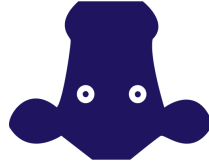


Date: July 2007
Edinburgh Festival Fringe Release



UNDERBELLY PRESS RELEASE

“The quintessential fringe venue” Financial Times

“An atmospheric wonder” The Guardian

“A vertical Glastonbury” The Telegraph

“It's brilliant to see so many local musicians get an international platform at the fringe this year, the Underbelly programme certainly reflects the diverse range of interesting sounds coming out of Scotland at the moment.”

Jim Gellatly, (Presenter XFM)

Underbelly Double A Side showcases the best new music, Scottish talent and some cult classics

This year Underbelly unveils its most extensive and impressive music programme yet. The best Scottish based talent and new music form the backbone of our impressive Underbelly Live line up. **Belle & Sebastian's Monica Queen**, critically acclaimed **Steve Adey**, the incomparable **Preston Reed** and the unique talents of **Cocteau Twins** founder **Robin Guthrie** are just some of highlights. In addition we've got a myriad of musical styles and sessions throughout the programme. The anti folk talents of scathing stand up **Ed Hamell** are on show in **Hamell on Trial**. Audacious acrobatics go hand in hand with block rocking beats as Australia's finest, **Tom Tom Club** swing, scratch and slam into action. We're visited by the country's finest soul singer songwriter **Ola Onabule** for four nights only, and whatever you do don't miss the most original night of the festival at McEwan Hall as **Silent Disco** raises the roof without making a sound. Ace of bass **Guy Pratt** will be on hand with tales of life in the fast lane working with the likes Pink Floyd, Madonna and Michael Jackson while **Woody Sez** brings the life of legend Woody Guthrie to the stage with a quartet of multi talented musicians.

Haven't I seen you somewhere before?

Cocteau Twins founder **Robin Guthrie** returns to Edinburgh with two special late night performances of *Lumiere*, a collection of hypnotic, atmospheric guitar based instrumentals set to an abstract, animated backdrop. **Teenage Fanclub** followers won't be disappointed as two of the band's family tree play on the same bill. **Attic Lights** are produced by the Fannies current drummer, Francis Macdonald while **The Primary 5** boast former Fanclub drummer Paul Quinn. Expect a night of first-class songwriting, cracking riffs and beautiful harmonies.

Keep an eye out for former **Belle & Sebastian** vocalist **Monica Queen** as she brings her haunting voice to Belly Dancer for an intimate show accompanied by Thrum co-founder Johnny Smillie. Other familiar faces at Belly Dancer include New York's inspired musical inventor (and inventor of musical instruments) **Thomas Truax** returning to the Fringe with **Paul Vickers and the Leg**. Vickers is taking time out

from John Peel favourites **Dawn of the Replicants** to bring us 'sonic alchemy with pop magic dancing from their fingertips' NME.

Serious musicians strike a humorous chord

Underbelly Live's world tour takes in South America, France and Fife in the search for the festival's finest funsters. Francophile freakbeat band **Les Bof!** turn Belly Dancer into 60's Paris for the night, with the saucy **Suite 69 Discotheque**. Surfing (musically, not literally) all the way in from Uruguay, via Perth, come **Fabs**. Fronted by the stunning Fabiola Gatti, Fabs have clicked up hundreds of thousands of hits on Myspace for their... sultry surf pop. Party boys **Das Contrás** will get asses shaking with their mariachi latin-tinged songs of love, hedonism and Fife. The beats go on with tremolo beatsville masters **Preston Pfanz & the Seaton Sands** and the laughs continue with foulmouthed redneck disgusters **Arse 2 Mouth / Lazyhand** making Otis Lee Crenshaw look like a kitten-whipped, litter-wetting liberal.

Och aye the new

Underbelly's reputation for showcasing new talent goes from strength to strength as some of Scotland's finest new bands step up to the mic. Two of the most feted indie bands in the country bring their own distinct sound to the festival. Fall in love with the southern gothic of **St. Jude's Infirmary** and be bewitched by the spellbinding pop of **The Starlets**. Lovers of darker sounds and silly names will rock to **Lords of Bastard** and **Jacob Flynn as Black Sabbath meets Black Flag** in the dark recess of Smirnoff Baby Belly.

