

# TOTAL THEATRE

## EDINBURGH FESTIVAL FRINGE 2007

A FREE SUPPLEMENT TO TOTAL THEATRE MAGAZINE VOLUME 19 ISSUE 03

TOTALTHEATRE.ORG.UK

The Total Theatre Awards are a project of Total Theatre, a national organisation dedicated to developing contemporary theatre, funded by Arts Council England. Total Theatre Awards 2007 are generously sponsored by the Centre for Excellence in Training for Theatre (CETT), based at the Central School of Speech and Drama, University of London; by University of Winchester; and by University of Chichester.

The organisation, amongst other ongoing projects, publishes the quarterly Total Theatre Magazine, available by subscription as a benefit of membership, at selected outlets nationwide, and, for the duration of the festival, available to purchase from the Edinburgh Festival Fringe shop on the Royal Mile, at the special price of £3-50. This publication is a free supplement to Total Theatre Magazine Vol 19 Issue 03, and also independently distributed to venues across Edinburgh throughout August.

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The Total Theatre office in London will be closed throughout August. Please use the mobile number above, or for Awards related enquiries email awards07@totaltheatre.org.uk



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### TOTAL THEATRE AWARDS CELEBRATES TEN YEARS AT THE EDINBURGH FESTIVAL FRINGE

It's August, it's Edinburgh – so once again it's time for the Total Theatre Awards!

The Total Theatre Awards at Edinburgh Festival Fringe were founded in 1997 to reach the parts that other theatre awards were missing. We resist too narrow a definition of the term 'total theatre' but examples of previous Award-winners have included artists and companies working within physical and devised theatre, live art, visual performance, mime, clown, circus arts, street arts, new variety, dance-theatre and puppet-theatre. Total Theatre Awards honour those who demonstrate the power of theatre to communicate, entertain and inspire audiences – a performer-centred rather than writer-dominated theatre that uses any ways or means it wants to achieve that end.

The Total Theatre Awards have grown steadily over the past ten years. Judged by a strong panel of respected critics, producers, programmers and artists, the Awards are prized by the creative community and have an ongoing presence in the national press throughout the year.

For 2007, we celebrate ten years at the Fringe with two new initiatives, the Wildcard vote for audiences and the Giving Something Back free programme for artists. Find out more about both of these inside, together with details on this year's assessing and judging process, and a list of our eminent panel of judges.

Turn the page also for more about what the past year has brought for last year's winners; for our editor's reflection on what's on offer at Fringe 2007; and for updates from some of the artists and companies who are members of Total Theatre, the national agency for contemporary theatre – dedicated to developing theatre-makers and audiences.

The Total Theatre Awards 2007 promise to be the best yet – so whether you are a participating artist in this year's Fringe, a producer or presenter, a venue manager or theatregoer, we look forward to crossing paths with you somewhere this August. Have a good festival!

### KEEP IN TOUCH VIA OUR WEBSITE!

Reviews of shows assessed/shortlisted for the Total Theatre Awards 2007 will be posted on our website on Fridays 10, 17 and 24 August.

The announcement of the Awards shortlist will be posted on 16 August. The announcement of winners of the Total Theatre Awards 2007 will be posted 23 August, after the Awards ceremony, which takes place on that morning at the Assembly Hall on the Mound (entry by invitation only).  
www.totaltheatre.org.uk

### WILDCARD VOTE – THE AUDIENCE CHOICE

Have you seen a show that deserves to be a winner? Vote now! (voting closes at midnight on Tuesday 21 August).

Vote on a Wildcard postcard, available at selected venues

Vote by email to awards07@totaltheatre.org.uk

Vote by text: send a 10-word review to 07912 179 197

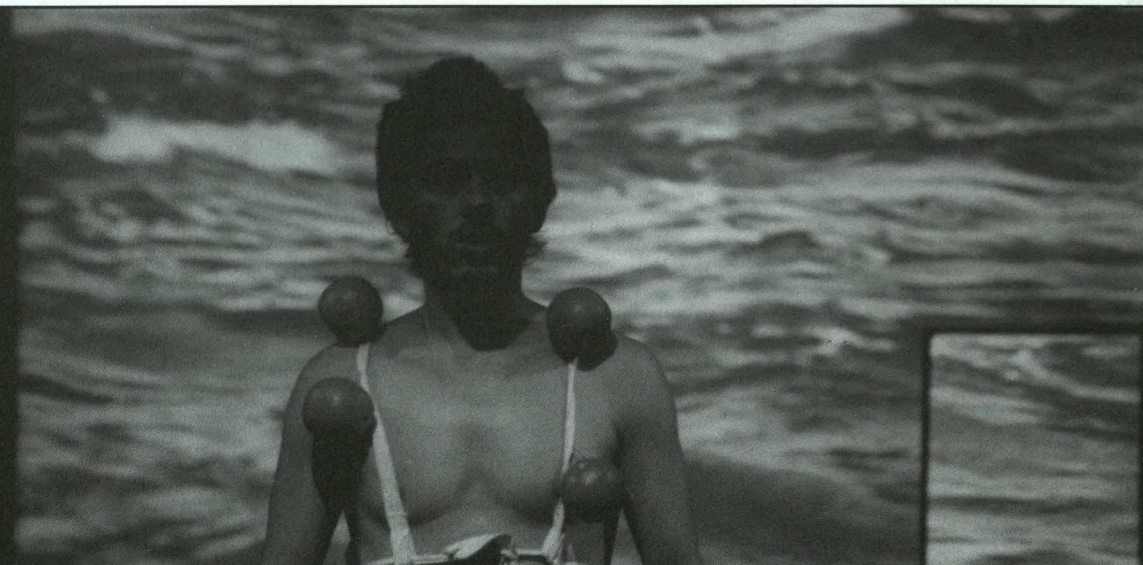
Let us know your name and email/mobile number, the name of the artist or company, the name of the show, and the venue.

