://www.ThreeWeeks.co.uk/thevenuedirectors).

## Assembly's William Burdett-Coutts

**One of the longest established venue names at the Fringe is surely Assembly (thirty years and counting), which originally took its name from its long-term home, the city's Assembly Rooms. Though, after Festival 2010, the Assembly team left the eponymous Rooms for the final time (this year they are being run by a different company), and last year set up at a new home in Edinburgh University's George Square. Though they do still run one building with 'Assembly' in its name - Assembly Hall on The Mound - and this year also take over the Roxburgh Place church. So, plenty of stages for staging lots of theatre, comedy and other cultural delights. After three decades at the helm, Assembly top man William Burdett-Coutts spoke to ThreeWeeks about Fringes old, recent and upcoming.**

**TW:** How was your first year in George Square, and have you changed anything there for year number two?

**WBC:** Our first year was a great success. We felt instantly at home, the atmosphere is terrific and it was great to join the rest of the Comedy Festival family on that side of town. This year we will be putting up extra cover in the square, while also connecting the internal and external sites by dressing up the street, extending the food offerings and adding a new bar.

**TW:** You've added the Roxburgh Place church to your venue portfolio this year, and not only that, but have taken year-round ownership of the building. What have you got planned, both this summer and long-term?

**WBC:** This year we will see how the Roxy works as a new Assembly venue. It'll host our Russian season in the central space, a number of local and international comedians in the downstairs area, plus more international theatre and comedy in the upstairs venue. On a long term basis, the plan is to create a new, exciting and accessible arts hub for Edinburgh all year round.

**TW:** Having been based in the same building for such a long time, what have the best and worst things been about creating new homes for Assembly at recent festivals?

**WBC:** We were very sad to leave the Assembly Rooms, given that it had been our home for the past 30 years, but change isn't always a bad thing. We are very excited about our new world, based out of George Square, and the new challenges that come with it. Plus with the capacity now for both in and outdoor spaces within which to create a new festival atmosphere, we couldn't be more delighted.

**TW:** Tell us about this year's Assembly programme, is there anything we should look out for in particular?

**WBC:** We have a fantastic programme in 2012 - highlights include our South African Season, which is a collection of eight theatre, musical and comedy productions, including Athol Fugard's 'Statements After An Arrest Under The Immorality Act', and the explosive new adaptation of Strindberg's classic 'Mies Julie' from the Baxter Theatre Centre. Other highlights in our programme also include Communicado's production of 'Tam O'Shanter', the physical comedy of 'Hi-Kick' and the breathtaking 'Mother Africa'.

**TW:** After over three decades at the Fringe, how has the festival improved over the years, and is there anything about the festivals of the early 1980s that you miss?

**WBC:** Obviously it was a much rawer event when it all started; although that is also the reason the festival has been able to accommodate so much growth over the years. The growth of the Fringe came about when shows were able to extend themselves further than just their August runs in Edinburgh, when coming to Edinburgh potentially opened up further touring and production possibilities. It is also this fact that has led to the Fringe expanding to the point it is today. Fundamentally, though, nothing has changed: we set out to put great shows in theatres for the public to enjoy and in essence that is what we are doing today, just on a bigger scale.

**LINKS:** [www.assemblyfestival.com](http://www.assemblyfestival.com)



**The SpaceUK venue empire has been quietly growing in recent years, expanding out from its original Jeffrey Street home, so that it now boasts one of the Fringe's biggest programmes, with spaces around the Royal College Of Surgeons on Nicholson Street, North Bridge and the Royal Mile. ThreeWeeks spoke to Space boss Charles Pamment.**

**TW:** What spaces will be Spaces this year?! Are you running any new venues this time? And which old favourites will once again see the Space name go above the door in August?

**CP:** We'll be offering a full complement of theatres again for 2012 - seven venues, 12 theatre spaces and our Cabaret Bar. That includes old favourites like theSpace@Venue 45, and of course our multi-space venue hub at theSpaces@Surgeons Hall. We've also added to our portfolio with the wonderful Symposium Hall on Hill Square. Right next door to the Surgeons Hall, this has a fantastic amphitheatre with the added bonus of 160 leather lounge seats - making it probably the most comfortable venue in town!

**TW:** Programming wise, how many shows have you got, what sort of genres are covered, and are there any things we should be particularly looking out for?

**CP:** Numbers are scary things in Edinburgh: we will be working with some 230 companies in August, and host around 245 shows involving nearly 2500 performers, all squeezed into 23 days! We'll have about 117 shows going on every day during the Fringe, and that's pretty much one every hour or so in those 13 theatres.

## Bedlam Theatre's Adam Alton

**At the South end of George IV Bridge, just around the corner from the Fringe's Bristo Square hub, you will find the Bedlam Theatre. The year-round home of the Edinburgh University Theatre Company, every year a different team of students is assembled to programme, and run the building for the Festival. ThreeWeeks catches up with this year's Bedlam Fringe Manager Adam Alton.**

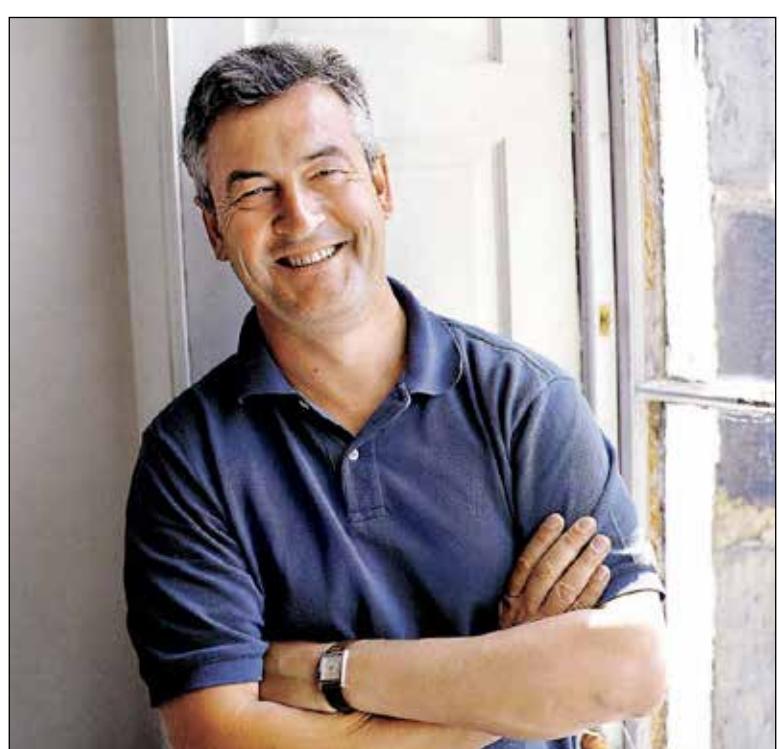
**TW:** The Bedlam is famously one of the UK's leading student-run theatres, how do things work during the Fringe?

**AA:** The Edinburgh Fringe at the Bedlam has always offered great opportunities for both our staff and our visiting companies. We're so lucky to be allowed to run the Bedlam over the Festival - when you step back and think about it, it's an amazing thing. We have a theatre, in a fantastic location for the Fringe, and I'm appointed to hire a team of people to run the venue for the Festival. That team runs the show selection, develops any projects working to improve the space for companies and audience members, decides what the café will sell, and so on. We really do get to run the place

with a lot of freedom, and when you consider that the majority of the staff are either students or recent graduates, we really are fortunate to have such a great amount of trust given to us. It's our chance to demonstrate what a team like this can achieve, and why opportunities like this are essential for helping the next generation of arts professionals to make a step into the industry.

**TW:** How do you choose what shows to stage at the Bedlam each Fringe?

**AA:** Companies that want to perform are invited to apply. The team meets and we go through each application in turn trying to assemble a programme we feel will not only work well in the venue, but also work really well as a programme overall - shows we personally believe in and that remind us why theatre is such a great part of our culture. We often have companies who return year after year, but we are always eager to also offer emerging companies the chance to perform at a venue in a great location with a team who can really support them. It's obviously great seeing companies return each year, but it's also a great joy seeing companies that started off at the Bedlam returning with sell out shows at bigger venues at subsequent Festivals. In many cases, the only thing



# venue directors

## the SpaceUK's Charles Pamment

Genre wise, our programme will be as diverse as ever, with all genres included! And from some 19 different countries too. Theatre is probably our largest genre, cabaret continues to thrive after the launch of our specific cabaret venue last year, and we have a large programme of comedy, sketch and improv. Our dance programme continues to flourish and grow too. And we have a fantastic children's programme from 10am to 2pm daily at our Surgeons Hall theatres. Oh, and there's an array of musicals and music across our venues as well!

What to look out for! Where to start? Fourth Monkey are bringing six shows in rep to theSpace on Niddry St, following on from their 2010 success with 'Clockwork Orange'. These are very exciting, highly rated shows, including 'The Elephant Man'. Fiddly West Theatre Company return to our Surgeons Hall venues. Their show 'Territory' was a multiple award winner at the Fringe in 2009, and also cleaned up at the NSDF awards. Since then they have become the company in residence at The Lowry in Manchester. And our children's festival looks like a must for all.

Our new venue theSpaces@ Symposium Hall offers an international flavour of theatre, music and dance including a capella from Australia, flamenco from Spain, theatre from China and a soprano from Singapore singing in eight different languages, including three different varieties of Chinese!

**TW: Given some have worried about the impact the Olympics could have, as well as the continued wobbly economy, are you still optimistic about this year's Fringe?**

CP: Yes, totally optimistic. For starters we've filled every slot, so that's a good sign! And actually we have more companies from the US than ever before. I remember way back in September venues being warned that the American companies would be staying at home this year! I think much of the hype about the Olympics is media driven, with newspapers and news channels story hunting and even scaremongering. In reality there are only so many tickets for the swimming!

Get more show tips from Charles in the full interview at [www.ThreeWeeks.co.uk/2012CP](http://www.ThreeWeeks.co.uk/2012CP)

**LINKS:** [www.thespaceuk.com](http://www.thespaceuk.com)

the Fringe. The Improverts are the EUTC's resident improvised comedy troupe, performing every Friday night throughout the year. At this year's Festival, they will perform at half past midnight every day apart from the 12 and 19 Aug. Following the EUTC's long-held tradition of staging new writing at the Fringe, the other EUTC show this year is 'Killing Time', a dark comedy written by Andrew Edwards. It was performed earlier this year as a part of the Bedlam Festival and received excellent feedback. 'Killing Time' is on every day at 11am, except for Sundays, when it's on at 12.30pm.

**TW: The Bedlam has an established profile and reputation, but a new team running it each festival. Do you think that helps keep things feeling fresh?**

AA: Yes, having a new team each year does help keep things fresh, though having the whole team involved in compiling our programme is also important. Our team is also very approachable, and as a small venue, you'll quickly recognise people here. It's not uncommon for audience members to end up chatting with us all in the Bedlam café after and between shows. This results in an amazing atmosphere that it would be hard to get anywhere else at the Festival but in Bedlam.

Find out more about Adam and the Bedlam at [www.ThreeWeeks.co.uk/2012AA](http://www.ThreeWeeks.co.uk/2012AA)

**LINKS:** [www.bedlamfringe.co.uk](http://www.bedlamfringe.co.uk)

**TW: The EUTC also stages its own shows, tell us about those.**

AA: Each year, members of the EUTC vote on what shows it should present as part of the Bedlam's Fringe programme. One of them is 'The Improverts', a regular show for the Bedlam, now in its 23rd year at



## An international festival of Olympic proportions

**There are a number of festivals taking place in Edinburgh during August, and at the heart of it all is the International Festival, presenting theatre, dance, opera and classical music from across the world in many of the city's premiere theatres and concert halls (and, in one case, on Arthur's Seat). This year, some of the productions are also part of the London 2012 Festival, the mass of cultural happenings being promoted by organisers of the Olympic Games. ThreeWeeks spoke to EIF Artistic Director Jonathan Mills, about this year's programme, the Olympic tie-ups, and what exactly will be happening on Arthur's Seat.**

**TW: You've got another packed and diverse programme this year. Are there any strands people should look out for?**

JM: It's always difficult to pick out strands or individual performances, because I hope that everything in the programme is exciting and has a lot to offer audiences. But we are presenting some of the world's most talented young artists this year. The Juilliard Dance School from New York make their first appearances in the UK. Russian director Dmitry Krymov brings his young company to Edinburgh as part of a rich Russian co-production performing his very particular take on Shakespeare's 'A Midsummer Night's Dream'. And then we have the dazzling talent of pianists Daniil Trifonov and Francesco

Piemontesi, as well as a wonderful line up of violinists in some of the genre's most beautiful and moving violin concertos, including Scotland's own Nicola Benedetti making her Festival debut, Viviane Hagner from Germany and Alina Pogostkina from Russia.

**TW: We are particularly excited about the 'Speed Of Light' project with NVA on Arthur's Seat. What's happening there?**

JM: NVA and Angus Farquhar have been creating huge outdoor public art works for a number of years in magical and remote places. This year we are presenting a brand new work they are creating on Arthur's Seat, Edinburgh's city centre mountain. The views from the top are already incredible, but add to that an exploration of endurance sport meeting art and science, and I think we have the potential to experience something unique and inspiring. There are already thousands of runners recruited to wear light suits and traverse the mountain. Now the opportunity is open to audiences to take part, to carry a light staff up the mountain and form part of the spectacle, as well as seeing the runners creating this work from above with the city's lights twinkling and the castle lit up and visible over the crags in the background. It's vast and quite special.

**TW: There's a tie up with the London 2012 Festival this year. Tell us about that partnership, and the productions that are involved.**

JM: It's an important partnership for the Festival because it presents us with an opportunity to reach new audiences, to promote the Festival

to international media whose interest in the UK is greater this year because of this huge sporting event, and to play a part in the UK-wide celebrations. The three productions taking place at the Royal Highland Centre form part of our contribution to the London 2012 Festival, as do our Shakespearean works and Romanian director Silviu Purcarete's new production, based on Jonathan Swift's 'Gulliver's Travels'.

**TW: You mentioned the Shakespeare programme. How have you ensured your Shakespearean strand lives up to the EIF's reputation for innovation?**

JM: Shakespeare always has a lot to offer and continues to be an inspiration to artists from around the world. We were keen to work with and be part of the World Shakespeare Festival, and featuring a Russian take on 'Midsummer Night's Dream' and a Polish production of 'Macbeth' set in the Middle East allows us to enjoy international perspectives on British works. This is not a wholly new journey, last year we presented a version of 'King Lear' from Taiwan and 'The Tempest' from Korea, not to mention a Peking Opera version of 'Hamlet'. This year we are also presenting Camille O'Sullivan and Fergal Murray's reimagining of Shakespeare's poem 'The Rape of Lucrece', drawing on the influences of Bob Dylan and Nick Cave as writers of modern ballads with Shakespeare's wonderful poetic story.

Find out more about this year's EIF, the Royal Highland Centre shows, Camille's appearance, and the first ever International Culture Summit in the full interview at [www.ThreeWeeks.co.uk/2012JM](http://www.ThreeWeeks.co.uk/2012JM)

**LINKS:** [www.eif.co.uk](http://www.eif.co.uk)

## Quick Quiz

**Whether they're here to perform or consume, what advice have you got for someone 'doing' the Fringe for the first time?**



**Asher Treleaven:**

"My advice for first time visitors to the Fringe is take a risk on something - lucky dip it! Just pick a show randomly in the guide and go see it, the Fringe is about venturing into the unknown. See as much as you can, and do Arthur's Seat early rather than later, or you'll just end up seeing it as it disappears into the distance from the back of a vehicle as you leave Edinburgh"

Asher Treleaven - Troubadour, Gilded Balloon Teviot, 1-26 Aug (not 13), 4.30pm. [www.ashertreleaven.com](http://www.ashertreleaven.com)



**Chris Ramsey:**

"Just because it's raining, doesn't mean you should put a coat on. Edinburgh is one of the only cities in the world where it can be raining yet really warm at the same time. It's horrible. Bring a brolly or an Alton Towers Poncho"

Chris Ramsey - Feeling Lucky, Pleasance Courtyard, 1-26 Aug, 7.40pm. [www.chrisramseycomedy.com](http://www.chrisramseycomedy.com)



**Barbershopera:**

"Go and see loads of shows, try to take time out of the madness once in a while to maintain sanity and ALWAYS carry flyers - there is so much on, you need to work hard to get an audience. You never know when you might get chatting to someone and word of mouth is the best way to get people in!"