Twice featured in Peel's Festive Fifty, **The Aphrodisiacs** draw on the same groove as Gorky's and Pavement. **Chris Bradley**, sharing the bill, is a celebrated local singer-songwriter is hotly tipped for big things by industry experts. Already a critic's favourite **Steve Adey's** keyboard led songwriting is timeless and pure, leading The Sunday Times to award Adey Album of the Week and place his remarkable cover of Dylan's 'Shelter from the Storm' in the top 40 songs of the year.

Some Kinda Country

Turning traditional country on its head and taking it underground are three of the stars of the alt. country scene. **Viarosa's** dark country really is "like The Birthday Party doing Johnny Cash". **Fisher King Leven** bring a unique blend of alt. country and post punk folk rock featuring the talents of Robert Fisher from Willard Grant Conspiracy, Michael Weston King from The Good Sons and Jackie Leven from Doll by Doll.

All That Jazz... and Blues

Grabbing jazz by the jugular and adding new pantones to the Blues are an array of talented artists set to transform the Belly Dancer into a booty shaker and blues sound maker. Those longing for the heady, jazz infused dance of Café Graffiti's Midnight Blue will be blown away by **Spontaniacs**. Edinburgh's own **NeWt** bring a strangely sinister and yet gloriously fun composite of The Bad Plus, Zappa and Metheny. Further from home with roots in Scandinavia, Iceland, Poland and Australia, the ever evolving **Haftor Medboe Group** play an atmospheric blend redolent of classic ECM,

Ry Cooder and Mogwai. And Fringe favourite **Gwyneth Herbert** returns with guitar genius Al Cherry playing material from her stunning new album.

Virtuoso **Preston Reed** reinvented acoustic guitar playing. At times, it's impossible to imagine the sound coming from just one man. But as his latest album Spirit shows, he can pare it down and play jazz and blues with equal sensitivity. From one legend to another blues maverick **Billy Jenkins** arrives hot on the heels of his critical success at the Glasgow Jazz Festival. Taking their west coast talent east to Edinburgh are **The Fortunate Sons**. Rumbling over from the Clyde delta like a furious, unstoppable iron horse there will certainly be a fortunate audience to greet them.

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

--- Ends ---

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.

Listings for the shows above:

Underbelly Live @ Underbelly Cowgate

Spontaniacs 2 Aug 9pm
NeWt 3 Aug 9pm
Billy Jenkins 4 Aug 9pm
Preston Reed 7/8 Aug 9pm
Preston Pfanz and the Seaton Sands 9 Aug 9pm
Gwyneth Herbert 10/11 Aug 9pm
Fisher King Leven 12 Aug 9pm
Steve Adey 13/14 Aug 9pm
Viarosa 15 Aug 9pm
Chris Bradley/Aphrodisiacs 16 Aug 9pm
Das Contras 17 Aug 9pm
Les Bof!/Suite 69 18 Aug 9pm
Monica Queen/Son of Thom 19 Aug 9pm
St Judes Infirmary/The Starlets 20 Aug 9pm
Haftor Medboe Group 21 Aug 9pm
Thomas Truax/Paul Vickers & The Leg 22 Aug 9pm
The Fortunate Sons 24 Aug 9pm
Attic Lights/The Primary 5 25 Aug 9pm
Arse 2 Mouth/Lazyhand 26 Aug 9pm

Underbelly Live @ Baby Belly

Lords of Bastard/Jacob Flynn 8 Aug 11.30pm
Fabs 12 Aug 11.30pm
Robin Guthrie - Lumière 13/14 Aug 11.30pm

Tom Tom Club 2 – 27 Aug 4pm E4 UdderBELLY

Ola Onabule 19-22 Aug 11.30pm Baby Belly
Silent Disco 10 – 19 Aug 10pm McEwan Hall Bristo Sq
Hamell on Trial 2 – 26 Aug 6pm Underbelly
Guy Pratt 20 – 25 Aug 5.45pm Underbelly
Woody Sez 2 – 26 Aug 1.35pm CowBarn

Notes to Editors:

Underbelly Venues:

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.

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