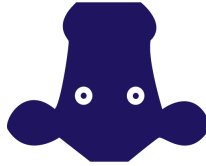


Date: 21st June 2007
Edinburgh Festival Fringe Release



UNDERBELLY PRESS RELEASE

“The quintessential fringe venue” Financial Times
“An atmospheric wonder” The Guardian
“A vertical Glastonbury” The Telegraph

Ha Ha Ha Ha Highlights

Bold, brash and bright young comics take to the stage with some of the festival's finest exponents of the art as part of Underbelly's 2007 Comedy Programme. Highlights include the much anticipated return of Red Dwarf's **Hattie Hayridge** to the Fringe, **Stewart Lee** who is now 'officially' the **41st Best Stand up Ever!**, and **Richard Herring**, celebrating his 20th Fringe with **Oh F*ck I'm 40!**. 2006 Writer's Guild Award winner **Reginald D Hunter** tackles politically correct Britain head on with **F*ck you in the Age of Consequence** and **Ian Stone** returns after a year of Mocking the Week and more to bring some **Healthy Disrespect** to this year's festival. **Craig Campbell** helps put Canada on the map and discusses ways to take Norfolk off of it. No topic is safe from **Jim Jeffries'** brutal observations as another year on he celebrates a coming of the age **30** which hasn't mellowed him in the slightest. Perhaps Jim should drink more wine. **James Dowdeswell** thinks so. In fact he thinks we all should and maybe he's right; join him at Smirnoff Baby Belly 3 for **Wine** and tales from the grapevine. Big in Japan and even bigger here, diminutive Japanese duo **Gamarjobat** make their Underbelly debut following a string of sell-out shows around the world. Catch them at Cow Barn and enjoy the silent treatment.

First you see them, now you don't.....want to miss them ever again

The notorious **Jerry Sadowitz** combines his quick fingers, foul tongue and short temper in **Comedian, Magician, Psychopath** at E4 UdderBELLy while the UK's leading conjurer and star of Channel 4's Dirty Tricks, **Pete Firman** brings his offbeat humour and unique anarchic style that has seen him devour mice, goldfish and produce a maggot from more than a hat. Britain's best are joined by Croatian Magic Sensation **Branko and Branka**, the husband and wife team that the Croatian public have adopted as their very own Borat. Expect some eastern European soft rock, a dazzling lights show and magic that was acceptable in the eighties. With his own form of wizardry Canadian **Tony Lee** lands on these shores with **XXX Aggressive Comedy Hypnosis**. This outrageous late night experience contains nudity (not a lot), bad language (hey presto!) and excessive drinking followed by some serious hocus pocus.

America's Got Talent

America's got talent and now we do too. Employing the strict vetting techniques used by TV programmers to bring the best stateside stuff to Britain (ok maybe not *Joey*) we're thrilled to welcome the top comedy brass from across the water. Described as the new Demetri Martin, **Rebecca Drysdale** takes her HBO Award winning show **One**

Woman in Several Pieces to Smirnoff Baby Belly. Rebecca's show is a mix of multimedia, sketches, songs and monologues tackling everything from hip hop to homosexuality. Boston's madcap **Walsh Brothers** try to keep their clothes on for full hour of mayhem and New York's **Stuckey & Murray** give country music the Tenacious D treatment. Finally, described as Bill Hicks, Hunter S. Thompson and Joe Strummer all rolled into one; **Hamell on Trial** is the UK debut of cult musician, poet and journalist Ed Hamell who gives his unique take on the terrorism of everyday life.

Hotter than Pleasance Upstairs

Ok, there's nothing hotter than being in Pleasance Upstairs so you should steer well clear and have the good sense to catch the hottest new comedy stars at Underbelly. **Bridget Christie** gallops back in time as Charles II for a 17th Century stand up set tackling incompetent terrorists, deranged royals, mentalist fundamentalists and pointless WAGs. The royal line is continued with **The House of Windsor**; a brand new sketch troupe featuring last years stars of *The Future*, (and Writer's Guild nominees) Jonny Sweet and Joe Thomas accompanied by BBC Radio 4's Simon Bird. Hold on to your car keys for **Swingers**, as Barry Castagnola of *Cyberdelic* is joined by *The Office*'s Martha Douglas-Howe for a night in with the neighbours. **Tom Basden** (*Cowards*) is left speechless but finds his voice in a stand up set of songs and **Stan Stanley**, fresh from his success at Montreal's Just for Laughs brings his hit show **Collywobbles** as part of the Laughing Horse Free Festival.