Barbershopera: The Three Musketeers, Pleasance Courtyard, 1-27 Aug (not 13,20), 11.05pm. [www.barbershopera.com](http://www.barbershopera.com)



**Oyster Eyes:**

"Don't worry if you find yourself crying everyday. Look after your feet. If the chip shops ask if you want salt

and sauce always say 'yes'. Go and see as many bad shows as you can. Listen to your heart"

Oyster Eyes - Some Rice, Underbelly Cowgate, 2-26 Aug (not 14), 10.25pm. [www.oystereyes.com](http://www.oystereyes.com)



**Lou Sanders:**

"Try not to drink too much. Also do not hire flyers who just want to have sexual intercourse with comics

(this is most of them). They don't really care about your show, even if you're paying them well and taking them for

food and drinks all the time. A clue is if they've brought six pairs of shoes to fly in (all of them high heeled). And they are very drunk"

Lou Sanders - And Now For A Nice Evening With Wallan, Pleasance Courtyard, 1-26 Aug (not 15), 9.30pm. [www.lousanders.com](http://www.lousanders.com)



**Maria Hodson & Gerardine Coyne of Aspidistras**

**M:** "Rob a bank. And then fritter away your ill-gotten gains while carousing in the rain".

**G:** "Everything people tell you about the Fringe is true. Be prepared for euphoric joy and searing pain. Drink to forget and then tell someone famous how much you really really really love their work when they're trying to have a conversation with someone else"

Aspidistras - Hi Noon!, Just The Tonic at The Caves, 13-26 Aug (not 14), 12.00pm. [www.theaspidistras.co.uk](http://www.theaspidistras.co.uk)



**Max and Ivan:**

"If you're tempted to try a battered Mars Bar, do it once and once only - your body can only withstand so much trauma. This same rule also applies to 'zany student impro' shows"

Max and Ivan - Max and Ivan Are... Con Artists - Pleasance Courtyard, 1-27 Aug (not 14), 3.30pm. [www.maxandivan.com](http://www.maxandivan.com)



**La John Joseph:**

"I came to the Fringe for a week two years ago, so I'm only half-baked as a Fringe Festival life coach (though very reasonably priced I must add). My advice to go get em newcomers would be, 'Chin up, knuckle down, a hard day's work never killed anyone, two in the bush is worth a stitch in time etc etc'. Oh, and BYOB, that's very important, I swear Aldi jacks up the price of the hooch at Festival time"

Boy in a Dress, The Stand Comedy Club III & IV, 2-26 Aug (not 13), 4.20pm.



**Doug Segal:**

"Don't go see mega star TV comedians - They are going to be bringing their show to your town anyway. Go see people you've not heard of that sound wild or interesting. Seeing a mega star comedian at the Edinburgh Fringe is like going to an orgy then having sex in a private room with your wife - why bother going?"

Doug Segal - How to Read Minds and Influence People, Gilded Balloon Teviot, 2-27 Aug (not 13), 7.00pm. [www.dougsegal.com](http://www.dougsegal.com)



## Liberating stand-up: Rhod Gilbert

### CO INTERVIEW

**After taking a year off from the Edinburgh festivities, Fringe favourite Rhod Gilbert returns with a brand new show. ThreeWeeks spoke to him about Edinburgh, TV comedy, the rise of stand-up and alternative careers...**

**TW: Welcome back to Edinburgh - we missed you last year! What has persuaded you back?**

**RG:** Last year was the first year that I have not performed at Edinburgh since I started stand up in 2002. Even though putting on a show here is a gruelling shit fight, akin to running a marathon in a pair of size four stilettos, I missed it. I guess my wanting to come back is something like Stockholm Syndrome.

**TW: Tell us about the new show 'The Man With The Flaming Battenberg Tattoo'.**

**RG:** In my opinion it's the best show I've ever done. It's certainly the most honest and the most personal, and I'm enjoying it more than any show I've done before. As always, it's a mix of fact and fiction, but it's a slightly mellower me looking back at what a dick I used to be. Or at least, it's a slightly mellower me looking at what a dick I am. I've finally admitted that I am a petty, argumentative little sod, and the tattoo in the title is largely responsible for my shift in perspective. Oh, and with a bit of luck it's piss your pants funny.

**TW: As you do an increasing amount of TV and radio projects, does the prospect of stand-up get more or less exciting?**

**RG:** More. The freedom you get with stand up, where you write everything, script edit it, produce it, direct it and perform it is so exciting after you've done a bit of TV. You don't quite appreciate that freedom until you do some TV stuff, where there are 700 people in a room discussing how they could improve your punchline.

If the 'chicken crossing the road joke' had been developed for television, he wouldn't have crossed the road at all, he'd have just stood on the pavement discussing whether crossing the road was the right thing to do for seven hours, before being mown down by a mobility scooter, so his flat dirty corpse could be kicked into the gutter by a teenager.

**TW: Stand-up continues to be on a high in the UK at the moment, do you think that's here to stay?**

**RG:** Nah, I think people are going to get sick of it. It's like everyone's trying to make 'stand up pate de Foie Gras' at the moment. Stand-up is being rammed down people's throats on telly to churn out pate, but at some point the goose that lays the golden egg is going to have an anal prolapse, and it'll be too late to catch the monkey cos the horse will already have bolted. Someone needs to remind the cats in TV not to flog a dead horse.

**TW: We really liked your panel show 'Ask Rhod Gilbert'. Are there any questions not posed on the show that you'd genuinely like to know the answer to?**

**RG:** Yes, "why has the series been axed?" Actually, I think that would be a genuinely be a funny question to have on the show. We could do it as a kind of one off special?

**TW: You tried out a number of other jobs on the 'Work Experience' show.**

**Did that make stand-up seem like an easier or harder career choice?**

**RG:** Well I love doing stand up, so it makes it seem easier. No question. After you've walked 18 miles and shifted 20 tons of shit into the back of a bin lorry for 48 quid, turning up at a nice theatre and making people laugh for a few hours is a joy.

**TW: You continue to do your BBC Wales radio show, are you particularly passionate about that?**

**RG:** They gave me a break and took a punt on me years ago and I like to reward that. And they give me complete freedom, the kind of freedom I just would not get anywhere else. I can play what I want, do the show from wherever I want and say pretty much what I want. Although it gets harder to commit to the show, as I lose money doing it and it's a massive pain in the arse to get up on a saturday morning, I am committed to it and would like to keep doing it as long as I can. It's very rare in TV or radio to be in a position of freedom and I relish every second of it.

**TW: Other than performing, do you have any other plans for your fortnight in Edinburgh this August?**

**RG:** Yes, obviously. I'm not a pissing robot. I will go and see stuff, eat shit food, get drunk, argue with people in bars, have a nervous breakdown and leave. I say I'm not a robot, but looking at that list, that's exactly what I do every time, so maybe I am.

Find out about Rhod's experiences as a teacher and a drag artist in the full interview at [www.ThreeWeeks.co.uk/2012RG](http://www.ThreeWeeks.co.uk/2012RG)

**SEE RHOD'S SHOW**

Rhod Gilbert - The Man With The Flaming Battenberg Tattoo, Venue 150 @ EICC, 15-26 Aug, 7.40pm

**LINKS:** [www.rhodgilbertcomedian.com](http://www.rhodgilbertcomedian.com)

## C 3 TO SEE

**ThreeWeeks Co-Editor  
Caro Moses recommends  
some top shows and events  
for your amusement**

### 3 sketch shows

#### The Boom Jennies: Mischief



Okay, let's kick off the sketch show section by forecasting some quality comedy courtesy of this bunch of very funny girls. ThreeWeeks reviewers love The Boom Jennies, and with good cause, so please add them to your must-see list. Especially you people who say things like "Oh, I don't like women comedians" and "Yeah, but women just aren't funny". Yes you. I can see you. And hear you. Go and have your naughty preconceptions proved wrong.

The Boom Jennies: Mischief, Pleasance Dome, 1-26 Aug (not 13), 10.45pm, fpp49. [www.theboomjennies.com](http://www.theboomjennies.com)

#### Oyster Eyes Presents... Some Rice



Another troupe that went down well with our team last year was Oyster Eyes, and they are back with what they describe as a "medley of some great sketches and some greater moments". Definitely one for fans of polo-necks, if their publicity shot is anything to go by. Though, actually, I'm not sure you

should go by the publicity shot at all. It's actually a bit scary.

Oyster Eyes - Some Rice, Underbelly Cowgate, 2-26 Aug (not 14), 10.25pm, fpp139. [www.oystereyes.com](http://www.oystereyes.com)

#### Checkley and Bush's Comedy Riot



Checkley and Bush also return to the Fringe this year, with a show that, according to the programme, will include "dark witty sketches, snappy banter and kick arse song parodies". I am in particular looking forward to the song parodies. Back in 2010, our reviewer advised readers to "book tickets ASAP", and I am happy to pressure you, on his behalf, to act on this. Yes, I accept that it was two years ago, but come on, they'll probably have got funnier.

Checkley and Bush's Comedy Riot!, Just the Tonic at The Caves, 2-26 Aug (not 14), 8.55pm. [www.checkleyandbush.co.uk](http://www.checkleyandbush.co.uk)

### 3 with a sciency theme

#### Helen Arney: Voice Of An Angle



Is science more popular these days, or is it just that there's more of it at the Fringe? There is certainly a choice of shows with scientific or technological themes this time, in any case. As someone who loves science, but who is a complete dim wit (just at science, not everything - look, I'm good at typing

in meaningful strings of words), I find this sort of stuff highly appealing, so Helen Arney is definitely on my list of things to see (if I ever find the time come August - hey, I'm really busy editing reviews during the Festival - couldn't one of these science types find a way of creating me a clone so I can actually make it to all my tipped shows personally?).

Helen Arney - Voice of an Angle, Underbelly Cowgate, 2-26 Aug (not 15), 6.15pm, fpp91. [www.helenarney.com](http://www.helenarney.com)

#### Festival of the Spoken Nerd



Look, an entire festival devoted to science and other nerdy stuff! Well, okay, it's not the size of the Fringe, or anything. In fact, it's basically just one event, on at the same time every day for seven days. Okay, so really it's just a Fringe show. But look what Helen Arney (yes, again), Matt Parker and Steve Mould have in store for you: science, music, maths... I don't care if they were your least favourite subjects at school, these three are going to make them interesting, and what's more, funny.

Festival of the Spoken Nerd, Venue150 @ EICC, 17 Aug, 8.30pm, fpp77. [www.festivalofthespokennerd.com](http://www.festivalofthespokennerd.com)

#### Helen Keen: Robot Woman Of Tomorrow



Is there a connection between science and women called Helen? Who knows? But this tip-section is coming

together in all sorts of connecty ways, don't you think? To be fair, this Helen's show is more on the sci-fi side of things, offering a healthy mix of science-fiction, stand-up and, er, shadow puppetry. It's a foray into the "tin-foil world of the future"... and that sounds highly promising to me.

Helen Keen: Robot Woman of Tomorrow, Pleasance Courtyard, 1-26 Aug, 12.00am. fpp115. [www.bronston.com](http://www.bronston.com)

### 3 really tall comic acts

#### Luke Benson: Backseat Hero



You may think that choosing comedians based on their height is a foolish way to pick shows to recommend.

You may be right, but sorry, I'm the one doing the choosing. And as Luke Benson is really good, as well being really tall (6'7"), I see no reason why I shouldn't tell you all to go and see him. Go and see him. He is really good.

Luke Benson - Backseat Hero, Pleasance Courtyard, 1-26 Aug (not 13), 8.45pm, fpp118.

#### Life's Short. I'm Not! Free



Bronston Jones is also 6'7" and it sounds like he's had a pretty varied career to date; producing and directing promos and music videos, working with the likes of Whoopi Goldberg and Tommy Lee, as well as hosting a comedy

club in LA. But he's in Edinburgh this Festival, doing tall comedy. And it's free. Hooray.

Life's Short. I'm Not!, Laughing Horse @ Meadow Bar, 2-26 Aug, 12.00am. fpp115. [www.bronston.com](http://www.bronston.com)

#### Humphrey Ker is...

Dymock Watson: Nazi Smasher!



If you've been around the Fringe, you'll be aware of Humphrey Ker, last year's winner of the Edinburgh Comedy Awards' newcomer gong and sometime Penny Dreadful. If you've seen him around, you might also be aware that he's quite tall. In fact, I think he might even be about 6'7" like the other two. But the salient point is that he is back with his prize winning show, so I recommend you take this chance to see it.

Humphrey Ker... Dymock Watson: Nazi Smasher!, Pleasance Dome, 7-14 Aug, 11.0pm. fpp95.



ThreeWeeks on your iPod  
[www.ThreeWeeks.co.uk/podcasts](http://www.ThreeWeeks.co.uk/podcasts)

TW

**THE MAGICAL ADVENTURES OF  
PETE HEAT**

“MIND BLOWING. YOU'RE IN FOR A TREAT”  
IAIN LEE, ABSOLUTE RADIO

“PETE SCARES ME... AND THEN THERE'S HIS MAGIC”  
RICH FULCHER, THE MIGHTY BOOSH

“THE ROCK & ROLL MAGICIAN”  
NME

“WATCHING PETE'S MAGIC MAKES MY FACE HURT”  
HARRY MCVEIGH, WHITE LIES

QR CODE      17:45 DAILY      GILDED BALLOON AT THIRD DOOR

GILDED BALLOON  
AT THIRD DOOR

MAGIC. MIND READING. COMEDY. TIME TRAVEL. A WEASEL.

WWW.GILDEDBALLOON.CO.UK

# COMEDY

Get daily comedy reviews from ThreeWeeks

Pick up the Daily Edition at key Fringe venues or sign up for email alerts at [www.ThreeWeeks.co.uk/subscribe](http://www.ThreeWeeks.co.uk/subscribe)

## 3 ThreeWeeks five-star recipients

### Alfie Brown: Soul For Sale



It pains me to be honest about this, but one of our reviewers did not enjoy the work of Alfie Brown, back in 2010.

On the other hand, in 2009, another ThreeWeeks reviewer praised his "fantastic and diverse performance" and his brilliantly executed material. And in 2011, a number of our reviewers saw and loved his show, with one giving him 5/5 and calling him "masterful". So, what are you going to do? Bearing in mind that opinion is entirely subjective, I'd still definitely book a ticket for this one.

Alfie Brown: Soul For Sale, Underbelly Cowgate, 2-26 Aug, 6.25pm, fpp34. [www.alfiebrown.com](http://www.alfiebrown.com)

### Stuart Goldsmith: Prick



Oh dear. Obviously I chose the second entry for this section on the basis of Stuart Goldsmith having garnered a 5/5

ThreeWeeks review a couple of years ago. But just a few days after choosing it, I read that Goldsmith has said that he plans to donate £1000 to Waverley Care at the end of the Fringe, but that he will deduct £100 from this sum every time a journalist makes a pun on the title of his show. I am now worrying madly that I will inadvertently do this,

so I am going to stop writing. Now.

Stuart Goldsmith: Prick, Pleasance Courtyard, 1-26 Aug (not 15), 7.30pm, fpp166. [www.stuartgoldsmith.co.uk](http://www.stuartgoldsmith.co.uk)

### John Robins: Incredible Scenes



Lots and lots of our team have, over the last few years, fallen for this particular comedian, and I've heard them

wondering - very much aloud - why John Robins isn't a) playing the largest venues in the land and b) appearing constantly on our TV screens. Last year's reviewer also wanted John to be his best friend. I bet if you go to see his show, you will too.