The Wildcard winner will be honoured at the Total Theatre Awards on 23 August.

### GIVING SOMETHING BACK – THE ARTISTS' PROGRAMME

For artists only! Giving Something Back 2007 consists of 12 participatory sessions run throughout the Fringe, offering warm-ups, workshops, brunches and discussions. Facilitators include Lee Simpson of Improbable and Ben Harrison of Grid Iron Theatre. Venues taking part include the Spiegel Garden, Pleasance, Smirnoff Underbelly and Dr Robert's Magic Bus. Full programme inside, or call us on 07912 179197

HOIPOLLOI WON A TOTAL THEATRE AWARD 2006 FOR *FLOATING*, WHICH RETURNS TO THE EDINBURGH FESTIVAL FRINGE 2007





# ONE YEAR ON

HOW WAS IT FOR YOU DARLINGS? OUR 2006 TOTAL THEATRE AWARD WINNERS LET US KNOW WHAT THE PAST YEAR HAS DELIVERED

You come to Edinburgh, you do a show, you spend a lot of money – and if you are lucky, the payback is an audience for your work, critical acclaim, maybe even a Total Theatre Award! But then what?

Total Theatre asked last year's winners how it was for them, post-Fringe 2006...

Inspector Sands and Stamping Ground Theatre found success at the Awards 2006 with *Hysteria*, which has been out and about a fair bit since then.

'We've just come back from a tour of *Hysteria* which took us to everywhere beginning with B - BAC, Bucharest, Bristol, Brighton and Berlin. And Durham – but that was an exception,' says company director and performer Lucinka Eisler.

One highlight for the company was performing at the London International Mime Festival in January 2007. As to the future, *Hysteria* will be back in Edinburgh (Ballroom at Assembly Rooms 22–27 August), followed by a two-month UK tour in the autumn. They've also begun development work at the Lyric Hammersmith for a new show, *Is That All There Is* (working title), inspired by the Peggy Lee song of the same name. 'So far there has been a lot of wig action,' says Lucinka.

But what does she think about the Fringe? Is it all worth it? 'I still think Edinburgh is the best platform for new work in this country - maybe it's become a bit of a baggy monster and the financial risks for small companies are always there, but it's precious to have such a big meeting of people who believe theatre has an important role to play, and who know that small companies are a crucial part of the culture food-chain!'

Lucinka also flags up the value that the Awards have to artists: 'Some of the work that has won Total Theatre Awards over the years has been the work we've been most inspired by, so it means a lot to be part of that list.'

A connecting thread for the Awards 2006 was the influence of BAC, the London venue where so much interesting contemporary theatre has been developed – acknowledged in its winning a Total Theatre Award for Significant Contribution in 2006. *Hysteria* was helped along the way by BAC (they also acknowledge support from the Nightingale and Aurora Nova). Another show with BAC connections is *The Receipt*, a highly unusual piece of theatre combining the talents of comedian Will Adamsdale and musician Chris Branch. Their producer Kate McGrath (of Fuel) says: 'Winning a Total Theatre Award for Innovation was

## HOIPOLLOI HUGH HUGHES – THE STORY OF A RABBIT



fantastic recognition for all the team's hard work over 18 months.'

The past year's activities for *The Receipt* have included an appearance at the Melbourne Comedy Festival, and four weeks in New York. Will Adamsdale is back in Edinburgh this year with a new comedy show, *The Human Computer*, at the Traverse.

One of the highlights at Total Theatre Awards 2006 was seeing the delighted confusion on the faces of young company Chotto Ookii as they took to the stage.

'Winning the Total Theatre Award for Best Newcomer kind of blew us all out of the water – I remember being reduced to a mass of giggles and just wandering around Edinburgh in a beautiful daze' says Jake England-Johns of Chotto Ookii on the success of their first ever show, *And Even My Goldfish*.

'It was everything that we could have hoped for to reassure us that it was worth continuing' he says. 'Suddenly theatres were a little more interested in our work and we got Arts Council funding for the research and development of the new show.'

This development time led to a strong relationship with Bradford Theatre in the Mill who are supporting the making of new show *Thus Far and No Further*, which Jake describes as 'a madcap explosion of wax, fluff and flour with small animal clowns set to the backdrop of industrial decline.'

Other highlights have included a second tour of *And Even My Goldfish* that ended with 'the utterly marvellous Arena Festival in Erlangen, Germany. Because of Total Theatre we are now international artists, so my mum is proud!'

So will we see them back at Edinburgh in 2007? Sadly not, says Jake: 'We so desperately wish we could be back, but alas the old gripe about how a

fringe festival has become so crippling expensive arises – we are still paying off some of last year's debt!'

Someone who is back this August is Hoipolloi.

'It's been a tremendously exciting time at Hoipolloi since last year's Fringe' says company manager Simon Bedford. 'Audience and critical reaction to *Floating* was fantastic and the company was proud to receive a Total Theatre Award.'

They've subsequently taken *Floating* to venues across the UK, and in March 2007 enjoyed five sold out performances in New York as part of the Welsh Assembly government's annual St David's Day celebrations in the city. A successful run as part of bite07 at the Barbican, London has recently ended. With the support of the New Wolsey Theatre, Ipswich, Hoipolloi has also been able to commission *Story of a Rabbit*, which will receive its premiere at the Edinburgh Fringe '07. And *Floating* will be returning to the Fringe for eight performances only, as part of the British Council Edinburgh Showcase.