Etch a Sketch

Get out of my dreams and into my car, we're going to Underbelly! **This Sketch Show Belongs to Lionel Ritchie** is the new project from the team who brought us **The Leisure Virus** and the **OAP Comedy Spectacular**. Featuring one of the 68 yr old OAPs and possibly even (a) Lionel Ritchie, catch this sketch talent before it storms the charts. For some light relief head to the Porta-Moo, a portaloos venue for site specific sketches from the **Umbrella Birds** (with material from **Mark Watson**) in **WC**. Focusing on the comings and goings in a women's WC, four of London's best new female comics take toilet humour to a whole new level. **Aeneas Faversham Returns** for more Victorian comedy capers with **The Penny Dreadfuls** and lovers of physical slapstick and feel good soundtracks get their fill with **Greedy**.

It Takes Two, Baby

Comedy double acts abound – stars of Fringe '06 **Bates & Emerson** (Dogs in the Sink) bring leotards, lion-taming and some of the most ridiculous circus acts in **Cirque de Sabotage**. Japanese double act **Gamarjobat** give a masterclass in slapstick, visual gags, and the most perfect timing with their new show **Roll 'n' Roll Penguin**. Other top comedy twosomes include 2005 Perrier Best Nominees **Toulson & Harvey**, the irrepressible **Skinner & Bell** and **Tiernan Douieb with Lauren Shearing** serving up delicious **Tea & Cake**.

Latest and Greatest

Underbelly is still the late night venue. The outrageous sell-out **Spank!** returns for more madness, mayhem and the odd bits of gratuitous nudity while **Maxwell's Full Mooners** continues to howl at the moon with the festival's wannabe wolves. **Mitch Benn** and his

band compose a night of new musical satire every evening with the help of his audience in the **Mitch Benn Music Club** while comedians use their best scare tactics in **The Witching Hour III**, a late night ghost storytelling session in Edinburgh's most haunted venue. **Dan Clark & Friends** bring **Songs and Jokes** for four nights only – Dan's friends have previously included Stephen Merchant, Simon Amstell and Noel Fielding. Andy Zaltzman hosts late night satirical stand-up at **Political Animal** and **The Late Show** returns for its 6th glorious year still attracting the festival's finest.

The above highlights are just a tickle of the laughs to come at Underbelly Venues throughout August. For a full line up and to book tickets see www.underbelly.co.uk or call 0870 745 3083.

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For further information contact Owen O'Leary (07795 250384) or Penny Sims (07814 932866) at Underbelly's Press Office on 0870 745 3078 or email press@underbelly.co.uk.

Notes to Editors:

Box office: 0870 745 3083 or www.underbelly.co.uk

Smirnoff Underbelly, Venue 61, Cowgate, Edinburgh
Smirnoff Baby Belly, Venue 88, Niddry Street, Edinburgh
E4 UdderBELLY, Venue 300 Bristo Square, Edinburgh
Cow Barn, Venue 201, Bristo Square, Edinburgh
Box Office 0870 745 3083
Edinburgh Festival Fringe 2-27 August 2007

Underbelly is now very much at the forefront of the Edinburgh Festival Fringe. Underbelly in Edinburgh embraces a series of venues that retain their site-specific, intimate and unique atmosphere, taken from their original base in the old Bank of Scotland vaults on Cowgate. They've also developed their touring venue, E4 UdderBELLY, in the shape of a giant upside down purple cow. Having started as a single venue for five shows, this year the programme covers 148 shows across 16 performance spaces. In the last four years it has played host to the double Sunday Times Playwright of the Year winner (Al Smith for *Enola* and *Radio*), winner of the Perrier Award (Will Adamsdale for *Jackson's Way* 2004), Perrier Newcomer Award (*Gary Le Strange* 2003), Perrier Newcomer nominee (Joanna Neary 2004), 4 Fringe First Award winners (2003 and 2004), the winner of the Writers Guild Award (Dan Tetsell 2005), the winner of the Malcolm Hardee Award (Reggie Watts 2005) and bands such as Keane, The Thrills, Athlete and Nizlopi who are all now at the top of the British music scene.