John Robins: Incredible Scenes!, Just the Tonic at The Caves, 2-26 Aug (not 14), 7.20pm, fpp105. [www.johnrobins.net](http://www.johnrobins.net)

## 3 Dans

### Dan Wright: Michael Jackson Touched Me



If you think Dan Wright looks familiar, that might be because you are the parent of a youngish child who may have watched CBeebies in recent years. For lo, this is the miniature one from the much loved TV show 'Big Cook, Little Cook'. But forget that now, because Dan has not come riding into Edinburgh on a wooden spoon; no, he is, I assume, arriving by standard means of transport to perform a grown

up show about having an obsession with Michael Jackson. If having an obsession with Michael Jackson can be considered to be a grown up thing. Whatever. I think this show will be good, so add it to your list.

Dan Wright: Michael Jackson Touched Me, Gilded Balloon Teviot, 1-26 Aug (not 13), 9.30pm, fpp64.

### Dan Willis: A Comedian's Life



I initially picked this particular Dan for this here 'Dan section' because he happened to have received a number of extremely positive ThreeWeeks reviews for his shows in the past. But then I noticed that Dan may also be in the running for Busiest Comedian At The Fringe (that's an award I just made up) because he is not only doing this show, but he's doing five others as well, all free, in a bid to prove that "a comedian can work six hours a day just like a normal person". I take my hat off to him, and insist you all support him in his endeavour.

Dan Willis: A Comedian's Life, Laughing Horse @ The Free Sisters, 3-26 Aug (not 7.14.21), 7.45pm, fpp64. [www.danwillis.net](http://www.danwillis.net)

### Dana Alexander: Breaking Through



No, cynics, I didn't run out of Dans. The Fringe Programme is awash with them. And Daniels. And Dannys. But, you know, I didn't want this section to be too sexist, so I thought I'd thrown in a

Dana. There's only one extra A, after all, plus, this is a class act who got a 4/5 review from us with her debut Edinburgh show last year, and this year offers us a foreign perspective on British life. There, now aren't you glad I deviated a bit from that whole Dan thing?

Dana Alexander: Breaking Through, Underbelly Bristo Square, 1-27 Aug (not 13), 10.35pm, fpp62.

## 3 with music

### The Blanks' Big Break



If you are a fan of the US TV show 'Scrubs' - and I was, before my life turned into an endless round of work and childcare that means I have less time for TV - then you will surely recognise these four chaps, aka Ted's band. They'll be mixing their trademark a capella with a 'knock about comic tale and sketches', in this, their Edinburgh debut. I'd like to see it. It might make up for all those lost hours of not watching imported TV shows. Sigh.

The Blanks' Big Break, Gilded Balloon Teviot, 1-27 Aug (not 14.23), 9.30pm, fpp47. [www.theblankswebsite.com](http://www.theblankswebsite.com)

### Rob Deering: The One



ThreeWeeks have loved Rob Deering for a long time, not least for appearing in our awful panel quiz back in the

day (of which we've all agreed never to speak) and not complaining about it at all. He's a lovely man, and more importantly, for those of you buying tickets, also very funny, very clever, and comes armed with cracking songs. Fans can also see his eight-date live music based game show. Which will be a lot better than our quiz was (oh dear, there I go mentioning it again).

Rob Deering: The One, Pleasance Courtyard, 1-27 Aug (not 8.14), 8.15pm, fpp149. [www.robedeering.com](http://www.robedeering.com)

### Anne Edmonds in My Banjo's Name Is Steven



This sounds good; Ms Edmonds takes a cathartic look at overcoming humiliation, sharing with the audience some of her more toe-curling life moments. I am generally a bit averse to comedy generated via the cringe factor, but I suspect the involvement of Steven might soften things a bit. Either way, she's considered a fast-rising star in her native Australia, so this may just be worth the mortification.

Anne Edmonds in My Banjo's Name Is Steven, Underbelly Bristo Square, 1-27 Aug (not 15), 12.10pm, fpp36.

more comedy:  
[ThreeWeeks.co.uk/comedy](http://ThreeWeeks.co.uk/comedy)

ESMS & Nasreen Arts Present

A NEW MUSICAL

Monday 6th - Sunday 12th August 6pm

The Tom Fleming Centre

Venue 128

Tickets

0131 226 0000

[www.edfringe.com](http://www.edfringe.com)

The  
**TOM FLEMING CENTRE**  
for the Performing Arts

"By the piercing in my ear, something wicked's lurking here..."

## 3 character comedians

### The Freewheelin' Cariad Lloyd



Cariad Lloyd truly won the heart of our very discerning reviewer last year, for her "original, brilliantly drawn and hilarious characters" which were "achingly funny". All the other critics have been throwing superlatives her way too, and she scored an Edinburgh Comedy Award Newcomer nomination. This year she returns with some old and some new characters, and we are looking forward to seeing all of them.

Cariad Lloyd - The Freewheelin' Cariad Lloyd, Pleasance Courtyard, 1-27 Aug (not 14), 4.45pm, fpp52. [www.cariadlloyd.com](http://www.cariadlloyd.com)

### Catriona Knox: Hellcat



Another lady character comedian with a name beginning with C? These connections are starting to scare even me... Yes, another act who has charmed the critics with her well observed comedy, Catriona Knox is back with the promise of rare-breed dogs, dancing monkeys, and, as the show name implies, a hellcat. Sounds completely insane. But insane is good, right?

Catriona Knox - Hellcat, Underbelly Bristol Square, 1-27 Aug (not 13), 5.40pm, fpp53. [www.catrionaknox.com](http://www.catrionaknox.com)

### Folken Britain



Back in 2010, we liked Susan Harrison's show 'Creatures' so much that we gave her a ThreeWeeks Editors' Award. What made us extra happy about that show was that it proved us right: you don't have to go to one of the big comedy venues to see really good comedy shows. Well, now it's 2012, she's staging a new, surreal and "slightly silly" show as part of PBH's Free Fringe, and you'd be well advised to check it out. In fact, I'm advising you to check it out. So check it out.

Folken Britain, Le Monde, 4-25 Aug (not 13, 20), 5.30pm, fpp78. [www.susanharrisoncharacters.com](http://www.susanharrisoncharacters.com)

## Antarctic inspiration for a Fringe adventure

### CO COLUMN

#### Simon Evans tries to adopt the resolve of Britain's original Antarctic explorers whenever faced with his own misfortune. Albeit with limited success.

"My show in Edinburgh this year touches on the notion that the stories we tell about our history largely determine how we behave today - both as individuals and as nations. Various centenaries this year, many of them pretty bleak, to be honest, have reminded us of the men who sought to claim the South Pole for their flag: Scott, Shackleton and, of course, the ultimately successful Norwegian, Amund-something, who cheated by using dogs, and not collecting any eggs.

Scott and his core team, of course, perished on their return, having been beaten to the Pole by five weeks. Scott's last diary entry was on 29th March 1912 and, according to Wikipedia, "the positions of the bodies in the tent, when it was discovered eight months later, suggested that Scott was the last of the three to die". A phrase which provokes unnecessarily vulgar speculation, if you ask me, but there can't have been much in it.

The remains of Captain Oates, who, fearing he was slowing the party down, had famously excused himself some days earlier with what became the most famous formulation of British stiff-upper-lip sentiment ever uttered, were never found. Given the state he was in when he went "outside", it is not hard to imagine the others having to delicately step over him when striking camp the following morning, but no such indignity is recorded, thankfully.

Among those involved in Scott's Terra Nova Expedition was survivor Apsley Cherry-Garrard, who wrote perhaps the definitive account, 'The

Worst Journey In The World'. Notice the lack of an "Ever!" at the end of that title. There is also a remarkable absence throughout the book of the popular abbreviation "FFS!", despite many obvious opportunities for its deployment.

The title refers to the leg of the expedition which Apsley and two others made in July 1911, to collect Emperor Penguin eggs. July in Antarctica is even worse than it is in the UK. The journey took place in perpetual darkness, with temperatures ranging from -40C to -60C. The eggs were expected to be of scientific interest, as the Emperor was believed to be the most evolutionarily primitive of extant birds. Cherry-Garrard, virtually blind even in daylight without his glasses, shattered most of his teeth with chattering (the involuntary, cold-induced kind, not the Islington dinner party kind). On one occasion their tent was ripped away by a blizzard, leaving them singing hymns in their sleeping bags to keep up morale while the storm raged around them.

This sort of thing was once understood to be part of what it meant to be British. It was the mainstay of sermons, pep-talks, school speech days and even British humour, from 'The Goon Show' to 'Carry On Up The Khyber' to Monty Python and beyond. It's harder for today's young people to identify with, which is why more of their stuff refers to over-indulging on stag weekends in Amsterdam.

Having recently declined, on the grounds of self-preservation, to climb 20ft up a ladder in order to get hold of an egg (a ceaselessly squawking Herring Gull had laid one outside my son's bedroom window and the authorities were powerless to intervene, the egg of the Herring Gull being "protected", a level of bureaucratic interference with the laws of nature that was at least

something that Scott's men didn't have to overcome), I suppose that I cannot claim to be directly of Cherry-Garrard's moral lineage.

Last winter, indoors, in temperatures rapidly falling towards single figures of centigrade, I had to clamber into the loft and restart a faulty boiler, two or three times a night for nearly a week. On one occasion, I barked my shin in the dark, and completely lost it. The details are sketchy now - I did not keep a diary - but I'm afraid to say I used language stronger than any which seems to have occurred to Apsley Cherry-Garrard as being appropriate.

Still, I look to his example when I can. Two years ago last Christmas I set off from my parents home in Norwich with our two year old son in the back of our Toyota RAV4. Snow and ice on the roads

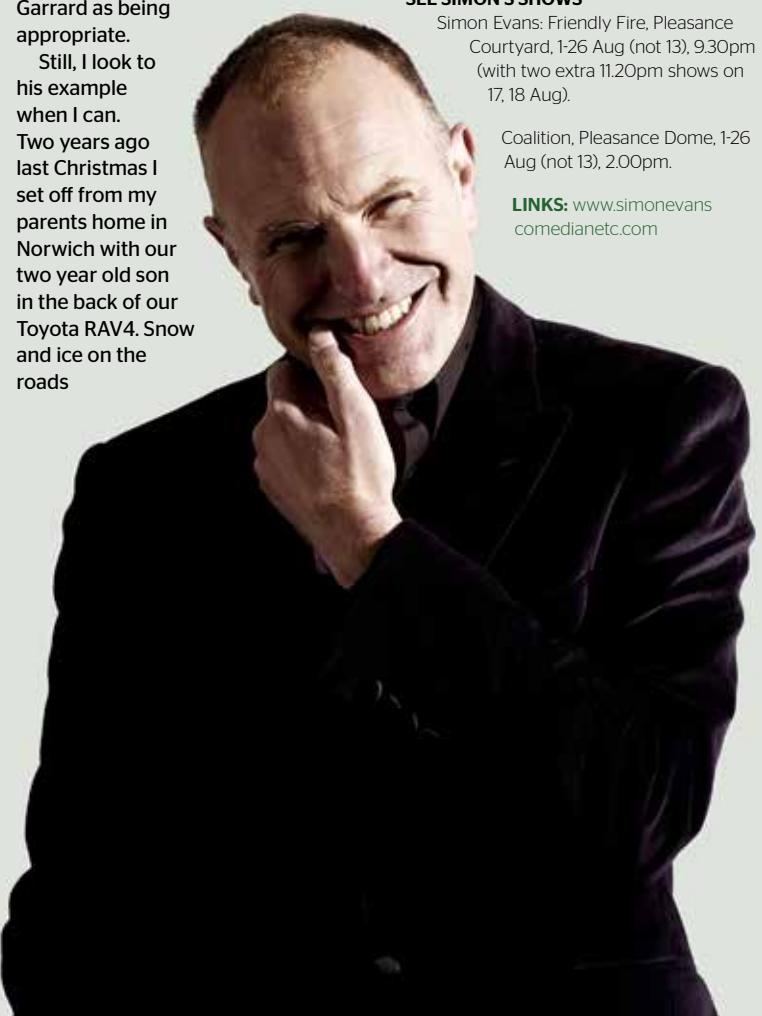
slowed our progress, and the journey to my in-laws in Tunbridge Wells took 12 hours. The heater held up, we did not run out of fuel and, in fairness, although I have had occasion to refer to my wife's mother unkindly before now, "World's Most Primitive Bird" would still be a bit strong. But still, the parallels were there and the Stoicism that is my birthright, thanks to men like Scott, Oates and Cherry-Garrard, made all the difference. Though what would have happened if the nippie hadn't slept through it is another matter".

#### SEE SIMON'S SHOWS

Simon Evans: Friendly Fire, Pleasance Courtyard, 1-26 Aug (not 13), 9.30pm (with two extra 11.20pm shows on 17, 18 Aug).

Coalition, Pleasance Dome, 1-26 Aug (not 13), 2.00pm.

**LINKS:** [www.simonevans.com](http://www.simonevans.com)



TW

**Sad Faces**  
REMEMBER ~ IT ~ DIFFERENTLY  
"SIDE-SPLITTINGLY FUNNY" ★★★★  
- BROADWAYBABY

1:00pm (1hr)  
2-26 August (not 13)

**underbelly**  
CONDUIT GEORGE IV BRIDGE

**Sound & Fury**  
VAUDEVILLE NOUVEAU PLAYERS

**DOC FAUSTUS**  
A SOULLESS WESTERN COMEDY PLAY

WINNER  
ThreeWeeks Comedy Award  
2009-2011

★★★★★  
THREEWEEKS / EVENING NEWS  
FEST / FRINGE REVIEW - HARROGATE

★★★★★  
SCOTSMAN / THE LAST  
CHARLIE / METRO

"Comic genius! All the panache and clever wit of the best British comedy writers of the 20th century!" - Edinburgh Evening News

"This is a delightful hour! Excellent!" - CapoK, Scotland

"BEST OF THE ADELAIDE FRINGE:  
A feast for the eyes, ears, and funnybone!" - The Punch

0844 545 8252 | 8PM (9PM)  
underbelly.co.uk | 2-26 AUG 2012 (not 13)

**underbelly**  
CONDUIT GEORGE IV BRIDGE

**The Intimate Strangers**

★★★★★  
"You simply have to see it"  
Off-Script

★★★★★  
"Stark comic quality"  
RemoteGoat

2-26th (not 14th) 3.15pm (1hr)  
Just The Tonic at The Caves

# THEATRE

For more ThreeWeeks theatre reviews, interviews and features

Check out [www.ThreeWeeks.co.uk/theatre](http://www.ThreeWeeks.co.uk/theatre)

## T H 3 TO SEE

### 3 new writing

#### The Static



This is a new play from Davey Anderson - the acclaimed writer that brought you 'Blackout', a piece ThreeWeeks called deep, powerful, captivating and emotional - so it shot right on to my to-see list the moment I heard about it. It's described as a "kinetic coming of age story about desire, guilt and mind over matter", and would appear to touch on the Carrie-like subject of telekinesis. I'm expecting good things.

The Static, Underbelly Cowgate, 2-26 Aug (not 20), 2.40pm, fpp323. [www.thickskintheatre.co.uk](http://www.thickskintheatre.co.uk)

#### Sealand



I have to admit that the reason this show initially jumped out at me was because, about six months ago, I became briefly preoccupied with the Principality Of Sealand. You, being no doubt much better informed than I, probably already know that it's a former World War II sea fort off the coast of Sussex, occupied since 1967 by a British family who claim it is an independent sovereign state. Anyway, this new play is inspired by these true events, though set in current times to reflect the economic crisis and its effect on families and society. And it's

by The Alchemist Theatre Company, who are award-winning and very good. Sealand, Zoo, 3-27 Aug, 5.15pm, fpp317. [www.thealchemisttheatre.co.uk](http://www.thealchemisttheatre.co.uk)

#### The Sewing Machine



And another admission. I am completely and utterly rubbish at sewing, and have been my whole life. Well, I'm not bad at embroidery, but anything that involves having to stitch a straight seam...? No no no. So, it might surprise you that just a few weeks ago I purchased a sewing machine. Sewing has thus far conquered me, and now I want to conquer sewing. And yes, I must confess, that's why this show initially leapt out at me from the programme. Rest assured, however, that when I looked into it further, I genuinely thought it sounded worth a recommendation, because it's an award-winning and poignant sounding piece all the way from South Africa.