So how have they managed to get back with two shows?

'None of this would have been possible without the support of Arts Council England, East and their Escalator East to Edinburgh scheme which was vital,' says Simon. Later this year, *Floating* will tour to Oxford, Newcastle, Salford, Leeds and Cambridge.

Another Escalator supported company is NIE (New International Encounter), whose artistic director is Alex Byrne.

'Winning the Award was great for us,' says Alex. 'We often work outside the UK so to get some recognition here was just wonderful.'

Past Half Remembered was the company's second show. It was created in the summer of 2002 in a small Czech





village where NIE lived and worked for the summer, and is the middle part of a trilogy based on contemporary European narratives. After Edinburgh 2006, the show toured the UK and Scandinavia, and then the trilogy was performed at BAC in London. There's a one-day-only opportunity to see all three shows on 20 August at Pleasance Courtyard, where the company is presenting the third part of the trilogy *The End of Everything Ever* throughout August.

NIE have also been working on a new show, *My Life With the Dogs*, which they are planning to tour in 2008. There's also a new show to be developed at the Lyric Studio in Hammersmith, a three-week New York run for *Past Half Remembered* and a new improvised project to be developed with BAC.

As with Hoipolloi, NIE point out that the support from Escalator was crucial for getting them to the Fringe: 'The financial risk of a four-week run in Edinburgh is huge for a small company, so Escalator helped us to take this risk' says Alex.

He also flags up the value of the Awards. 'It was very gratifying to be part of the Total Theatre Awards, to feel that we are part of a national scene. Clearly Total Theatre has a huge role to play for this scene.'

One odd feature of the 2006 Awards was something that we only realised afterwards and have since dubbed The Czech Effect: three of six shows that won Awards had a strong connection with the Czech Republic: Anglo-Czech company NIE; *Hysteria* director Lucinka Eisler is a Czech emigree; and *Sclavi* by Farm in the Cave who live and work in Prague. Company producer MJ has this to say about *Sclavi* post-Fringe:

'Thanks to the Total Theatre Award, *Sclavi* has travelled Europe this past year and is coming back to the UK for a month-long national tour organised by Aurora Nova.'

That tour includes dates in October in Stirling, Glasgow, Liverpool, Aberystwyth, Belfast and dates in November in the South West region. There are also plans for US dates in spring 2008.

So as we can see, there is life after Edinburgh, particularly for Total Theatre Award winners. We'll leave the last word to Alex of NIE:

'I think it's right to come back to what I said at the Awards ceremony last year: we went to Edinburgh in 2004 and didn't know anyone, no one knew us either. Then in 2006 it felt as though we were among friends, that our work was wanted and valued, so, really, thanks for that.'

## MORE ABOUT THE TOTAL THEATRE AWARDS 2007

Around 300 shows are nominated for Total Theatre Awards. Two of our team of 30-plus reviewers and assessors see each show. A shortlist of shows considered for Total Theatre Awards will be posted on our website 16 August.

### HERE COME THE JUDGES

Between 16 and 22 August, our eminent judging panel then sees these shows, and meets on the evening of 22 August to pick the winners in each category. Our judges for 2007 are: Christie Anthoney, director Adelaide Fringe; Pippa Bailey, creative director Total Theatre (chair of judges); Mary Brennan, dance/live art critic for The Herald; Richard Cuming, programme director performing arts, University of Winchester; Robert Daniels, senior lecturer, University of Chichester; Lyn Gardner, theatre critic for the Guardian; Donald Hutera, writer on dance and performance for The Times/ Time Out; Professor Anthony Dean, Dean of Faculty, University of Winchester (representing the Total Theatre board); Ben Harrison, artistic director of Grid Iron Theatre; Kate McGrath, producer for Fuel; Dorothy Max Prior, editor of Total Theatre Magazine; Dominic Rai, director Man Mela Theatre; Beccy Smith, freelance writer and dramaturg; Martin Sutherland, director of The Corn Exchange and New Greenham Arts, Newbury; Nick Wood, course leader MA Advanced Theatre Practice, Central School of Speech and Drama.

### AWARDS CATEGORIES

#### TOTAL THEATRE AWARD FOR BEST EMERGING COMPANY

*Sponsored by University of Winchester*  
For work presented by a young company, in the first four years of their development.

#### TOTAL THEATRE AWARD FOR A SIGNIFICANT CONTRIBUTION

For an established individual or company that has helped change the cultural landscape through their work. This could also apply to people working in the sector in other ways such as a venue programmer, producer, journalist, etc.

#### TOTAL THEATRE AWARD FOR BEST ORIGINAL WORK BY A COLLECTIVE/ENSEMBLE

*Sponsored by the University of Chichester – MA Theatre Collectives*  
For original work presented by a group where a collective/ensemble and/or collaborative process is clearly evident in the show. This Award recognises the importance of collaboration in the creation of new work.

#### TOTAL THEATRE AWARD FOR EXPERIMENTATION

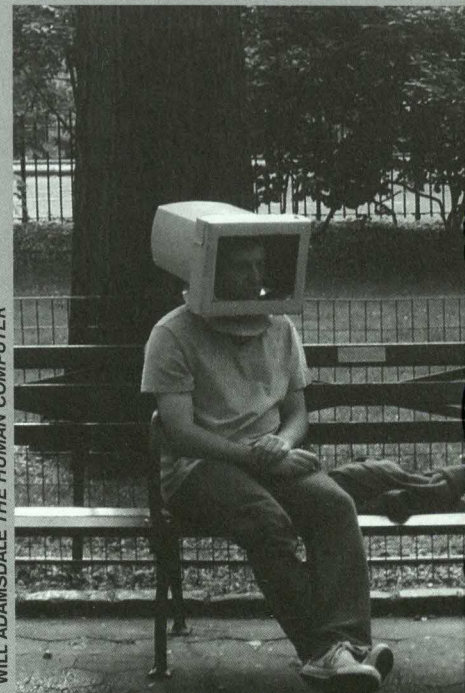
For work that is pushing the boundaries of form. The winning work recognises the importance of experimentation to explore new ideas and find new models.

