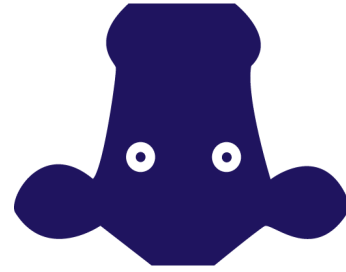


PRESS RELEASE: Thursday June 8th



Underbelly mooving on up as Fringe Programme is announced

Two new spaces including the cow shaped UdderBELLY beef up Underbelly's presence at the Edinburgh Festival Fringe

The best of festival comedy, theatre, music and dance are to be unveiled as part of Underbelly's programme for Edinburgh Festival Fringe 2006. Highlights include: former Perrier Award winner **Demetri Martin** and Perrier Best Newcomer **Gary Le Strange**, Stewart Lee's return to directing since Jerry Springer The Opera in the much anticipated **Talk Radio**, the world's fastest dancer James Devine in **Tapeire** and the popular **Fence Collective** treating Underbelly audiences to exclusive sessions as part of **Underbelly Live**. These are just a handful from a programme that boasts 135 shows in four unique festival venues

As well as the atmospheric Smirnoff Underbelly vaults in the Cowgate and Baby Belly's caves on Niddry Street, two new venues become members of the Underbelly family. E4 UdderBELLY situated in Bristo Square will be one of the most unique spaces at the Fringe. The venue is a giant purple structure in the shape of a cow. At 24m long, 14m wide and 15m high, the cow will seat 322 and is surrounded by an outdoor bar and seating area known as the Pasture sponsored by Strongbow. E4 UdderBELLY is set to be an exciting addition to an already buzzing festival hub. Nearby a new 230 seater venue known as the Cow Barn is an Underbelly expression of the well known Reid Hall. Reduced in auditorium size from 300 to 230 seats the Cow Barn promises to be an intimate renovation of a favourite Fringe space.

Comedy at Underbelly this year builds on the venue's already impressive reputation on the festival scene. **Demetri Martin** brings his new award winning show ***Dr Ernest Parrot presents...*** to E4 UdderBELLY for the last two weeks of the festival. **Reginald D Hunter** brings his new show *Pride and Prejudice and Niggas*. The return of **Gary Le Strange** is set to shake the music and comedy world as "The Artist Formerly Known As The Byronic Lord Of Pop" throws his make-up in the bin and emerges with a new sound. Other highlights include the return of **Jim Jeffries** in ***The Second Coming***, **Janey Godley** and **Ashley Storrie** in the first ever mother and daughter sketch show, ***Janey Godley and Ashley Storrie's Square Street*** and Australia's hottest export in talk show host **Wil Anderson**.

Theatre at Underbelly is an eclectic mix of up and coming young playwrights and the some of theatre's most accomplished performers, producers and directors. The hottest show this year, ***Talk Radio*** is a production of the play written by Eric Bogosian and stars Stage Best Actor 2005 **Phil Nicol**. The show features **Will Adamsdale**, **Mike McShane** and **Steven K Amos** and is directed by **Stewart Lee**. West End hit ***Breakfast with Jonny Wilkinson*** featuring Abi Tucker (Heartbreak High) and Norman Pace (from Hale and Pace) plays E4 UdderBELLY and the Battersea Arts Centre developed ***The Sperm Monologues*** gives an insight into the thoughts, feelings and motivations of sperm donors through messages left for their unborn children. Charles Ross feels the force with his ***One Man Star Wars Trilogy*** and The Sunday Times New Playwright Award Winner, Al Smith brings his new play ***Radio*** fresh on the success of last year's Underbelly hit *Enola*. The world of blogging is also explored by new company Connected Theatre in the show ***Bloggers***.

Dance at Underbelly takes a giant leap forward this year with a programme including the world's fastest dancer James Devine presenting ***Tapeire – Driven by Rhythm***, the premier street dance company Zoo

Nation with ***Into the Hoods***, a hip hop adaptation of the musical *Into the Woods* and acclaimed Zimbabwean Dance company Siyaya Arts return with their musical dance spectacular ***OnkeOse***.

Music at Underbelly sees the return of jazz soulstress ***Gwyneth Herbert*** and former ***Zero 7*** lead singer ***Tina Dico***. ***Luke Haines***, the creative force behind ***The Auteurs*** treats us to a solo gig and cult lounge outfit ***Barefoot*** are on hand to re work classics such as *Born Slippy* and *Ebenezer Goode*. The Godfather of British Rock and Roll ***Alvin Stardust*** is set to rock Underbelly and Fife's finest - ***The Fence Collective*** present evenings outstanding twisted-folk musicianship and some very special guests.

The above highlights are just a taster of the juicy programme at the Underbelly venues this year. For full listings and information contact Penny Sims or Owen O'Leary at Underbelly's Press Office on 0870 745 3078 or Owen on 07795 250 384 and Penny on 07814 932 886, alternatively email press@underbelly.co.uk. Tickets go on sale June 12th and can be bought online at www.underbelly.co.uk or over the phone on 0870 745 3083.

ENDS –

Notes to Editors:

- Underbelly is now very much at the forefront of the Edinburgh Festival Fringe, a major series of venues, but venues that still retains their site-specific, intimate and unique atmosphere. Having started as a single venue for five shows, Underbelly will in 2006 be programming over 140 shows into twelve performance spaces in four venues with an emphasis on new writing and new talent. In the last three years it has played host to the winner of the Perrier Newcomer Comedy Award (2003), the winner of

the Perrier Comedy Award (2004), Perrier Newcomer nominee (2004), 4 Fringe First Award winners (2003 and 2004), the winner of the Writers Guild Award (2005), the winner of the Macolm Hardee Award (2005) and bands such as Keane, The Thrill, Athlete and Nizlopi who are all now at the top of the British music scene.