The Sewing Machine, Assembly George Square, 2-27 Aug (not 13,20), 2.40pm, fpp318.

### 3 one-woman shows

#### Mother to Mother



Another production from Assembly's South African programme now. This one-hander sounds like a very powerful piece, and is performed by celebrated South African actress Thembi Mtshali-Jones. It's inspired by the true story of the 1992 mob-killing

#### 2008: Macbeth



Some might think that you can't possibly come to Scotland's biggest arts event and not take in a version of 'Macbeth'. To be honest, I wouldn't agree with that, but if you are coming this year, and Shakespeare is on your mind, I think you could do worse than choose one of the variations of it being staged this year. This first one is part of the International Festival, and is set in the midst of a contemporary Middle Eastern conflict, offering an unflinching portrayal of violence in war. It's a Polish production, but don't let that put you off; there will be English subtitles.

2008: Macbeth, Royal Highland Centre, 11-18 Aug (not 14), 7.30pm, eifpp7. [www.eif.co.uk](http://www.eif.co.uk).

#### Lady M

### 3 new interpretations of the Scottish Play

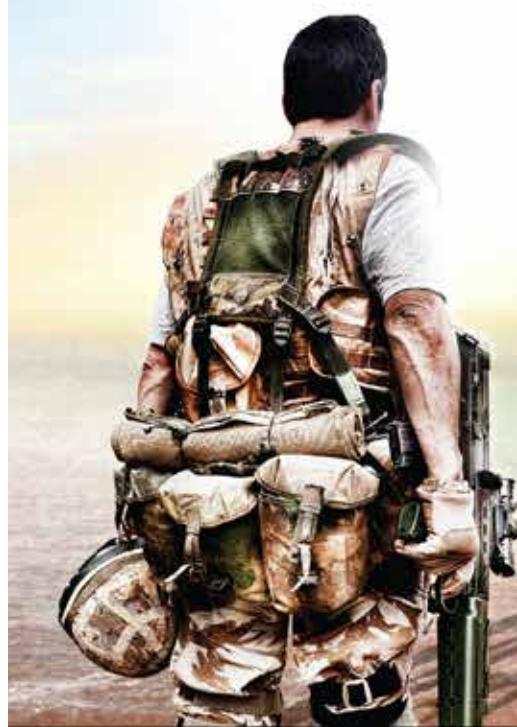
#### Macbeth: Who Is That Bloody Man?

Now this sounds very, very interesting. This next show is from Fringe First winners Teatr Biuro Podrozy, who will be staging a physical, highly visual outdoor production at Old College Quad called 'Macbeth: Who Is That Bloody Man' (and featuring the stilted performers in the picture above). It promises to be captivating, exhilarating and generally all round fantastic, though you will have to stand up to watch it. And it also contains nudity. Yes, nudity. Don't say I didn't warn you.

Macbeth: Who Is That Bloody Man?, Old College Quad, 2-13 Aug, 10.30pm, fpp295. [www.teatrburopodrozy.pl](http://www.teatrburopodrozy.pl)



★★★★★  
**'POWERFULLY AFFECTING'**  
DAILY TELEGRAPH



THE THEATRE ROYAL HAYMARKET MASTERCLASS TRUST & THE ROYAL BRITISH LEGION PRESENTS

# THE TWO WORLDS OF CHARLIE F.

FIRST THEY LIVED IT,  
NOW THEY'RE PERFORMING IT

[WWW.BRAVO22COMPANY.COM](http://WWW.BRAVO22COMPANY.COM)

Pleasance Grand, Edinburgh • 7-11 August 2012 • 0131 556 6550



of a white anti-apartheid activist, and sees this fictional mother coming to terms with the violence perpetrated by her own son, as well as relating to the bereaved mother of his victim. Sure to be poignant, but also promises to be uplifting.

Mother to Mother, Assembly George Square, 2-27 Aug (not 13), 4.00pm, fpp302.

#### Camille Claudel



I liked the sound of this the moment I heard about it. Camille Claudel was a French sculptor and artist, who, despite

her extraordinary talent, became best known for her association with Auguste Rodin, who, it seems, may have actually copied some of her stuff. Star of the show Gael Le Cornec has received great reviews for her previous charismatic performances, so given that, and the fact that it's such an interesting subject, I feel pretty sure this is going to be very entertaining.

Gael Le Cornec, Pleasance Courtyard, 1-27 Aug (not 7,14,21), 1.30pm, fpp264. [www.footprintproject.org](http://www.footprintproject.org)

#### Githa



Githa, aka KG Sowerby, was the writer of 'Rutherford & Son', a play which, when it debuted in 1912, caused something of a sensation for its searing portrayal of the negative effects of capitalism. The news that KG was actually a woman caused even more of a stir, and Githa briefly became a celebrated feminist hero. Over the years, her story has been forgotten; Royal Court graduate Hannah Davies brings her back to life.

Githa, C Venues - C nova, 14-27 Aug, 3.00pm, fpp281. [www.theflanagancollective.co.uk](http://www.theflanagancollective.co.uk)

## 3 myth and fable

#### The Girl With No Heart



Producers Sparkle And Dark describe this as a "stark yet beautiful fable" which sees children inhabiting a world of paper, and trying to rebuild their city by folding paper bricks, one at a time. An examination of the hopelessness and senselessness of war, conveyed via puppetry, shadow play and music.

The Girl With No Heart, Bedlam Theatre, 3-25 Aug (not 13), 5.00pm, fpp281. [www.sparkleanddark.com](http://www.sparkleanddark.com)

#### Icarus: A Story Of Flight



Everyone knows the story of Icarus, yes? Well, it involves a bit of flying (as well as falling), so you'll be pleased to hear that this production is the kind involving aerial circus type artistry, so this should add up to something pleasingly poetic as well as visually stunning. And this company definitely have form - our archives are packed with their 4/5 and 5/5 reviews.

Icarus: A Story Of Flight, C Venues - C eca, 1-27 Aug (not 13), 5.30pm, fpp286. [www.backhandtheatre.com](http://www.backhandtheatre.com)

#### Eurydice



"Eurydice always thought there would be more interesting people at her wedding. Plunged into the

underworld on her big day, she must make the ultimate choice - but how can she when she can't remember who she is?" UCLU Runaground present Sarah Ruhl's take on the Orpheus and Eurydice myth, incorporating physical theatre, puppetry and dance. We enjoyed their show 'King Ubu' a few years back, so we're expecting this to be good too.

Eurydice, C Venues - C eca, 1-27 Aug (not 14), 3.20pm, fpp277. [www.runagroundeurydice.tumblr.com](http://www.runagroundeurydice.tumblr.com)

## 3 for laughs

#### Centralia



'Centralia', like 'Sealand', is another thing I became briefly intrigued by earlier this year, and so this show's name

immediately jumped out at me. So, what is it? Well, Centralia is a ghost town in Pennsylvania; in the early sixties, a fire began in a mine there, and when, after a couple of decades, the fire had not stopped, the majority shipped out, though a few were left behind. This piece focuses on those few, and promises to tell their story with comedy, dance and cabaret.

Centralia, Zoo, 3-27 Aug (dates vary), 10.20pm, fpp266. [www.superbolttheatre.co.uk](http://www.superbolttheatre.co.uk)

#### Ellipsis



If anyone were ever to ask me what my favourite type of punctuation is (go on, ask me) I think I might

have trouble choosing between the semi colon and the ellipsis. And yes, that thought did draw me to this, yes. But no, it's not a show about weirdos who sit around musing about their favourite type of punctuation. It's an absurdist piece starring three young women, and claims to be packed with comedy and endless hidden messages.

Ellipsis, theSpace @ Jury's Inn, 3-25 Aug (not 5,12,19), (Times Vary), fpp276. [www.ellipsisistheatre.tumblr.com](http://www.ellipsisistheatre.tumblr.com)

#### Jigsy



This new play sees Les Dennis (yes, him off the telly) starring as Jigsy, a jobbing comedian who "has worked with them

all", and has all the stories to tell. Set in 1997 against the backdrop of a dying Liverpool club circuit, Jigsy tells his life story, and considers the glory he might have had. It might sound like a recipe for mawkishness, but I have a feeling this one is going to turn out pretty well.

Jigsy, The Assembly Rooms, 1-26 Aug (not 13), 2.50pm, fpp288.

more theatre:  
[ThreeWeeks.co.uk/theatre](http://ThreeWeeks.co.uk/theatre)

## T H INTERVIEW

## Fringe comedians form a theatrical Coalition

#### Phill Jupitus and Thom Tuck on their Fringe 2012 theatre project 'Coalition'

To be fair, the unusual and uneasy alliance of Tories and Lib Dems in government at a UK level has probably lasted longer than many expected, though as the Olympics pass and another British General Election appears on the horizon, that coalition is going to be tested more than ever. Where will they be in 2014? And assuming the Tories believe they could secure a majority government next time round, what will that mean for Nick Clegg and his Lib Dems? In the made-up world of new play 'Coalition', it's fictional Lib Dem chief Matt Cooper who is facing those challenges, with comedic results.

"I think with the real Coalition, everybody involved has always been fully aware that it's not a case of 'if' but 'when'", reckons Phill Jupitus, one of the cast of comedians appearing in this new satirical production. "Clegg tarnished a once great political party just so he could get his own seat at the big boy's table. The Coalition was not



Photo: Idil Sukan

about getting the Lib Dems involved, it was about fulfilling his own ambitions, and that's just sad. The repercussions of what he's done will impact on the Lib Dems for years. The plot of 'Coalition' is one of a number of ludicrous scenarios that could actually be played out in real life. But I dare say that truth may well turn out to be stranger than fiction when it does all kick off".

Edinburgh Comedy Award nominee Thom Tuck takes the Clegg-based role in the play. "I was asked by [co-writer] Tom [Salinsky] to do a read-through of the play, and I really enjoyed playing the part", he says of his initial involvement in the play. "I don't know if I would have committed to a whole Fringe worth of a play like this without having felt it from the inside, but I really did".

Jo Caulfield, Simon Evans and Alistair Barrie are among the other comedy names set to appear in the show, all living up to that Edinburgh tradition of stand-ups doing acting. "Any stand

up comedian who's any good can act" reckons Phill, "it's just part of your tool kit". Tuck agrees, "there's a continuum between stand-up, sketch and a comedic play. Though I suppose the biggest difference is trying to have a believable, yet funny, character that sustains for the whole show. That's never an issue with stand-up because you are far more yourself. And in sketch, it's caricature after lunatic after silly voice".

But it's Edinburgh that seems to frequently first bring out any acting bugs deep inside our favourite stand-ups. Admitting that few comedians would be attracted to Fringe theatre by the money, Jupitus reckons: "The Festival is a good place to experiment, which is why people are often drawn to do different things. There's less pressure. If you feel 'pressure' in Edinburgh, you're doing it wrong".

Coalition, Pleasance Dome, 1-26 Aug (not 13), 2.00pm, fpp267. [www.coalition-play.co.uk](http://www.coalition-play.co.uk)

TW

## CALARTS Festival Theater Presents

**GOING GREEN THE WONG WAY**  
One of America's funniest eco-comedians! -mnn.com  
Free breakfast!  
4 - 18 Aug 10:30  
19 - 25 Aug 9:00

**Becoming Conocido**  
Winner, Best of Fest - Frontera Fest 2006  
As a poetry ambassador in the world of theater, Aleshea Harris is immensely qualified. -Orlando Sentinel  
3-18 Aug 11:45

**Gods**  
Nabokov's exquisite short story brought to life with movement and video in a poignant and personal retelling.  
3-18 Aug 16:00

**INTO THE FOG**  
Inspired by Russian folktale Hedgehog in the Fog  
3-18 Aug 19:00  
intothefog.net

Going Green the Wong Way 10:30 (19:00 19-26, Aug)  
Oddie 11:45  
Becoming Conocido 14:30  
Gods 16:00  
Into the Fog 19:00

VENUE 13  
TW

£8 Gen | £5 Con  
tix: 07074 20 13 13  
[www.venue13.com](http://www.venue13.com)

Join us for tea every show day at 15:30 - FREE with your ticket to a venue13 show!

# CABARET

For more ThreeWeeks cabaret reviews, interviews and features

Check out [www.ThreeWeeks.co.uk/cabaret](http://www.ThreeWeeks.co.uk/cabaret)

## C A 3 TO SEE

### 3 ThreeWeeks Favourites

#### EastEnd Cabaret



As they point out in their Fringe programme blurb, EastEnd cabaret were something of a cult hit last year, and certainly won the approval of our reviewer, who awarded them a princely five out of five in her review, which contained the words 'luscious', 'cracking', and 'genius', amongst others. Get tickets to see this comical musical duo perform their original songs and improvisations before they do that cult thing and sell out.

EastEnd Cabaret, Underbelly Cowgate, 2-26 Aug (not 13), 8.50pm, fpp12. [www.eastendcabaret.com](http://www.eastendcabaret.com)

#### Piff the Magic Dragon in...

Jurassic Bark



We've been big Piff fans for good few years now. And it's no wonder, is it? A stand up magician, in a dragon costume, who could resist that? I'm not sure we even need to mention that his sidekick is a death-defying chihuahua called Mr Piffles... Though now we have, I expect you're already booking your tickets.

Piff the Magic Dragon in... Jurassic Bark, Pleasance Dome, 1-26 Aug, 7.10pm, fpp17. [www.pifffthemagicdragon.com](http://www.pifffthemagicdragon.com)

#### Marcel Lucont: Cabaret Fantastique

And while we're talking cult characters, get your ticket-ordering fingers ready for debauched raconteur Marcel Lucont's Cabaret Fantastique. And hurry, because it's only on three times, and I might have bought up all the tickets before you get there. Don't despair if you don't manage to secure a place, however; Marcel (pictured below) is also on every night in his solo comedy show at Underbelly.

Marcel Lucont: Cabaret Fantastique, Assembly George Square, 10, 17, 24 Aug, 12.00am, fpp16. [www.marcellucont.com](http://www.marcellucont.com)



TW

### 3 Ladies

#### Keira Daley: LadyNerd



This is, apparently, a "fact packed cabaret tribute to some of history's greatest minds". By the sounds of it - and as you might, if we're honest, have guessed from the title - the focus is on the ladies, as Daley promises to discuss the likes of Marie Curie, Ada Lovelace and Bette Nesmith Graham. What do you mean, you've never heard of Bette Nesmith Graham? She invented Liquid Paper. And spawned a Monkee, to boot.

Keira Daley: LadyNerd, Assembly George Square, 2-27 Aug (not 13), 5.20pm, fpp14. [www.ladynerd.com.au](http://www.ladynerd.com.au)

#### Lady Boys of Bangkok: Carnival Queens Tour



I don't think ThreeWeeks have ever given the Lady Boys Of Bangkok a bad review, and that's why I quite persistently recommend them. It shouldn't come as any kind of a surprise, really, given the grand UK tradition of enjoying performances by men in dresses. If you love all-singing, all-dancing, comic cabaret extravaganzas, this may be the all-singing, all-dancing, comic cabaret extravaganza for you.

Lady Boys of Bangkok - Carnival Queens Tour, Meadows Theatre Big Top, 4-26 Aug, times vary, fpp15. [www.ladyboysofbangkok.co.uk](http://www.ladyboysofbangkok.co.uk)

#### Lady Rizo



Lady Rizo sounds like a very safe bet if you are looking for an evening in the company of a true cabaret diva; for she is a true doyenne of the New York cabaret scene who has also appeared on a Yoyo Ma album, as well as working with the likes of Moby and recent Ed Fringe darling Taylor Mac. Singing pop songs from every era, she promises to deliver a "fascinating mix of bawdy humour and polished hyper-femininity".