#### TOTAL THEATRE AWARD FOR BEST PHYSICAL PERFORMANCE

For work demonstrating excellent use and application of physical skill, be it dance-theatre, mime/physical theatre, circus arts, clown, or physical comedy.

#### TOTAL THEATRE AWARD FOR BEST SMALL SCALE WORK

For work that is by a solo performer or a two/three hander.



WILL ADAMSDALE THE HUMAN COMPUTER



# PICK AND MIX

TOTAL THEATRE'S EDITOR DOROTHY MAX PRIOR BRINGS YOU HER HOT TIPS AND HUNCHES FOR EDINBURGH FESTIVAL FRINGE 2007

Here it is, the Fringe brochure, all 290 pages of it, and where to start? Dip in and out, panic bit that you'll miss something really obvious, to the sections that are most likely to have things that interest you, then eventually knuckle down and read the whole thing!

So how to make sense of it all? In these days of cross-artform fertilisation, there's interesting stuff all over the place – and not necessarily where you'd expect to find it. In the Dance & Physical Theatre section, for example, you'll find listings of category-defying work such as Ray Lee's *Siren* (Aurora Nova @ Drill Hall) – a spectacle of mechanical movement, sound and light; Blind Summit's delightfully decadent puppet-cabaret *Low Life*, and Jayan Theatre's *The Voice of Things – Toilet Paper* (at Underbelly), a solo 'object theatre' performance with live percussion that I have a hunch should be interesting. But you'll also find plenty of dance-theatre and physical theatre, such as the new show *Druthers* by enterprising young company Precarious, and Prodigious Theatre's *Queen of the Slaughter*. I saw this latter previewed during the Brighton Festival. On this first public outing, there was evidence of an extraordinary piece of theatre in the making. All the elements are there – a sound core idea, visual beauty, extraordinary physical performances, soul-enriching song, tremendous understanding of stage setting and the integration of inspired design with the performance work. I look forward to seeing the fully realised show!

The Theatre section is daunting; but read it with care and you'll peek out plenty enough to challenge presumptions about 'theatre'. There are, for example, numerous interesting one-person shows by live art/experimental theatre practitioners including Curious, whose *(Be)longing* is a beautiful pairing of autobiographical pieces by Leslie Hill and Helen Paris, and Richard Dedomenici's *Superjumbo*, a 'lo-fi

audio-visual spectacle' that features Richard in a cockpit musing on life, the universe and global travel. I've also seen and greatly enjoyed Bob Karper's *Big in Japan* (or Three Steves and a Bob), a visual, verbal, and musical reflection on Karper's time spent as a teacher in Japan, which manages to tie together all sorts of interesting strands on cultural identity, childhood friendships and memory. And talking of solo shows, there's one I haven't yet seen that's high on my list, and that is Chris Goode's *Hippo World Guest Book* (at Pleasance Dome), one of an ongoing series that 'rescue marginal and outsider texts' – in this case, raiding the real ramblings by visitors to a bona fide 'hipophile' website. Chris is a man of many talents, and *Hippo World* is one of two shows he's presenting at this year's Fringe, the other being the 'subtle and luminous' *Longwave*, by Signal to Noise, which describes itself as a bleak, wordless comedy.

If dark comedy is your cup of tea, try Unpacked's *Funeral Games* (Pleasance Courtyard), a two-hander with superb performances from both actors. Unpacked are a young theatre company going from strength to strength – just three years in existence, and this is the third show they've taken to Edinburgh! I haven't seen *40 Feathered Winks* by The Paper Birds (a physical/visual theatre ensemble who feature live music), but I loved their first show, and so look forward to this exploration of the third of our lives spent in bed... One I have seen is *The Bitches' Ball*, the debut show from Penny Dreadful, a company that takes lesser-known historical characters as a source for devised theatre-making. Inspired by commedia dell'arte, the show features a sharp script, strong physical ensemble work, and hearty clowning.

And if you're interested in theatre clown/physical comedy, don't forget to check out the Comedy section, where many physical theatre artists prefer to get listed. This year, look out for mad fool Jonathan Kay; Japanese street artists extraordinaire Gamarjobat with new show *Rock 'n Roll Penguin, Minor Spectacular* by Corn Exchange supported artists Plested and Brown; comic ventriloquist Nina Conti in *Complete and Utter Conti*, and The Big Dee Brothers' *Dee Tour*, which promises 'madcap trickery, grotesque puppets and ramshackle mime'.

Under Children's Shows you'll find French puppeteers Theatre du Risorius, with the weird-but-wonderful *Volpino*, which I saw performed in their Tardis-like travelling truck. I particularly remember some rather wonderful



PENNY DREADFUL THE BITCHES' BALL

chicken puppets on bungee wires bouncing around the audience's heads... And continuing the trawl through the brochure, even the Music section throws up some intriguing-looking pieces – how about *Meow Meow in Beyond Glamour: The Absinth Tour* at The Spiegel Garden, apparently 'kamikaze kabaret, opera brut, exotica performance art and karaoke splendour'.