Lady Rizo, Assembly George Square, 2-27 Aug (not 8,13,20,21), 10.20pm, fpp15.



Photo: Giada Garofalo

## Reading minds and influencing people at the Fringe

### C A INTERVIEW

**Given the increasing number of popular magic and mind reading shows at the Fringe in recent years, when a new name from that genre stands out, you know they must be doing something right. And at Fringe 2011 that name was Doug Segal, who is busy taking the whole mind reading thing in a new direction. Having filled his Free Festival room to breaking point last year, he returns with a new show at the Gilded Balloon. ThreeWeeks caught up with Doug to find out what he's got in store, and how a former life in advertising will help.**

**TW: So, from advertising to reading minds, how did you start out performing?**

DS: I studied psychology at university, and realised that I could use some of the principles I was being taught there to do sort of 'party pieces' to, well, if I'm completely honest, to win drinks and impress girls. It all started there really. Later I moved into advertising where I expanded my skillset and started doing more sophisticated party pieces to liven up dull client lunches. Eventually a major client, no names, but a major German car manufacture, essentially bullied me into doing a show at their sales conference in Munich. I look back on it now and cringe, but it went well so, filled with a mixture of stupidity and hubris, I booked myself a two week run at The Baron's Court Theatre in London. Incredibly I sold that out, a BBC producer came to see one of the shows and gave me two spots on the BBC One New Year's Eve show, either side of the midnight chimes, and after that I started to realise that, while I'd never make the sort of money I was

then making as a director at a big ad agency, I could start performing professionally, have some fun, and reclaim a small portion of my shrivelled soul!

**TW: You've said that your career in advertising as well as your academic background in psychology has helped you create your show. How did that work?**

DS: There's nothing spooky or psychic about what I'm doing in my show. I am just using one or more of the following skills from my background in psychology and advertising: statistics, persuasion, techniques. Sometimes I'm closely observing minute body language cues and tells, sometimes I'm using subliminal influence, and merging that with two core advertising skills - cheating and lying - to create the illusion of mind reading and mind control.

**TW: Last year you performed in the Free Festival, is transferring to a venue like the Gilded Balloon a big step?**

DS: Huge. It's real Cinderella stuff. From standing on a carpet-covered wooden pallet, in front of 50 mismatched seats and another 30 people standing, in a room above a pub, to the beautiful, raked, 120-seater Gilded Balloon Dining Room in one step! I sometimes have to pinch myself. I'm incredibly grateful to [promoter] Mick Perrin and his team for the faith they've put in me and the amazing support they've given me. That said, I'd also like to thank Alex Petty and The Free Festival for giving me the chance to showcase myself last year. The Free Festival and Free Fringe are frankly brilliant, and Alex and [Free Fringe founder] Peter [Buckley Hill] are great guys for creating that opportunity.

**TW: Magic at the Fringe has grown in recent years, and seems to be ever popular. Do you consider yourself part of that 'scene'?**

DS: Not remotely. I don't think of myself as a magician. I don't hang out

with magicians. I have huge respect for them, but what I do is different. I'm really proud that critics tell me I've succeeded in my goal of creating a broad appeal show. If you like comedy - you'll like my show. If you like magic shows - you'll like my show. If you like learning stuff - you'll like my show. Basically I want to give people something interactive that's lots of fun and has a wow factor. That's why the focus is on showing the audience how it's done.

**TW: How does the new show compare to last year?**

DS: This year's show is the show I would have liked last year's show to be, if I'd had the budget, the space and the equipment. If I was a band, last year was the demo I made in my bedroom, this is the first studio album. The really popular bits of last year are still there (although everything has been given a makeover), and there are some incredible new things. Plus there's video, interactive screens and a live cameraman. Oh and a brand new give away trick.

**TW: You tweet quite prolifically about your Edinburgh experience - the planning, the worries, how things are going. Does your audience follow this and, if so, does it change your relationship with audience members at the show?**

DS: I really hope so. I think this is a point of difference between my show and many magic shows. My show is all about sharing with the audience, rather than simply "how great I am". I've always really liked that 'breaking down the barriers' ethic that The Libertines had. I guess I'm trying to do that. But without the burglary and self destruction.

Find out more about Doug's Fringe plans by reading the full interview at [www.ThreeWeeks.co.uk/2012DG](http://www.ThreeWeeks.co.uk/2012DG)

#### SEE DOUG'S SHOW

Doug Segal - How to Read Minds and Influence People, Gilded Balloon Teviot, 2-27 Aug (not 13), 7.00pm, fpp 11.

**LINKS:** [www.dougsegal.com](http://www.dougsegal.com)

# CtheFestival



Bonnie Davies  
**I'm High On Life:  
What Are You On?**  
1-27 Aug 9.45pm C **eca**



Het Vijfde Bedrijf – The Fifth Act  
**Lady M**  
1-18 Aug 4.15pm C **eca**



C theatre  
**Shakespeare for  
Breakfast**  
1-27 Aug 10.00am C



C theatre  
**Hansel and Gretel**  
1-27 Aug 11.15am C



C theatre  
**Giddy Goat**  
1-27 Aug 12.15pm C



Dead Posh Productions  
**Still Life (also known  
as Brief Encounter)**  
2-27 Aug 3.20pm C **aquila**



Backhand Theatre with C theatre  
**Icarus: a Story  
of Flight**  
1-27 Aug 5.30pm C **eca**



Lonhattan Theatre Group  
**Poison**  
12-18 Aug 2.00pm C **nova**



Cambridge University Musical Theatre Society  
**Bereavement:  
the Musical**  
1-27 Aug 6.40pm C



C theatre  
**This is Soap**  
1-27 Aug 1.15pm C



Backhand Theatre with C theatre  
**Tales from  
Edgar Allan Poe**  
1-27 Aug 11.00pm C **eca**



C presents... with Showdown Productions  
**News Smash**  
2-27 Aug 10.00pm C **nova**

With more than 210 shows and events across our venues in the heart of Edinburgh, we celebrate our 21st year with a fantastic programme of theatre, musicals and international work at the Edinburgh Festival Fringe. See it all with C venues.

**C venues** vibrant vivacious variety

box office hotline **0845 260 1234** online programme [www.CtheFestival.com](http://www.CtheFestival.com)

# PHYSICAL

For more ThreeWeeks dance and physical theatre reviews, interviews and features  
Check out [www.ThreeWeeks.co.uk/physical](http://www.ThreeWeeks.co.uk/physical)

## Hidden talents help create a thousand years of peace



### P(H) INTERVIEW

#### When Angelin Preljocaj first began work with the Bolshoi Ballet the plan was for them to adapt one of his earlier works.

But the alliance was much more fruitful than either side expected. "I began working with the Bolshoi in 2009 and 2010," Preljocaj explains. "We met to discuss which piece from my repertoire would be most appropriate, but I was immediately inspired by the way their dancers interacted with mine, and started to feel the desire to collaborate on an original piece".

"Obviously the styles of our

respective work are very distinct, very different. The Bolshoi's dancers are used to performing to very rigid choreography, within tight constraints. Yet when presented with the opportunity to do something more fluid, to improvise, I think everyone was surprised how quickly they rose to that challenge, utilising talents even they possibly didn't know they possessed. Given the differences in the dance styles employed by the Bolshoi and my company, the experience also brought out something different from my dancers. After our initial period of collaboration I decided I wanted to create something new, and fortunately the Bolshoi liked that idea".

The something new was 'And Then, One Thousand Years Of Peace', one of two productions being presented by

Preljocaj's company at the Edinburgh International Festival this year. The piece is set in a post-apocalyptic world. "The theme seemed appropriate because the 'Revelation Of St John' in the New Testament, while on the face of it about the apocalypse, has a political element to it, the desire to overthrow a regime, revolution. Violent revolutions exist in both French and Russian history, and it is something that unites the French and Russian people, making it a theme that seemed appropriate for this collaboration".

The alliance with the Bolshoi wasn't the only interesting collaboration that took place in the creation of this piece. The music was created by techno producer and DJ Laurent Garnier. "He was my first thought when it came to choosing a musical collaborator

for this piece", Preljocaj admits. "DJs are like masters of ceremony, and when you see people like Laurent controlling crowds of thousands as he mixes his music, it's an almost religious experience. And that's what I wanted for this".

"It was a very interactive collaboration" he continues. "I would send him some imagery from the work, and he'd sketch out some music, or select a sound, and then we'd discuss it some more. It was quite a new experience for him but, like the Bolshoi directors, he quickly began to tap into previously unknown ideas and skills. I think he loved the theatrical nature of the project, and learned a lot, about a whole new strand of his art, and about talents he'd not previously utilised".

This is Preljocaj's first time at the Edinburgh Festival. "It's an honour to be invited here, because this is such an important festival, and I am thrilled to be able to present our work for this audience", he says. With such a combination of dissident talents in 'And Then, One Thousand Years Of Peace', one assumes the audience will be just as thrilled to experience it.

And Then, One Thousand Years of Peace, The Edinburgh Playhouse, 17-19 Aug, 7.30pm, eifpp20.

Helikopter/Eldorado, The Edinburgh Playhouse, 22 Aug, 7.30pm, eifpp21.

TW

A poster for 'Ted & Co: THE DINNER SHOW'. It features three performers: a man in a priest's collar, a man in a suit, and a woman in a pink hat. The man in the suit is holding a sign that reads 'fringe sell-out show 2011'. The poster includes text: 'Best show I've seen in years', 'Hilarious from beginning to end', 'Edinburgh Fringe Festival 2011 audience reviews', 'Join Ted, Dougal and the Craggy Island gang!', and details for 'Lunch shows 12.30pm • £39' and 'Dinner shows 7.30pm • £46'. It also mentions '2-course meal & interactive show Sat 4, 11 & 25 August'.

### P(H) 3 TO SEE

#### 3 funny + physical

##### Hi-kick



Not sure if this will appeal to football fans (none of the football fans I know are especially into their dance and physical theatre), but the premise is football nevertheless; a bunch of players used to non-competitive kicking around are suddenly faced with a more skilled team, who occupy their playing ground, so they are forced to develop a more professional and competitive attitude to their sport.

Hi-Kick, Assembly Hall, 2-27 Aug (not 6,13,20), 4.05pm, fpp181.

##### Anybody Waitin'?



Is anybody waiting? Yes, they are. In fact, all three of the characters in this comedy dance piece are apparently waiting for someone or something. Pony Dance are a Belfast based troupe, who recently won Best Dance Show at the Adelaide Fringe and have been called "totally brilliant" by Fringe veteran Cal McCrystal. So frankly, it sounds like this might be a safe ticket, even for people who aren't serious dance aficionados.

Anybody Waitin'? , Dance Base @ Silk Nightclub, 3-16 Aug, 8.00pm, fpp176 [www.ponydance.com](http://www.ponydance.com)

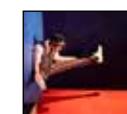
##### Tatyana



The Deborah Colker Dance Company presents this adaptation of Alexander Pushkin's novel-in-verse 'Eugene Onegin', transporting it from its setting in Russia to contemporary Brazil. With a soundtrack featuring music by Tchaikovsky, Stravinsky and living composer Terry Riley, this contemporary ballet, with its promise of colour, flair, and powerful story telling, sounds like it might be one of the highlights of this year's International Festival.

Tatyana, The Edinburgh Playhouse, 11-14 Aug, 7.30pm, eifpp18. [www.eif.co.uk](http://www.eif.co.uk)

##### Leo



Now, this is not strictly dance. I think it rather qualifies as acrobatics. But it most definitely is dramatic - gravity-defyingly so - as 'Leo' 'lives at 90 degrees to the rest of us, and presents an utterly convincing impression of altered gravity'. We gave this show a ThreeWeeks Editors' Award last year, and that wasn't its only prize; the show took away a Fringe First and the Carol Tambor award too. I think we can safely recommend this one as one to watch.

Leo, Assembly Roxy, 2-27 Aug, (not 8,15,22), 1.00pm, fpp181. [www.circleofeleven.de](http://www.circleofeleven.de)

##### Medicine Show



In 'Medicine Show' Mr and Mrs Clark intend to diagnose and heal unwell individuals, struggling couples and a despondent community with a creative approach to alternative medicine". I'm finding the publicity shots a little scary, but this show is apparently comical, especially if you believe the South Wales Argus who apparently called Mr and Mrs Clark "unpredictable" and "hilarious". And I do.

Medicine Show, Venue 13, 3-25 Aug (not 13), 5.30pm, fpp183. [www.mrandmrsclark.co.uk](http://www.mrandmrsclark.co.uk)

##### Within This Dust



It's a very sad and sombre subject matter, but I can see how well this must work as a dance piece. The show consists of three live dance parts, mixed with film and sound, which explore Richard Drew's famous images of a man falling from the World Trade Centre on 9/11. "Convulses with a brutish force that will electrify and move audiences", says the programme blurb, and I can well imagine it.

Within This Dust, Dance Base - National Centre For Dance, 7-19 Aug, 6.30pm, fpp187. [www.smallpetitklein.com](http://www.smallpetitklein.com)

PROUD TO PRESENT OUR 2012 FESTIVAL PROGRAMME

# Feel the Festival



**2,600 performances of  
265 shows in 14 theatres.**

Theatre, dance, musical, opera, cabaret, sketch, stand-up, improv, monologue, poetry, childrens, acapella, film, chat and debate.

## **Shows include...**

Flamenco Roots ★ 4.48 Psychosis ★ An Evening with Dementia ★ The Elephant Man ★ Karen's Way: A Kindertransport Life ★ Pornography ★ Kevin Orkian ★ The Sundaes ★ Charlie Chuck ★ Eric Davidson ★ 'Riot' The Musical ★ Pineapple Studios ★ The Showhawk Duo ★ All the Kings Men ★ Alternative A Capella ★ The Australian Voices ★ Berlin Cabaret ★ Absolute Stripping ★ Sex Education ★ Hey Piano Bar Lady ★ The Mikado ★ No Poofs, No Piano ★ and lots more...

**the  
SPACE  
UK**

**thespaceuk.com**  
THE LARGEST PROGRAMME ON THE FRINGE

# MUSIC

For more ThreeWeeks music reviews, interviews and features

Check out [www.ThreeWeeks.co.uk/music](http://www.ThreeWeeks.co.uk/music)

## Talk of the town: Chilly brings his solo piano to the Fringe

### MU INTERVIEW

**Originally reknowned for his quirky take on rap, since 2004 album 'Solo Piano' Chilly Gonzales has been as well known for his virtuoso piano skills. And as a result the keys have come to the fore, in his rap releases and live show. With a 'Solo Piano 2' LP about to be released, Chilly brings his piano to the Fringe for a 'talk show'. And starts by talking to ThreeWeeks...**

**TW:** Welcome to Edinburgh! These are your first shows as part of the Edinburgh Fringe, what have you got planned?

**CG:** I don't know yet! But I will take advantage of the Anglophone audience to speak freely and quickly. And as a virtuoso who happens to entertain, I hope to strike a contrast



with the various fire-eating outcasts that will be lurking at every corner.

**TW:** The Edinburgh shows precede the UK release of 'Solo Piano 2'. Eight years after the first piano album, why have you decided to do a second edition now?

**CG:** I felt I had something to say that was best said on just the piano. I like the 18th Century German idea that musical emotions are best expressed without words, and so facing down the piano was a nice change from the very word-heavy rap album that preceded it [last year's 'The Unspeakable Chilly Gonzales'].

**TW:** The piano was much more obvious on your recent rap releases than on your earlier albums. Did 'Solo Piano' help you bring that part of your music forward?