If reading through the brochure gets too tiresome, one way into finding the sort of things you might want to see is latching on to one of the curated programmes within the Fringe. Now, there are some people who feel that this is all against the spirit of the thing: the free-for-all where the best shows somehow magically rise to the top, but given the expense and the effort of taking a show to Edinburgh, there's no reason that I can see why artists and companies shouldn't take advantage of the publicity and support of being part of a programme. Particularly when that programme gives sound practical help, as does the Escalator East to Edinburgh scheme pioneered by Arts Council England, East. A stamp of approval from ACE might not guarantee that you'll like the show, but it does suggest that this is work of a certain quality. This year's Escalator programme encompasses 18 performing arts companies, from children's theatre group Theatre of Widdishins to performance poet Luke Wright, with many strong theatre companies, including the Total Theatre Award winners NIE and Hoipolloi. One to look out for is the Nimble Fish production *The Container*, where the audience shares the confines of a container with illegal immigrants travelling to the UK.

Another curated programme, one that has changed the landscape of the Fringe, is Aurora Nova, now in its seventh year at St Stephen's, set up by Wolfgang Hoffman in collaboration with Komedia Theatre, but now supported by Assembly Festival. Wolfgang feels that this year's programme of physical/visual world theatre is his strongest yet – and it is certainly an impressive line-up. Total Theatre Award winner Andrew Dawson returns with the world premiere of *Leitmotif* and another Award winner, BlackSkyWhite, is back with *Astronomy for Insects*; Russia's Do Theatre (who with Wolfgang Hoffman's company Fabrik created the wonderful *Hopeless Games*) present *Hangman*; Poland's finest, Song of the Goat, return with *Lacrimosa* – and there's plenty more

from across the world, with the UK represented by the aforementioned Prodigious Theatre's *Queen of the Slaughter* and by Rotozaza, who continue to challenge expectations of 'theatre' with *Etiquette*, a half-hour experience for two people in a café.

And if we are talking of curated programmes that help to ease you into the great melee that is the Fringe, note that this is a British Council Edinburgh Showcase year, which means the final week will feature an intensive round of shows (open to the public as well as to delegates) presented by established British theatre makers. Many of the shows mentioned in this round-up are also part of the British Council showcase (for example Curious, Rotozaza, Signal to Noise). The line-up this year also includes Gecko (who won a Total Theatre Award in 2005 with *The Race*) with new show *The Arab and The Jew*; writer-performer extraordinaire Tim Crouch with *England*; Stan's Cafe's *The Cleansing of Constance Brown* (a show about power, performed in a long and narrow constructed corridor); a deconstruction of *Twelfth Night* by BAC-supported Filter; Sheffield's finest Third Angel with *Presumption*; and Bristol-based cross-artform experimenters Uninvited Guests with *It Is Like It Ought To Be: A Pastoral*.

One last hot tip: a late entry to the Fringe and therefore not in the brochure, is the wonderful Eddie Ladd, who won a Total Theatre Award in 2003 with *Club Lux*. She returns with *Cof y Corff/Muscle Memory*, described as 'an essay on foot' in which Ladd tries to re-connect with significant moments in Welsh history. She's a solo performer who works in collaboration with a musician and film-maker to create an extraordinary mix of live and digital sounds and images – somehow reaching to the heart, mind and soul all at the same time. This'll be one that I won't be missing!

Hopefully this Cook's Tour of contemporary theatre and performance on offer at Fringe 2007 has been some help – but there's plenty more out there, and we are also relying on you to tell us what to look out for! If you see something that you feel should be honoured, take part in our audience Wildcard vote – text 'wildcard' then the name of the artist, show and venue to 07912 179197.

We look forward to hearing from you!

## TOTAL THEATRE RECOMMENDS

The following shows have all been previously seen and favourably reviewed by one of our trusty team of writers, so come recommended by Total Theatre:

**BILL AITCHISON**  
24/7/52  
Zoo Southside  
19-27 Aug, 15.15h

**BIG WOW**  
*Insomnababble*  
Assembly@George St, 20-26 Aug, 23.15h

**BLIND SUMMIT THEATRE**  
*Low Life Pleasance Courtyard*  
20-25 Aug, 11.00h (20th) or 11.40h (other days)

**BOB KARPER**  
*Big in Japan (or Three Steves and a Bob)*  
The Zoo, 3-27 Aug, 14.30

**CURIOUS**  
*(Be)longing Theatre Workshop*  
20-25 Aug, 22.00h

**EDDIE LADD**  
*Cof y Corff/Muscle Memory*  
venue/date tbc

**HOIPOLLOI**  
Floating  
Pleasance Courtyard, 20-27 Aug, 14.30h

**INSECT CIRCUS SOCIETY**  
*The Insect Circus*  
The Spiegel Garden, 8-12, 15-19, 22-26 Aug, 17.00h

**INSPECTOR SANDS AND STAMPING GROUND THEATRE**  
*Hysteria*  
Assembly@George St, 22/23/27 Aug, 17.40/15.50/21.00h

**JONATHAN KAY**  
*An Audience with Jonathan Kay – Fool*  
ClubWest@Three Sisters, 6-25 Aug, 22.00h

**JOS HOUBEN**  
*The Art of Laughter*  
Assembly  
Aurora Nova@St Stephen's  
various dates/times

**LONE TWIN THEATRE**  
*Alice Bell*  
Rocket@Demarco Roxy Art  
House 20-25 Aug 18.25h

**MELANIE WILSON**  
*Simple Girl*  
Underbelly Baby Belly,  
2-26 Aug (not 15) 16.45h

**NIE**  
*The End of Everything Ever*  
Pleasance Courtyard, 1-27 Aug (not 7,14,21)16.00h except 20, 18.30h as part of all-day trilogy

**ORGANIC THEATRE**  
*Sheepskin Pleasance*  
Courtyard, 1-27 Aug (not 14) 11.45h

**PENNY DREADFUL**  
*The Bitches' Ball Assembly@*  
Hill St Theatre, 3-27 Aug (not 15), 20.30h

**PRECAARIOUS**  
*Druthers Zoo*  
Southside, 3-27 Aug (not 6), 20.30h

**PRODIGAL THEATRE**  
*Queen of the Slaughter*  
Assembly Aurora Nova@St Stephen's 2-27 (not 14) 11.00h

**PUPPET STATE THEATRE COMPANY**  
*The Man Who Planted Trees*  
Scottish Storytelling Centre  
4-27 Aug (not 7,14,21) 13h

**SIGNAL TO NOISE**  
*Longwave*  
Underbelly Pasture, 19-26 Aug, 11.00h

**RICHARD DEDOMENICI**  
*Superjumbo*  
Home from Home, 18-25 Aug, 17.00h Signal to Noise  
*Longwave*

**3 MONKEY PRODUCTIONS**  
*The Incredible Bull Circus*  
Gilded Balloon Teviot 3-13 Aug, 10.30h; then The Spieg Garden 15-26 (not 20) 12.00h

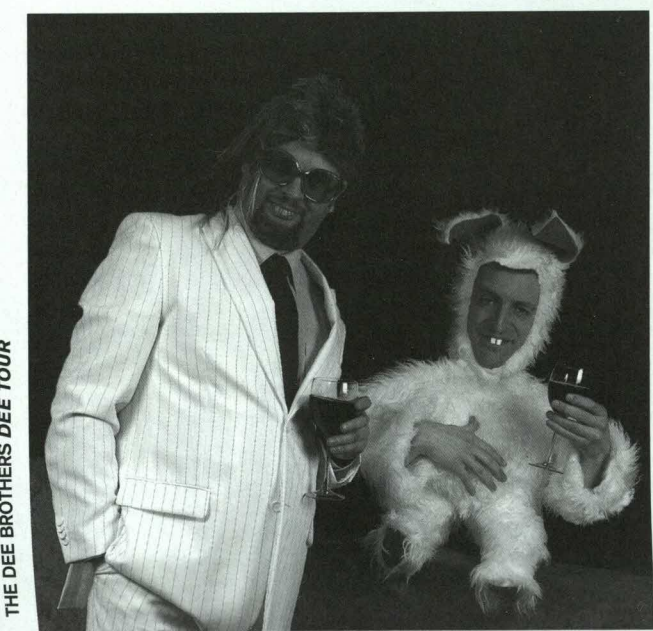
**THEATRE DU RISORIUS**  
*Volpino Sweet Mobile*  
Children's Theatre, 5-27 Aug, 11.00 and 15.00h

**TBILISI MARIONETTE STATE THEATRE**  
*The Battle of Stalingrad*  
Assembly Aurora Nova@St Stephen's  
2-27 Aug (not 7, 14) 12.45h

**UNINVITED GUESTS**  
*It Is Like It Ought To Be: A Pastoral*, Pleasance Courtyard, 18-25 Aug, 11.00h

**UNPACKED**  
*Funeral Games*  
Pleasance Courtyard  
1-27 Aug (not 13)13.00h

**VOODOO VAUDEVILLE**  
*Voodoo Vaudeville*  
Assembly@George St, 2-26 Aug (not 6,13,20) 23.00h



THE BIG DEE BROTHERS DEE TOUR

## PERFORMER AND COMPANY UPDATES

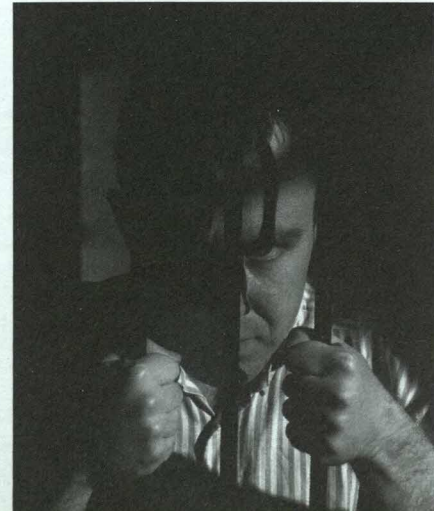
SPOTLIGHT ON SOME OF THE TOTAL THEATRE ARTISTS AND COMPANIES AT THE EDINBURGH FESTIVAL FRINGE, AUGUST 2007



BASE THEATRE

**BASE THEATRE** harness the inspiration of four talented artists from different disciplines in an absorbing interpretation of Antonin Artaud's legendary radio play, *To have done with the judgment of god*. Artaud's recording combines politics, rituals, themes of genius/madness, and a crackling voice that profoundly influenced the future of theatre. Base Theatre counterpoint Artaud's voice, echoing out from mobile radios, with their own, connected to physical movement. Venue 45, 6-11 August. See [www.otondo.net/fringe](http://www.otondo.net/fringe) or email [basetheatre@googlemail.com](mailto:basetheatre@googlemail.com)

**CHARLIE RYDER**  
A demo against the BNP at their headquarters in Welling, October '93 provides the background to events that will change the course of one man's life forever. Using puppets, masks and physical theatre *Prison?* shines a light on his journey, seeking to challenge the audience's preconception of prison. Written and performed by Charlie Ryder, directed by Denise Keane, and presented by Hopenhealing. Understairs@Euroscot, 19-27 August. Performance on 22



CHARLIE RYDER

August will be in sign language. See: [www.myspace.com/charliepatrickryder](http://www.myspace.com/charliepatrickryder)