**CG:** Yes definitely! 'Solo Piano 1' allowed me to dare to dream that I could be a man of my time and put the piano front and centre. Those subsequent albums were exactly me

trying to do that...and when Drake sampled a piece of 'Solo Piano 1' [on the 'So Far Gone' mixtape] I knew it was slowly starting to take.

**TW:** Do you ever think of a really good rap while writing a 'Solo Piano' piece?

**CG:** These days, not so much. I suppose I got that out of my system on the last album. For now.

**TW:** For the totally uninitiated - tell us what you can expect from a Chilly Gonzales show.

**CG:** Don't make me do that! Isn't that the journalist's job anyway? Here I'll give you the first two words "entertainment indeed..."

Find out more about Chilly's collaborations and chess playing in the full interview at [www.ThreeWeeks.co.uk/2012G](http://www.ThreeWeeks.co.uk/2012G)

#### SEE CHILLY'S SHOW

Chilly Gonzales, The Queen's Hall, 3 & 26 Aug, 9.45pm, fpp 55

**LINKS:** [www.chillygonzales.com](http://www.chillygonzales.com)

**'Dean Friedman is entirely unique and utterly brilliant!' ★★★★★ - ThreeWeeks**

# DEAN FRIEDMAN

**Sweet - Grassmarket Aug. 8 - 12 9pm**

**Malmaison (Leith Docks) Aug. 15 - 19 9pm**

**The Voodoo Rooms Aug. 20 9pm**

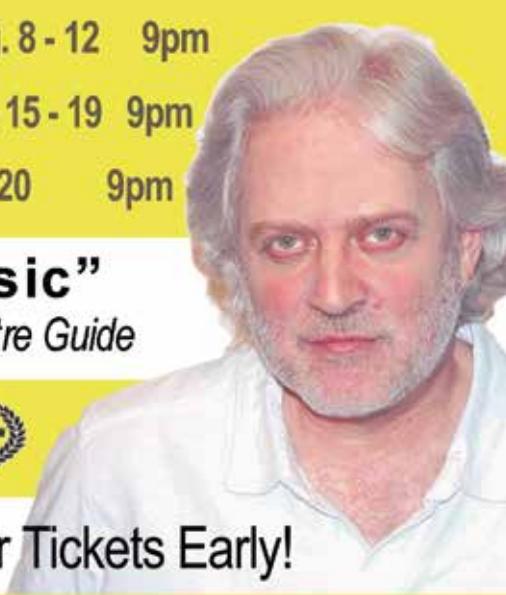
**"Every Song a Classic"**  
★★★★★ - London Theatre Guide



**8th Year Fringe Sellout - Order Tickets Early!**

**ORDER TICKETS ONLINE:**

**[www.DeanFriedman.com](http://www.DeanFriedman.com) or call 0131 226 0000**



### MU 3 TO SEE

## 3 contemporary

### Kim Edgar



Burns Unit member and acclaimed Edinburgh singer-songwriter Kim Edgar offers an intimate solo performance at the grand piano. She collaborates with the likes of Chris Difford, King Creosote and Karine Polwart, and has been praised for her literate and empathetic original songs.

Kim Edgar, St Mark's artSpace, 24 Aug, 8.00pm, fpp216. [www.kimedgar.com](http://www.kimedgar.com)

### Roddy Woomble



If any of you are wondering why the name Roddy Woomble is familiar, let me clear it up for you: he's the lead vocalist for Scottish indie rock band Idlewild, but he's also a celebrated solo artist. He'll be showing off songs from his new album, but also throwing in a few Idlewild tracks as well, so there'll be something for old and new fans alike. Hurray.

Roddy Woomble, Acoustic Music Centre @ St Bride's, 24 Aug, 8.30pm, fpp228. [www.roddywoomble.com](http://www.roddywoomble.com)

### Tom Thum: Beating The Habit



If you love beatboxing and all that (and we do, proof of this resides elsewhere in this issue; the children's section, in fact) then Tom Thum - "Australia's most prolific multi-vocalist" - is surely not one you'd want to miss. "Tom Thum appears to have swallowed an entire orchestra and several backing singers" says The Guardian. "I'd like to witness some of that", says me.

Tom Thum - Beating The Habit, Underbelly Bristo Square, 2-27 Aug (not 8,13,20), 6.45pm, fpp235.



last year, who found her funny and chatty, enjoying the anecdotes offered between the songs, and her charming vocals and excellent command of the fiddle. This year she promises high spirited songs, jigs, reels, ballads and instrumentals to bring a tear to the eye.

Elsa Jean McTaggart, SpaceCabaret @ 54, 3-25 Aug, 3.30pm, fpp210. [www.mctaggart.info](http://www.mctaggart.info)

### Bhundu Boy Rise Kagona



Rise Kagona came to prominence with the Bhundu Boys, the Zimbabwean band which, you may remember (if you're old, like me), attracted the attention of the likes of John Peel and Andy Kershaw back in the late eighties. Rise, who created the group's sound by transferring traditional jiti rhythms to guitar, performs two dates with his new jit jive band.

Bhundu Boy Rise Kagona, The Jazz Bar, 12 & 16 Aug, fpp205. [www.bhunduboy.co.uk](http://www.bhunduboy.co.uk)

## 3 classical

### Les Vents Francais



As the name suggests (to French speakers at least) this musical group is formed of wind-instrument virtuosos

- a flautist, an oboist, a clarinettist, a bassoonist and a horn player. They'll be playing some "elegant, witty" music from the likes of Ibert, Ravel and Barber, and I think this sounds great.

Les Vents Francais, The Queen's Hall, 15 Aug, 11.00am, eifpp56.

### Mozart at Teatime



I've picked this one because I'm feeling very Mozart right at this minute, but it could really have been any of the similar concerts that are taking place at the Royal Over-Seas League this August. There's Bach for Breakfast, Shostakovich late, Chopin after lunch... and the list goes on. This strand always gets positive responses from our reviewers, and it's not just because of the tea, coffee and shortbread (or breakfast pastries) involved.

Mozart at Teatime, Royal Over-Seas League, 13,15,20,22 Aug, 4.00pm, fpp221.

### Key 89



I'm a bit of a sucker for mixed up styles of anything, so, as I was perusing the Fringe Programme whilst eating my fusion-cuisine dinner, this jumped out at me. Sebastian Thirlway, in his third year at the Fringe, performs classical piano works "interleaved" with jazz free improvisation. And that sounds good to me.

Key 89, St Mark's artSpace, 8&15 Aug, 5.15pm, fpp216.

## MO 3 TO SEE

### 3 new musicals

#### Street Cries



As this one is "loosely inspired" by Dylan Thomas's 'Under Milk Wood', which is, of course, something of an absolute classic, I immediately thought it worth a look. This show, however, is not set in a sleepy village, but a modern metropolis. It's written and composed by an award-winning writer and features critically acclaimed roots/folk/ska types Moveable Feast. All of which I feel adds up to a recipe for success.

Street Cries, C, 1-27 Aug, 8.25pm, fpp247. [www.betweenthelinestheatre.co.uk](http://www.betweenthelinestheatre.co.uk)

#### Therapy



Now let's get this straight, I did not choose this because I need therapy. Not that there's anything wrong with therapy of course. In fact, I probably will need it once the Fringe finishes, because I'll undoubtedly be suffering from severe stress issues. Anyway, I chose this show because it's from the team who brought us 'The Improvised Musical', who are really rather good. This, I should point out, is not at all improvised, and is a very serious piece, by the sound of it - beautiful and brutal, according to the blurb.

Therapy, C nova, 2-27 Aug (not 13), 9.00pm, fpp248. [www.noshoestheatre.co.uk](http://www.noshoestheatre.co.uk)

#### The Loves I Haven't Known



Hmm. I didn't think about it this way when I chose this show, but that title does actually sound a bit depressing, doesn't it? Not to worry. I have every faith that this musical will not be depressing at all, as it comes to you from the makers of Fringe hit 'Tony! The Blair Musical' and promises uproarious comedy along with these touching tales of lost love. They are also planning to work in some stories from audience members, so this should add a nicely spontaneous touch.

The Loves I Haven't Known, C nova, 2-18 Aug, 8.40pm, fpp243. [www.bushmccluskey.co.uk](http://www.bushmccluskey.co.uk)

### 3 about death and bereavement, sorry

#### Oh! What A Lovely War



The classic musical about large scale death and bereavement, and the utter stupidity of war. It's a not-irregular visitor to the Fringe, but I tend to think that this one is always worth an outing, because the observations it makes on WWI continue to be relevant and topical in an age when we still do stupid warring things. Don't be put off by the fact that it's a youthful cast; as the company point out, the young performers would have been old enough to serve in the trenches back in 1914.

Oh! What A Lovely War, The Edinburgh Academy, 8-11 Aug, (Times Vary), fpp244.

#### Good Grief



"Three siblings come together at the wake of their estranged father's funeral where wine flows and social etiquette goes to pot". And yes, I can just imagine all the resentment and tension that might emerge from that scenario. In the wrong hands, I could see it becoming a disaster, but this company sound like they have received much acclaim from various quarters, so I expect it will come together very nicely.

Good Grief, C venues - C eca, 12-27 Aug (not 20), 12.15pm, fpp241. [www.goodgriefedfringe.tumblr.com](http://www.goodgriefedfringe.tumblr.com)

#### Bereavement: The Musical



"How is grief a suitable subject for a musical?" the press release asks. Well, as they're the second group doing it, I suspect they may both have found a way to make it so. This production, which sees six characters coping with the reality of death and its impact on their lives, apparently draws much from the tragedy experienced by its writers, but seemingly manages to "bring the lighthearted to the foreground".

Bereavement: The Musical, C venues - C, 1-27 Aug (not 13), 6.40pm, fpp239. [www.bereavementthemusical.co.uk](http://www.bereavementthemusical.co.uk)

**more musicals:**  
[ThreeWeeks.co.uk/  
musicals](http://ThreeWeeks.co.uk/musicals)

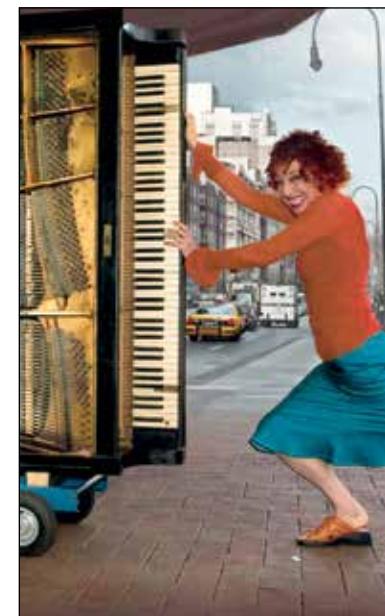
### 3 ThreeWeeks favourites

#### Beulah



This section is for companies and people that have seriously pleased our reviewers in the past, and we start with The Flanagan Collective, who've previously received 4/5 and 5/5 scores from us and received heartfelt commendation for their beautiful acting and singing. This year's show 'Beulah' is inspired by William Blake, a "beautiful and delicate folk tale which straddles the ocean between this world and the next... A conversation about the very fabric we are made from".

Beulah, C venues - C nova, 2-27 Aug (not 13), 5.15pm, fpp239. [theflaganancollective.co.uk](http://theflanagancollective.co.uk)



#### Hey, Piano Bar Lady!

Kiwi Linn Lorkin won our hearts last year with this collection of simple and well constructed songs, dreadful puns and well told anecdotes, all combining to recreate her experiences of the 1980s New York piano bar scene: sleeping on sofas, searching for love, and playing everywhere from Soho to Park Avenue. "Adorable. Classy. Charming. Fun." said our reviewer. And lots of critics from other publications loved her too, so you don't have to take just our word for it.

Hey, Piano Bar Lady!, SpaceCabaret @ 54, 3-25 Aug (not 13, 20), 2.00pm, fpp242. [www.linnlorkin.com](http://www.linnlorkin.com)

TW

# NICK PYNN

with Kate Daisy Grant

"Delightfully off-kilter"  
The List



"Highly, highly recommended"  
5/5 ThreeWeeks

"A magical find"  
The Scotsman

VENUE 258 - INLINGUA EDINBURGH, 40 SHANDWICK PLACE 0131 220 5119  
PREVIEW AUG 2ND 21:45 (1 HR) £8.00 (£7.00)  
AUG 3RD-5TH, 7TH-12TH, 14TH-19TH, 21TH-26TH 21:45 (1 HR) £10.00 (£9.00)

# Kate Daisy Grant with Nick Pynn

"Mesmerising, fearless creativity"  
Clash Magazine

"A wonderful new talent whose voice and lyrics penetrate the emotions straight away"  
Jon Ronson On... BBC R4

"Incredible sound... Terrific"  
The Strand Arts Programme, BBC World Service

VENUE 258 - INLINGUA EDINBURGH, 40 SHANDWICK PLACE 0131 220 5119

PREVIEW AUG 2ND - 20:15 (1 HR) £6 (£5)  
AUG 3RD - 5TH, 7TH - 12TH, 14TH - 19TH, 21ST - 26TH 20:15 (1 HR) £8 (£7)

FOLK AND TOY INSTRUMENTS, FOUND OBJECTS, HOMEMADE THEREMIN,  
WINE GLASSES AND LIVE LOOPING FRAME QUIRKY, MOVING POP SONGS...

# ART, WORDS & EVENTS

For ThreeWeeks' coverage of spoken word, talks and other events

Check out [www.ThreeWeeks.co.uk/events](http://www.ThreeWeeks.co.uk/events)

## Quick Quiz

If your show was an Olympic sport, what would it be and why?



**Mark Thomas:** "Curling, because it couldn't care less what people think of it"

Mark Thomas - Bravo Figaro!, Traverse Theatre, 3-26 Aug (not 6,13,20), times vary. [www.markthomasinfo.co.uk](http://www.markthomasinfo.co.uk)



**Andrew Bird:** "The opening ceremony. I'm going to have hundreds of school children onstage doing a choreographed display and people from different countries walking around with flags. And it's costing a fortune"

Andrew Bird's Global Village Fete, Gilded Balloon Teviot, 1-25 Aug, 6.50pm. [www.andrewbirdcomedian.com](http://www.andrewbirdcomedian.com)



**Julia Yevine from 'The Fantasist':** "Weightlifting figure-skating – this show is power, grace and beauty all wrapped up in a frilly dress"

The Fantasist, Underbelly Bristo Square, 1-27 Aug (not 15), 12.25pm. [www.theatremoin.com](http://www.theatremoin.com)



**Joel Dommett:** "Handball. Because everything else was sold out and that will do"

Joel Dommett - Nunchuck Silver Medallist 2002, Pleasance Courtyard, 1-26 Aug, 8.15pm. [www.joeldommett.com](http://www.joeldommett.com)



**Jonny And The Baptists:** "Canoe Slalom. Navigating our vessel of satire around the slalom poles of political issues with the oars of awesome pop songs. Amy likes sailors, Paddy likes mermaids, and Jonny likes slalom"

Jonny & the Baptists, Underbelly Cowgate, 2-26 Aug (not 15), 9.10pm. [www.jonnyandthebaptists.co.uk](http://www.jonnyandthebaptists.co.uk)



**Tom Flanagan:** "Probably canoeing - sans paddle"

Kaput, Underbelly Bristo Square, 1-27 Aug (not 13,20), 3.05pm.



**Marcel Lucont:** "The beach volleyball - most will come for the eye candy but leave appreciating the skill"

Marcel Lucont - Gallic Symbol, Underbelly Cowgate, 2-26 Aug (not 14), 10.25pm. [www.marcellucont.com](http://www.marcellucont.com)



**Jeff Leach:** "Probably the hammer toss, because it's physical, takes intelligence to execute perfectly and it's teeming with suggestive grunting"

Jeff Leach, Gilded Balloon Teviot, 1-27 Aug (not 13), 9.30pm. [www.jeffreyleach.com](http://www.jeffreyleach.com)



**Felicity Ward:** "Dressage – it's funny to watch and you can't believe anyone would get paid to do it for a job"

Felicity Ward, Underbelly Bristo Square, 1-27 Aug (not 13), 10.00pm.



**Chris McCausland:** "The 110 metre blindfolded hurdles because it'll make you laugh and last about an hour"

Chris McCausland: Not Blind Enough, Pleasance Courtyard, 1-26 Aug (not 14), 4.30pm.



## The rogue rap battler reveals all

### A(E) INTERVIEW

**In the midst of the recession, Mark Grist gave up a job in teaching to become a full-time poet, and somehow became a rap battling YouTube sensation. As he prepares to tell his story in his Fringe show 'Rogue Teacher', ThreeWeeks asked some questions...**

**TW: Why did you decide to turn your back on teaching and become a full-time poet?**

MG: Wow. That's a huge question to start out with! My decision to leave my teaching job during a recession forms the backbone of 'Rogue Teacher', so I don't want to give too much away. The truth is I still really miss teaching, but at the time, leaving it seemed like the only available option, considering what was going on in my life.

**TW: Did teaching prepare you for performing?**

MG: I'd say that teaching gives you a pretty good background for becoming a performer - particularly as I had to deliver a weekly assembly.

**TW: What were the challenges involved in pursuing your poetry full-time?**

MG: Everyday bills became painful. Money was suddenly a serious cause for concern. Also, we're all defined, to an extent, by the things we do throughout the day. When you work in a school, you're always thinking about ways to help the students you work with. All of a sudden, I had nobody to support - and I realised that I was just doing things for myself. That certainly felt less worthwhile.

**TW: You competed in a rap battle with a 17 year old rising MC called Blizzard. How did that come about?**

MG: I'd already battled once for [rap battle organisers] Don't Flop, and Rowan [the founder] suggested it as a good option for my second shot at it. I knew quite a bit about Blizzard beforehand. I'm really impressed with his work and it seemed like it could be a funny angle. We never expected it to become such a big deal, though. When I heard that it was going viral on YouTube it was surreal.

**TW: How did it feel to become a YouTube phenomenon?**

MG: Um...strange - it was really nice to get so much positive feedback from

people. My Twitter feed went nuts, I had over a thousand friend requests within 24 hours and started getting hundreds of emails from all over the world. There were even marriage proposals in there! People said that it was really original, which is great. But it was strange how digital the whole thing was. When the video first went viral I hardly got to go out for a fortnight, because there was so much admin generated. I don't think that many people I meet or hang out with 'in the real world' are that bothered, though, which is a bit of a relief.

**TW: Tell us about your Edinburgh show, what can we expect?**

MG: It's the true story of my decision to leave teaching to become a full time poet, and the surreal journey that it's taken me on. It features my first ever failings with girls at primary school all the way to me calling out the AQA Chief Examiner for his draconian views on poetry. Oh, and I rap battle myself (aged 13).

Read more chat with Mark at [www.ThreeWeeks.co.uk/2012MG](http://www.ThreeWeeks.co.uk/2012MG)

### SEE MARK'S SHOW

Mark Grist - Rogue Teacher, Underbelly Cowgate, 2-26 Aug (not 14), 5.10pm, ffp252

**LINKS:** [www.markgrist.com](http://www.markgrist.com)

[www.ThreeWeeks.co.uk/quickquiz](http://www.ThreeWeeks.co.uk/quickquiz)

### NICK KEIR AN EDINBURGH SONGWRITER



Nick is Edinburgh's unofficial Songwriter Laureate. From 30 years touring the world with The McCalmans, and singing the role of Bilbo Baggins opposite Christopher Lee, Nick now presents his Edinburgh Songs in an informal setting.

Aug 5,10,12,13

15.00 (1 Hr 10)

Venue 67: Valvona and Crolla  
17.45 (1 Hr 10) 19 Elm Row, Edinburgh, EH7 4AA

### THE KEY PHYSICAL THEATRE - 2012 NEW PROJECT FROM TAIWAN

RAMBLING IN AN EMPTY ROOM

Aug 19~24

EDINBURGH fringe

sweet VENUES EXPANDING THE VIEW  
Sweet Organised Association 2nd Anniversary Show  
Venue 18+ Tel 0131 555 7000 • [www.sweetvenues.co.uk](http://www.sweetvenues.co.uk)



### educating ronnie

assembly

GEORGE SQUARE

BOX OFFICE 0131 623 3030

(suitable for ages 14+)

[www.edfringe.com](http://www.edfringe.com) [www.madeintheoldlandsshowcase.com](http://www.madeintheoldlandsshowcase.com) [twitter.com/madaboutrnrn](http://twitter.com/madaboutrnrn) #educatingronnie

UTTER.

Venue 3

Aug 2-3 Preview 13:15 (1hr) £6  
Aug 5-9, 14-16, 21-23 13:15 (1hr) £10/£12 conc.  
Aug 4-5, 10-12, 17-19, 24-26 13:15 (1hr) £12/£10 conc.

An extraordinary true story

Created by Joe Douglas and Gareth Nichols

World Premiere

Scotlands First Fringe Festival

made in SCOTLAND



## A(E) 3 TO SEE

### 3 spoken word

#### **Lucy Ayrton:** Lullabies To Make Your Children Cry



Ms Ayrton's blurb had me at "women in fairy tales are rubbish: always napping and sweeping". I confess to being vastly irritated by many of these anodyne fictional heroines. But, they weren't always so passive: once upon a time they got busy seducing, slaying, witching, and tricking. Lucy wants to know what changed things, and in this show will try to work it out.

Lucy Ayrton: Lullabies To Make Your Children Cry, The Banshee Labyrinth, 4-14 Aug, 6.20pm, fpp252. [www.lullabiestomakeyourchildrencry.tumblr.com](http://www.lullabiestomakeyourchildrencry.tumblr.com)

#### **Liz Lochhead:** Making Nothing Happen



Well, if you haven't heard of Liz Lochhead, there's something very, very wrong. Though I'll forgive you if you're from a very, very long way away from Scotland. And for those of you reading who come from a very, very long way away from Scotland, she is Scotland's National poet, an accomplished writer and performer. "An inspirational presence in British poetry ... a writer who has tirelessly brought poetry to the drama and drama into poetry", says the poet laureate Carol Ann Duffy. So why would you want to miss her?

Liz Lochhead: Making Nothing Happen, The Assembly Rooms, 2-26 Aug (not 13), times vary, fpp251.

#### **Richard Tyrone Jones's Big Heart**



A ThreeWeeks reviewer once called him "ringmaster of the spoken word", and Richard is certainly a fixture when it comes to rounding up poets at the Fringe, despite his heart failing just as he was taking over as the Free Fringe's spoken word director a couple of years back. But he's "battled back from death's brink", and tells the story of just how he did it in this show.

Richard Tyrone Jones's Big Heart, The Banshee Labyrinth, 4-25 Aug (not 13), 6.00pm, fpp253. [www.richardtyronejones.com](http://www.richardtyronejones.com)

### 3 useful talks

#### **How To Do A Show At The Fringe**



If this is your first time at the Fringe, and you are thinking "next year I think I might like to bring a show myself", go to this and find out exactly why you shouldn't. No, only joking. But the fact is, it's difficult, even if there are plenty of people around here making it look fairly easy. If you are planning to take the plunge, attending this event should definitely be on your list of things to do.

How To Do A Show At The Fringe, Fringe Central, 21 Aug, 12.00pm, fpp191. [www.edfringe.com](http://www.edfringe.com)

#### **CMU: Making It In Music**



I must plead guilty to being slightly biased in recommending this, and that's because CMU is ThreeWeeks sister publication. But I wouldn't be the first person to say that Team CMU are brilliant at telling people stuff about the music industry. Their wealth of knowledge is extraordinary, and if you are trying to make it in music, then this is an absolute must. CMU will also be dishing out advice to music types at the StageTime conference the following weekend (more on that at [www.stagetimeconf.com](http://www.stagetimeconf.com)).

CMU: Making It In Music, Fringe Central, 5 Aug, 1.00pm, fpp188. [thecmuwebsite.com](http://thecmuwebsite.com)

#### **The Making Of NVA's Speed Of Light**



NVA's Speed Of Light is a "fusion of public art and sporting endeavour" set to be staged on Arthur's Seat this summer. Each night, a visual display will be created as hundreds of runners ascend the peak wearing specially designed light suits. Are you fascinated by this project, desperate to know what has gone into the making of it? I think I am, frankly. And if you are too, then this may just be the talk you need to attend.

The Making Of NVA's Speed Of Light, Fringe Central, 22 Aug, 12.00pm, fpp193. [www.nva.org.uk](http://www.nva.org.uk)

### 3 book festival goodies

#### **Anthony Browne and Catherine Rayner**



I love the Book Festival and rave about it to anyone who will listen to me, and to anyone who will read me too. So read my words carefully. Go to the Book Festival. And perhaps take in this event, aimed at children and families, featuring illustrators Anthony Browne and Catherine Rayner. In recent years, as their books have appeared on my daughter's shelves, I've become very familiar with their brilliant pictures and I'm very keen to hear what they have to say about their work, their lives and their inspirations.

Anthony Browne and Catherine Rayner, RBS Main Theatre, 18 Aug, 10.00am.

#### **David Bellos: Getting Lost In Translation**



I've always been interested in what translators do. As someone who has studied languages, I've always been aware that it can be a difficult business and one I'd probably never dare to embark upon myself, even if I were a much more brilliant a linguist than I actually am. Which is not very brilliant. Anyway, David Bellos is here to discuss 'Is That A Fish In Your Ear', his recently published book on the art of translation, and I think it will be fascinating.

David Bellos - Getting Lost In Translation, RBS Corner Theatre, 14 Aug, 5.00pm.

#### **Caroline McCracken Flesher:**

**But An' Ben Wi' Burke and Hare**  
This event is part of the Book Festival's 'Scotland's Rich History' strand, and to be fair, if you are in Scotland,

partaking of all the culture it has to offer, you probably should be having a bit of a think about the history of the place. In this event, Caroline McCracken-Flesher focuses on something very Edinburgh: the story of notorious murderers Burke and Hare, and why their tale has resonated with, and been used by, generations of writers.

Caroline McCracken-Flesher - But An' Ben Wi' Burke and Hare, Peppers Theatre, 14 Aug, 11.00am.

### 3 from the festival of politics

#### **Libraries in the digital age**



Libraries have been in the news a bit of late, with lots of closures. But this event is about how they can still be useful in the digital age. "New technology provides new opportunities for public libraries to re-imagine themselves, but it also fundamentally changes the traditional model of the public library service" says the blurb. Led by Melvyn Ingleson, this debate will discuss which models might work.

Libraries in the Digital Age, Committee Room 3, 17 Aug, 1.30pm.

#### **NGOs Against Modern-Day Slavery**



Modern day slavery is clearly a very serious problem, not least because a lot of people, in my experience, refuse to believe that it's really happening.

This event asks how non-governmental organisations, artists and the media can help combat human trafficking. Guests include Scottish actor and director Cora Bissett, and Trish Davidson, founder and director of anti-trafficking charity Unchosen.

NGOs Against Modern-Day Slavery, Committee Room 1, 24 Aug, 3.30pm. [www.edinburghprintmakers.co.uk](http://www.edinburghprintmakers.co.uk)

#### **An Incredibly Brief History of Political Satire**



How far should satire go, and can satirists influence real change? Has the mockery instigated by the likes of Punch, Private Eye and 'Yes Minister' ever had a tangible effect on what happens in government? Journalist and broadcaster Lesley Riddoch chairs the debate.

An Incredibly Brief History of Political Satire, Committee Room 3, 18 Aug, 10.30am.

### 3 exhibitions

#### **Cheer Up! It's Not The End Of The World!**



Er, this sounds fun. Well, to be fair, it does. Especially if, like me, you're feeling a sneaking attraction to the idea of

seeing an exhibition of works exploring the ideas of apocalypse, finality, the end of the world, and the death of thought. This features prints and other media by the likes of Jake and Dinos Chapman, Gordon Cheung, Damien Hirst, and Andy Warhol, among others.

Cheer Up! It's Not The End Of The World!, Edinburgh Printmakers, 2 Aug-2 Sept, Tue-Sun: 10.00am - 6.00pm, fpp198. [www.edinburghprintmakers.co.uk](http://www.edinburghprintmakers.co.uk)

#### **Through The Looking Glass, Dimly**



Andrew Follows and Rosita McKenzie, based in Melbourne and Edinburgh respectively, showcase recent and new photographs, each with very different approaches, though drawn together by their experiences of visual impairment, their capturing of night-scapes and the effects of fire on the natural environment.

Through The Looking Glass, Dimly, Contemporary Art Exchange - Old Ambulance Depot, 5-18 Aug, times vary.

#### **Van Gogh To Kandinsky**



Symbolist Landscape in Europe 1880-1910, and according to the blurb, it's the first ever exhibition devoted to this subject. The show consists of a wide range of paintings of nature, focusing on major avant-garde artists such as Gauguin, Van Gogh and Munch.

Van Gogh To Kandinsky, Scottish National Gallery, 30 July-2 Sept, times vary, fpp201. [www.nationalgalleries.org](http://www.nationalgalleries.org)

TW

# STAGE TIME EDINBURGH MAKING LIVE PAY

SATURDAY, AUG 11TH - SUNDAY AUG 12TH 2012  
THESPACEUK @ CARLTON HOTEL, EDINBURGH  
[WWW.STAGETIMECONF.COM](http://WWW.STAGETIMECONF.COM)

Live performance is more critical than ever for bands and artists who want to connect effectively with audiences and create long-lasting and sustainable careers. From growing loyal, engaged fan bases to developing alternative revenue streams, getting live right can make the career of new bands - and established acts

# CHILDREN'S SHOWS

For ThreeWeeks' coverage of children's shows and events at the Festival

Check out [www.ThreeWeeks.co.uk/childrens](http://www.ThreeWeeks.co.uk/childrens)

## C(S) 3 TO SEE



### 3 doctors

#### Dr Bunhead's Blast Off!

It's getting to the point where I can't seem to remember a time when Brainiac alumnus Dr Bunhead didn't play the Fringe, though I would be quite prepared to accept that it's just my head playing tricks on me. He's certainly been around a lot the last few years, though, and in the process garnered a number of highly positive reviews from our writers. If you (or indeed your children) fancy a live scary science show featuring silliness, explosions and pyrotechnics, then book your tickets now.

Dr Bunhead's Blast Off!, Assembly George Square, 1-11 Aug, 10.30am, fpp22. [www.bunhead.com](http://www.bunhead.com)

#### Dr Brown Brown Brown Brown and his Singing Tiger



I am a sucker for a show with a daft title, which means that on occasion, I recommend, and sometimes even go to see, substandard shows, just because the name made me laugh. But there's not much danger of this one turning out to be rubbish, if past reviews are anything to go by, and the madcap physical comedy promised in the blurb sounds like just the sort of thing to entertain children of all ages.

Dr Brown Brown Brown Brown and his Singing Tiger, Assembly George Square, 2-26 Aug (not 13,20), 12.45pm, fpp24. [www.nikcoppin.com](http://www.nikcoppin.com)

#### George's Marvellous Medicine



Okay, I admit it, I ran out of doctors. But you know, George is something of a medic, in his own way. He makes some medicine, doesn't he? I haven't seen this particular play, of course, but our reviewer enjoyed a previous Roald Dahl adaptation by this company, so I'm going to give this one a try.

George's Marvellous Medicine, Gryphon Venues at the Point Hotel, 6-11 Aug, 12.00pm, fpp23. [www.rubberducktheatre.co.uk](http://www.rubberducktheatre.co.uk)

### 3 for the whole family

#### Huggers

Any really good children's show will prove just as entertaining to adults, but there are some shows that lend themselves more to the whole



family experience, and that's I'm recommending here. 'Huggers' is tailor-made for this section as it's an hour of comedy and cabaret aimed squarely at families, and by all accounts, it's great fun, recommended for adults and children alike.