**LOST VAGUENESS**  
For the first time in history, Lost Vagueness, the purveyors of leftfield comedy and the weird and wonderful are set to light up the Fringe with their own saucy brand of wickedness. *Club Vague* will introduce the Lost Vagueness experience to the Granite City in all its glamorous glory, tempting the late night festival audience with its heady mix of vaudevillian vice, leftfield comedy, sensual strip tease, burlesque and its own brand of 'wrongness'. 5-26 August [www.lostvagueness.com](http://www.lostvagueness.com)

**ORGANIC THEATRE**  
Organic Theatre will be presenting their critically acclaimed solo piece *Sheepskin* at the Edinburgh Fringe Festival (The Hut, Pleasance Courtyard) 1-27 August. Performed by John Dean, written and directed by Bianca Mastromonte, *Sheepskin* is a compulsive ritual of unconventional physicality and new writing. See: [www.pleasance.co.uk/edinburgh](http://www.pleasance.co.uk/edinburgh)

### PRECAARIOUS



Precarious will be hitting Edinburgh again this year with their new show *Druthers*, which was made possible thanks to an Emerging Artist Bursary from Essexdance, funding from ACE and sponsorship from Quadvision. Described as "One of the top ten companies at Edinburgh 2006" (OneWorld Radio), Precarious promise an exquisite concoction of stunning visuals, vibrant movement, poetic text, spectacular digital effects, pulsing soundscapes, untravelled luggage, steps to nowhere, suspended doors and obscenely high chairs. Check out the website at its new address: [www.precarious.org.uk](http://www.precarious.org.uk)

Co-directed by Karl James and A. Smith. Sound design by Sound & Fury's Dan Jones. Produced by News from Nowhere, the Traverse Theatre and The Fruitmarket Gallery, Edinburgh. Co-producers: Warwick Arts Centre and Culturgest (Lisbon). The Fruitmarket Gallery, Market Street, Edinburgh (Venue 359), 3-26 August. See: [www.traverse.co.uk](http://www.traverse.co.uk)

**UNPACKED**  
Two brothers reunite to bury the dead and dig up the living. The lights are going out and the water's coming in. A tale of tea stains, stiffs and

brotherly love. Unpacked uses an original visual language that fuses physical theatre, puppetry and new writing. Their new show *Funeral Games* has been developed with the Nightingale Theatre and explores the complexities of male relationships in a crumbling world. Edinburgh Fringe Festival, Venue 33, Pleasance Below. Previews 1-3 August & performances 4-27 August (not 13). See: [www.unpacked.org](http://www.unpacked.org)

The above featured artists and companies are members of Total Theatre, a national agency dedicated to developing contemporary theatre and live performance. To join Total Theatre see our website [www.totaltheatre.org.uk](http://www.totaltheatre.org.uk)

For posted reviews see our website – reviews will go up on Fridays throughout the Fringe. [www.totaltheatre.org.uk](http://www.totaltheatre.org.uk)

For further details of shows mentioned and for the full Fringe programme see [www.edfringe.com](http://www.edfringe.com)

Check out the Aurora Nova Programme at [www.auroranova.org](http://www.auroranova.org)

For Escalator East to Edinburgh see [www.artscouncil.org.uk/regions](http://www.artscouncil.org.uk/regions) and follow the links to East

For more on the British Council Edinburgh Showcase see [www.britishcouncil.org/arts-drama-edinburgh.htm](http://www.britishcouncil.org/arts-drama-edinburgh.htm)

### TALE ON FIRE

Nominated for The Stage Best Ensemble 2006, following their hugely successful show *Sing a Storm of Blackbirds* at last year's Fringe, Tale on Fire triumphantly return with an eccentric tale of missed opportunities and secret desires. Incorporating their trademark humour and physical style, *What If?* is the story of Neil, She and Josh, locked in a dance of virtual hide and seek, their own inhibitions and the deep, gut-wrenching fear of looking silly. Pleasance Courtyard, 1-27 August. See: [www.taleonfire.com](http://www.taleonfire.com)

**THEATRE OF WIDDERSHINS** is up at the Edinburgh Festival Fringe again thanks to the Arts Council's Escalator East to Edinburgh scheme. This year the company will be doing a three-week run of its latest children's show, *The Elves & The Shoemaker*, at the Quaker Meeting House (Venue 40). See: [www.widdershins.co.uk](http://www.widdershins.co.uk)

**TIM CROUCH**  
*England* is Tim Crouch's latest play for grown-ups – a pictographic story of a heart transplant performed within an exhibition of work by English artist Alex Hartley at the Fruitmarket Gallery in Edinburgh. It will be performed by Tim Crouch and Shunt



UNPACKED



# TOTAL THEATRE AT EDINBURGH FESTIVAL FRINGE 2007 GIVING SOMETHING BACK - THE ARTISTS' PROGRAMME



The Spiegel Tent

**PLEASANCE**

'The venue with a twist'   
WWW.PLEASANCE.CO.UK 0131 556 6550

A small programme and a big idea that we hope will grow over future years.

In the name of access, artists can present their work on the Fringe in the hope that new markets will open up and advance their careers. However, for most the costs are great and the chances of breaking even are very small. The Fringe plays a significant role in boosting the local economy and many artists pay to play their part.

We want to see venues, local businesses and larger arts organisations working together and Giving Something Back, putting artists firmly at the heart of the city's festivities. In 2007 several venues have provided space and arts professionals have given their time to kickstart this programme.

We hope artists will participate and share their ideas about what they want for future programmes.