Huggers, Laughing Horse @ The Free Sisters, 3-26 Aug, 3.00pm, fpp24. [www.nikcoppin.com](http://www.nikcoppin.com)

#### The Curious Scrapbook Of Josephine Bean



I love the sound of this play, and think it will probably be perfect for adults to enjoy with their older children (its suggested age range is 7+). This seems a far cry from the noise and mess that characterises a lot of children's shows, a theatre piece focusing on the analysis of a Victorian scrapbook, and the characters it generates.

The Curious Scrapbook of Josephine Bean, Traverse @ Scottish Book Trust, 3-26 Aug (not 6,13,20), 11.00am, fpp22. [www.shonarepuppets.co.uk](http://www.shonarepuppets.co.uk)

#### Paperbelle



Paperbelle's paper world is plain and blank, and she is resistant to change, but the colours want to play... This is one for the younger children (2-5), but I still think it will be something for adults to enjoy, not least because it sounds enchanting and clever, but also because it will give them an excuse to visit Edinburgh's lovely Botanic Gardens.

Paperbelle, Assembly Royal Botanic Garden, 10-27 Aug (not 14,21), (Times Vary), fpp27. [www.frozencharlotte.com](http://www.frozencharlotte.com)

### 3 music shows

#### Shlomo's Beatbox Adventure... For Kids!



We're big fans of beatbox type stuff here, and in our experience, the children love it too. So, I was very pleased to see that Shlomo's doing a show for kids this year as well as the grown ups. Cool music, brilliant noises and funny sound effects... all courtesy of one man's mouth and a mic.

Shlomo's Beatbox Adventure... For Kids!, Underbelly Cowgate, 13 & 15 Aug, (Times Vary), fpp29. [www.shlco.co.uk](http://www.shlco.co.uk)

#### Nick Cope: Family Songs and Music



That Nick Cope, of Candyskins fame, is these days to be found writing and singing for children. By the sound of it, he's building up a cult following from the parents too, who find his songs a lot more bearable than the usual stuff-for-kids, despite the fact that he is singing about the sort of things that are important to children: monkeys, jumping in mud, fluffballs and goodnight kisses. Nick Cope: Family Songs and Music, Gilded Balloon Teviot, 13-27 Aug, 11.30am, fpp27. [www.nickcope.co.uk](http://www.nickcope.co.uk)

#### Lucia and Scot and the Big Flamenco Adventure!



This was the first listing my daughter pointed to when she opened this year's Fringe programme, definitely attracted by the muppet-style puppets in the accompanying picture. So it was satisfying to recall that last year, we gave this show a very positive review. A delightful mixture of puppetry, clapping, and music makes this a great way to introduce little ones to the joy of flamenco...

Lucia and Scot and the Big Flamenco Adventure!, Alba Flamenca, 9-22 Aug, 2.45pm. [www.albaflamenca.co.uk](http://www.albaflamenca.co.uk)

## Credits & Info

**Editors:** Chris Cooke and Caro Moses

**Picture Editor:** Kat Gollock

**Admin Manager:** Nick Parry

**Advertising Manager:** Sam Taylor

**Design:** Chris Cooke, James Abbott

**Founders:**

Chris Cooke, Geraint Preston, Alex Thomson

**Publishers:** Chris Cooke and Caro Moses

Concept and content © UnLimited Publishing 2012.

Published by ThreeWeeks Publishing, a division of UnLimited Media, Floor 2 Unicorn House, 221-222 Shoreditch High Street, London, E1 6PJ. 0131 516 8842

**Editorial:** [tw.edinburgh@unlimitedmedia.co.uk](mailto:tw.edinburgh@unlimitedmedia.co.uk)

**Advertising:** [tw.advertising@unlimitedmedia.co.uk](mailto:tw.advertising@unlimitedmedia.co.uk)

**News desk:** [tw.news@unlimitedmedia.co.uk](mailto:tw.news@unlimitedmedia.co.uk)

**Printed by** Mortons Print Limited

**Distribution by** Door To Door Delivery

ThreeWeeks is a member of the **Festival Media Network** [www.festivalmedianetwork.com](http://www.festivalmedianetwork.com)

#### ABOUT THREEWEEKS

ThreeWeeks is the complete guide to the Edinburgh Festival in August, where half a million people each year rely on us for show tips and recommendations. Sitting behind ThreeWeeks is an acclaimed media-skills education programme which each summer provides 100 aspiring journalists with a unique on-the-ground training opportunity.

Originally launched in 1996, from year one ThreeWeeks aimed to cover as many aspects of the Festival as possible, from the big names at the big venues through to the real grass roots shows not covered elsewhere.

More than fifteen years later we continue to operate to that ethos, getting even closer to achieving it by reviewing over 1750 shows each Edinburgh Festival, nearly all of those doing a full run and hundreds more than most of our competitors.

We are able to achieve this ambitious editorial aim by adopting a unique not-for-profit business model, and by building the whole thing on the back of a brilliant media-skills education programme.

Each year we recruit and train 100 students and aspiring journalists, who are given free training and one-to-one coaching, and then gain unrivalled work experience by becoming actual reviewers on an established, credible festival publication.

Not only is this one of the UK's best media-skills training opportunities, it also enables ThreeWeeks to have by far the biggest review team the Edinburgh Festival, which enables us to provide such expansive coverage. More info at [www.threeweeks.co.uk/reviewers](http://www.threeweeks.co.uk/reviewers)

Not only does ThreeWeeks provide the widest coverage in terms of number of shows covered, we also get that coverage out in as many places as possible. In August we become a truly 24/7 multimedia operation, with our weekly magazine, seven-days-a-week review sheet, email update, podcasts and constantly updating website.

You can pick up the **Weekly Edition** for free from all key Fringe venues and box offices – look out for our blue distribution boxes.

The **Daily Edition** is available from key venues in central Edinburgh.

And for all our online coverage check [www.ThreeWeeks.co.uk](http://www.ThreeWeeks.co.uk)

# Merlin's DRAGON

Professional interactive play for 5-12s

**Interactive theatre for kids who don't just want to sit still and watch!**

★★★★★ *ThreeWeeks on 'Peter Pan on Dinosaur Island'*

**Vanquish evil knights with real battleaxes!**

31 July - 19 Aug @ 1.30pm £7 (£6) £24 Family

**Spotlites @ The Merchants' Hall**  
Venue 278, 22 Hanover Street, Edinburgh, EH2 2EP  
[www.spotlites.co.uk](http://www.spotlites.co.uk) 0131 220 5911

# SHOWS GUIDE

**THEATRE**

**ALL ABOUT DICKENS** Celebrate Charles Dickens' 200th birthday with our costumed dramatised reading, highlighting his extraordinary life and sampling his prodigious output. Guests include Mr Pickwick, Estella, Mrs Gamp, Fagin, Miss Havisham, Mr Podsnap and Scrooge.  
Mayfield Salisbury Church fpp254

**THEATRE**

**ALL TURN! - FREE** Birmingham bred Actor Emily Summers brings her Grandfather and his memories to life in an original One Woman Show. Wit, warmth and remarkable optimism: Mr Albert North, born 1926, Oldham. 'The Stardust of Yesterday'  
Laughing Horse @ Free Sisters fpp255

**MUSIC**

**A TRIBUTE TO GEORGE & IRA GERSHWIN** Nice Work If You Can Get It. Join Pam Lawson and her band for an evening of timeless songs from George and Ira Gershwin. Supported by Tom Finlay on piano, Ed Kelly on double bass, Phil O'Malley on trombone and Jordie Gilmour on drums. 'S Wonderful. The Outhouse fpp212

**MUSIC**

**COLOURS OF TANGO** Travel back to the Buenos Aires of a century ago! Experience the passion of tango, its music and dance, with Oscar Ovejero and an international group of artistes honoured by the Argentinian National Academy of Tango. [www.facebook.com/coloursoftango](http://www.facebook.com/coloursoftango)  
The Royal Scots Club fpp209

**THEATRE**

**DRACULA SEX SUCKING & STARDOM** Last Chance Saloon stage an irresistible revamp of Stoker's classic with liberal interpretations of pop songs, outrageous humour & a Lloyd Webber loving Count. 'Positively drips in knowing humour' (WhatsOnStage.com) 6th-27th Aug 8.40pm Paradise In The Vault fpp273

**COMEDY**

**EAT A QUEER FETUS 4 JESUS - FREE** Some people are born again...Richard Coughlan was miscarried TWICE! "Lord of Filth 5 STARS" 3 Weeks "The man is a killer" Reg D Hunter 1 of Stewart Lee's EDINBLUR tips 21:45pm - 22:45pm 2-26 August The Counting House (Lounge) 38 West Nicolson Street fpp72

**THEATRE**

**HOUSE OF SHADOWS** is a new interpretation of Hans Christian Andersen's tale "The Shadow." The Man, a storyteller, longs to join the mysterious Cult of Beauty, but when his Shadow breaks free it sparks a rivalry that threatens to destroy them both.  
theSpace @ Surgeons Hall fpp285

**MUSIC**

**JANE BOM-BANE - FREE** Jane returns to Edinburgh with original songs and poems to the accompaniment of harmonium & a mechanical hat or two, joined on harmony by honey-voiced Rosi Lalor. "Utterly refreshing - unlike anything I've ever seen or heard before!" Dave Gorman.  
Laughing Horse @ Finnegan's Wake fpp215

**MUSIC**

**JOHN McNAMARA SOUL & BLUES SINGER** Australian Soul singer - Taking cues from soul greats such as Otis Redding & Sam Cooke mixed with fiery blues & slick guitar playing. Daily intimate Acoustic shows at noon. Don't miss this powerful & emotive voice Live! [www.johnmcnamarablues.com](http://www.johnmcnamarablues.com) fpp215

**COMEDY**

**MEN OF CHARACTER - FREE** The Confused Moose bring their pan-American accents and broken dreams from Chicago to Edinburgh with their new two-man solo-sketch show. It's free and it's in a bar. So... it's got that going for it. 112 Hanover St. Daily @ 15:05 [theconfusedmoose.com](http://theconfusedmoose.com) Laughing Horse @ Jekyll & Hyde fpp125

**THEATRE**

**MR CARMEN** 2-27 Aug. Cult vanguard group from St.-Petersburg ENGINEERING THEATRE AKHE is back to Fringe with powerful new version of their famous show "Mr.Carmen". "The extraordinary becomes believable" LA REPUBBLICA Tickets: 01316233047, [assemblyfestival.com](http://assemblyfestival.com) Assembly Roxy fpp302

**THEATRE**

**THE HARMONETTES GO INTO ORBIT** This fun comedy musical, full of fantastic, live, close-harmony 1950's songs, plunges you into the post-war, end-of-rationing world of winkle-picker shoes and bootlace ties; bobby socks and sticky-out skirts; beautiful ballads, and rock n' roll. Gryphon Venues at the Point Hotel fpp283

**MUSIC**

**OUT OF ABINGDON** From Brisbane, Australia, Out of Abingdon travel 10,000 miles to make their much anticipated return to Edinburgh. 'soft vocals, laid-back bass and cool grooves' D. Farnoli - ED2011 August 10th-19th at The JazzBar' booking details on [www.edfringe.com](http://www.edfringe.com), The Jazz Bar fpp224

**THEATRE**

**PHOTOGRAPHING THE DEAD** A city in ruins. A man in mourning. A woman, waiting for a train. A haunting and evocative journey through memory, set in a world recovering from tragedy. This is a poetic storytelling, a reminder of what it is to hope, to care and to be truly alive.  
Paradise In The Vault fpp308

**THEATRE**

**YOU OBVIOUSLY KNOW WHAT I'M TALKING ABOUT** A joyous theatrical experience about those days when if anything can go wrong it will and inevitably at the worst possible moment. Funny. Poignant. Visually stunning. 'Highlights the frustrations of modern life wonderfully' (View From The Gods) Underbelly Cowgate fpp337

**COMEDY**

**THE INTIMATE STRANGERS** Silly and surreal sketch comedy. Featuring Anne Frank, a tiger and a musical that's definitely not about Scientology. There will be dancing. 3.15pm (1hr) \*\*\*\* 'Stark comic quality' (RemoteGoat) \*\*\*\* 'You simply have to see it' (OffScript) Just The Tonic at The Caves fpp98

**COMEDY**

**CATCH COMEDY PRESENTS EDINBURGH SHOWCASE** Charity comedy showcase (Macmillan Cancer Support) featuring a mix of bloody hilarious headline & support. Top acts inc. Simon Donald, Dan Mitchell & Slap & Giggle. Stand up, stories and songs! Visit [catchcomedyuk.wordpress.com](http://catchcomedyuk.wordpress.com) for more info. £3.50 Acoustic Music Centre @ St. Brides fpp 53

**THREEWEEKS**

A cost effective and simple way to get your show in the ThreeWeeks Weekly Edition for just £30. Get your show listed in this section in our Week 1, 2 and 3 issues, complete with photo and blurb. An entry in this section costs just £30 per edition (including VAT). Book at [www.threeweeks.co.uk/classifiedbookings/](http://www.threeweeks.co.uk/classifiedbookings/)

## STAND OUT FROM THE CROWDS

Promote your shows with great ad packages from ThreeWeeks

[www.ThreeWeeks.co.uk/advertising](http://www.ThreeWeeks.co.uk/advertising) | 0131 516 8842

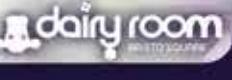
Brett Vincent for GetComedy proudly presents...

MARCUS BRIGSTOCKE & ANDRE VINCENT  
**THE EARLY EDITION**  
"You won't get a more topical show"  
*The Guardian*  
**2.00pm**  
**2-25 Aug (not 13)**  


**BENNY BOOT**  
**DEF-CON 4**  
"Brilliant gags"  
*The Guardian*  
"Charming, disarming and proper fucking funny"  
*Tim Minchin*  
**5.30pm**  
**1-27 Aug (not 13)**  


SAMMY J & RANDY IN  
*The Inheritance*  
"One of the funniest shows you're likely to see this year"  
**6.05pm**  
**1-27 Aug (not 13)**  


**TIM FITZHIGHAM**  
**STOP THE PIGEON**  
★★★★★  
CHORTLE  
★★★★★  
THREE WEEKS  
★★★★★  
BRITISH COMEDY GUIDE  
**7.30pm**  
**1-27 Aug (not 15)**  


**pete johansson**  
**utopian crack pipe**  
★★★★★  
"The funniest first hour I have ever seen"  
*THE SCOTSMAN*  
★★★★★  
"One of the funniest hours of my life"  
*SPOONFED*  
**8.40pm**  
**1-27 Aug (not 13)**  


**JIM JEFFERIES**  
**FULLY FUNCTIONAL**  
"Stand-up comedy's most irresistible force"  
**9.00pm**  
**2-26 Aug (not 13)**  
★★★★★  
*The Herald*  
"Comedy brilliance"  
**9.00pm**  
**2-26 Aug (not 13)**  
★★★★★  
*Time Out*  


**ANDREW MAXWELL**  
**THAT'S THE SPIRIT**  
"Frankly hilarious, he weaves utter magic from his observations"  
**9.05pm**  
**1-27 Aug (not 13)**  
  


**MICHAEL WINSLOW**  
star of POLICE ACADEMY  
*Noizey Man*  
**9.40pm**  
**1-27 Aug (not 14)**  


**FELICITY WARD**  
**THE HEDGEHOG DILEMMA**  
WINNER TIME OUT BEST LOCAL ACT SYDNEY COMEDY FESTIVAL 2011  
WINNER BEST AUSTRALIAN ACT PERTH COMEDY FESTIVAL 2012  
NOMINEE GARRY AWARD MELBOURNE COMEDY FESTIVAL 2010  
NOMINEE BEST COMEDY SHOW MELBOURNE FRINGE 2012  
**10.00pm**  
**1-27 Aug (not 13)**  


**DANA**  
**BREAKING THROUGH ALEXANDER**  
★★★★★  
"Like a gift from the comedy gods"  
*The Herald*  
**10.35pm**  
**1-27 Aug (not 13)**  