## AUGUST 2007 PROGRAMME

**TUES 7TH, 11AM-12.30PM**

**PLEASANCE ONE**

**WARM UP/WORKSHOP**

Pippa Bailey offers a taster of a fun creative process that can also be used as a basis for business planning. Role play, improvisation and big ideas are all you need.

**WED 8TH, 10AM-1PM**

**THE SPIEGEL GARDEN**

**EDINBURGH FRINGE: WHAT'S RIGHT? WHAT'S WRONG?**

A warm invitation to join a taster Open Space event, facilitated by Lee Simpson, co-artistic director of Improbable. Help us explore the highs and lows of being an artist on the Fringe. Improbable's own annual Open Space, *Devoted and Disgruntled - What are we going to do about theatre?* has already caused quite a stir.

**WED 8TH, 11PM**

**MYSTERY LOCATION**

Blind date. WLTM sexy arts professionals?

Sign up now. Five artists selected at random to join a party.

**THURS 9TH, 10AM-12NOON**

**THE SPIEGEL GARDEN**

**WORKSHOP - LISTENING TO THE SPACE**

Ben Harrison, artistic director of Grid Iron, leads an introductory session on creating site-based work.

**FRI, 10TH, 10AM-12NOON**

**THE SPIEGEL GARDEN**

**WORKSHOP - COME BALLROOM DANCING**

Dorothy Max Prior, choreographer for Ragroof Theatre, offers ballroom/partner dance as a tool for performance. Takes two to tango, but no partner needed!

**TUES 14TH, 11AM-12.30**

**PLEASANCE ONE**

**WARM UP**

With Cassie Werber, director of ChoppedLogic Theatre Company.

**WED 15TH 10-12AM**

**JELLY BELLY BAR**

**SMIRNOFF UNDERBELLY/GARDEN**

Brunch - networking made easy.

Croissants and top tips for making friends and working with them.

**THURS 16TH 10-12AM**

**WHITE BELLY, SMIRNOFF UNDERBELLY  
DISCUSSION - WHAT ARE WE LOOKING FOR?**

Programmers Gregory Nash, director of The Point Eastleigh; Hannah Ringham, founder member of shunt collective; and Nathan Curry, director of Tangled Feet and assistant director at Old Vic and National Theatre, share insights into programming and casting.

**FRIDAY 17TH, 11AM**

**DR ROBERTS MAGIC BUS, THE MEADOWS  
BRUNCH AND VOLLEYBALL**

Bring a company team or just come and play.

**FRI 17TH, 11PM**

**MYSTERY LOCATION**

Blind date. WLTM sexy professionals? Sign up now.

Five artists selected at random to join a party.

**TUES 21ST, 11AM-12.30PM**

**PLEASANCE ONE**

**ARTS FUNDING - WHO NEEDS IT?**

A new team is leading the nation and more funding cuts seem imminent. Professionals from the UK and abroad muse on the state of the arts and strategies to survive.

**THURS, 23RD**

**RAINY BAR,**

**ASSEMBLY HALL, THE MOUND**

**TOTAL THEATRE AWARDS CEREMONY**

A star-studded occasion. Excellence is rewarded with surprising connections to the wider cultural landscape. In partnership with CETT. Dress to impress.

By invitation only (sorry we have limited capacity).

**THURS, 23RD 3-5PM**

**DANCE BASE**

**ITC/EDINBURGH FRINGE SEMINAR -  
NUTS AND BOLTS**

Toolkit for managing a performing arts company.

Join ITC's Legal & Industrial Relations Manager, Jackie Elliman, for a discussion on legal issues and business practice. Suitable for emerging companies and also a good refresher. \*Free tickets but this one must be booked through Fringe office.

**PLEASE NOTE THAT THIS PROGRAMME OF  
EVENTS IS FREE BUT ONLY OPEN TO THEATRE  
ARTISTS.**

BOOK BY TEXT to 07912 179197 with name of participant, name of show in Fringe & page no in programme plus name/date of session (e.g. Mary Bryant, Macbeth p 178, warm-up 14/08)

BY EMAIL awards07@totaltheatre.org.uk

OR just turn up. NB artists only, and preference will be given to pre-booked places.

If nothing takes your fancy, get in touch and tell us what we should offer.

Thanks for bringing your show to Edinburgh!

## JOIN US!

Total Theatre is changing. Membership to Total Theatre includes our quarterly magazine which we hope to be developing into a more frequent publication next year. Your membership includes cheaper advertising, representation in our news section and an opportunity to get further involved in our activities. Total Theatre Magazine will remain a key part of our work. We also intend to find more ways of connecting and involving our members. We aim to develop a strong international network of practitioners. Our website is getting a minor overhaul as a prelude to a major overhaul; we're working on establishing and strengthening reciprocal arrangements with other organisations (cheaper tickets/memberships); we're putting on events and planning projects, bursaries and go see opportunities.

Subscribe to Total Theatre now and get 25% off the regular price.

UK:

Students: £12

Individuals: £19.50

Small-scale arts companies/venues/  
schools: £34.50

Revenue Funded Companies: £51

(Not applicable to HE or Corporate membership)

Abroad:

Individuals/small companies: £26

Large companies: £32

To take advantage of these special rates, please send a cheque for the correct amount, made payable to Total Theatre Network, to:

**TOTAL THEATRE  
THE POWER STATION  
CORONET ST  
LONDON N1 6HD**

**FROM THE TOTAL  
THEATRE TEAM: PIPPA  
BAILEY, CREATIVE  
DIRECTOR; DOROTHY  
MAX PRIOR, EDITOR;  
JOHN ELLINGSWORTH,  
ADMINISTRATOR/LISTINGS  
EDITOR.**