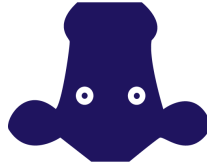


Date: 15th June 2007  
Edinburgh Festival Fringe Release



## UNDERBELLY PRESS RELEASE

**“The quintessential fringe venue” Financial Times**

**“An atmospheric wonder” The Guardian**

**“A vertical Glastonbury” The Telegraph**

### ALL THEATRE GREAT AND SMALL AT UNDERBELLY

2007 sees Underbelly return to the Edinburgh Fringe with a broad range of theatre – from the immense, breath-taking experience that is **Fuerzabruta**, to small but exquisitely formed one-man plays and new writing by up-and-coming companies.

The Black Tent, the world’s largest touring venue, pitches up at Edinburgh’s Ocean Terminal with **Fuerzabruta**, a stunningly visual show in which performers run across vertical walls and dance in a watery world above the audience. At the other end of the scale, **The Psychic Detective (and those disappeared)** by Scottish company **benchours** takes place inside a 40 foot truck. Designed by Laura Hopkins (National Theatre of Scotland, *Blackwatch*), the dark comic thriller incorporates a wealth of theatrical tricks to create the illusion of space and scale to an audience of just 25 people.

### STATE OF THE NATION

Immigration, young offenders and the underclass are all themes of new work at Underbelly. **Container** by Clare Bayley (Sunday Times Playwrighting Award *Corridors in the Air*) takes place inside an adapted freight container, bringing the audience face to face with the reality of people smuggling. **Dearly Deported** by Charlie Brafman is a Kafka-esque surreal tale of a born-and-bred Englishman on the run from deportation due to bureaucratic error. From Adelaide Fringe, **Juvie** is a new Australian play about young offenders set in a detention centre. **Chav! It’s a Musical, Innit** is a satirical comedy that grapples with teen culture, poverty and the resurgence of the BNP.

### EXCITING NEW WRITING

Underbelly continues its commitment to finding and supporting new writers at the Fringe. Taxi driver **Simon Goodall** recreates a night as a cabbie in **Busy Night**, and the real experiences of Russian mail-order brides are explored in **Skolka** by **Point of Departure** theatre. **Kandinsky** and **Al Smith** (double Sunday Times award winner, *Radio, Enola*) bring **On Wonderland** by emerging playwright Gavin O’Carroll. **Mouse** by Paul Trussell is a one man play about the suffocating world of a lone IT worker, and writer/performer **Katy Wix** (*Penny Spubb’s Party*) takes a break from

her comedy characters with her first one-woman play, **Mantra**.

## GET PHYSICAL

Fringe First winners **Jammy Voo** (*The Adventures of Tom Thumb*) return with **Something Blue**, a devised show that is guest directed by world-renowned clown Angela De Castro (*The Gift, Slava's Snowshow*). **The Mother's Bones** by Kath Burlinson comes fresh from winning Best Fringe Performance at Manchester Fringe. Korean company **Hayan Theatre** will bring the most untheatrical and everyday object to the stage in **The Voice of Things Toilet Paper**.

## TRUTH STRANGER THAN FICTION

Real life experiences create inspiration for many shows at Underbelly this year. Hard Graft's **Coast to Coast** is a real-life 'road movie', which shows what can happen when a company go on tour relying on their wits, rather than money, to get them around. Master of the autobiographical show **TJ Dawe** retells his summer of '93 in **A Canadian Bartender at Butlins** and **Kenneth Price** examines the life of the intense Scottish poet in **W S Graham: Out of His Head**. The truth proves elusive in the still controversial case of Boer War soldier and legendary bush balladeer **Breaker Morant**. If.comedies winner **Phil Nichol** directs this Australian courtroom drama for the **Comedians Theatre Company** (*Talk Radio* Edinburgh Fringe '06). The cast includes **Adam Hills, Brendon Burns, Alistair Barrie** and for the first time in the UK, **Heath Franklin** and **Sammy J**.

## PAGE TO STAGE

Italian company Teatro de Borgia take Hamlet into a magical fairytale world that parallels Pinocchio in **Escaping Hamlet. The Collector**, based on John Fowles's best-selling novel, tells of a shy butterfly collector's plot to kidnap the woman he idolises. **Impetuous Kinship** (*the Little Girl who was too fond of Matches*) return with **The Lost Thing**, a charming tale based on a picture storybook by Australian writer/illustrator **Shaun Tan**. And on a different tack, taking the 1978 porn movie as inspiration, we have the hit off-Broadway show **Debbie Does Dallas – The Musical!**

## Best of British

Underbelly hosts three shows as part of the British Council Showcase, taking work selected from the UK's most outstanding established and emerging companies. **Longwave**, created by **Chris Goode** and **Signal to Noise**, uses sound in place of dialogue in this surreal and affecting performance. **This Piece of Earth** by Northern Ireland's **Ransom Productions** bears witness to one of the greatest injustices of modern history – the Great Irish Famine of 1847. And **Filter** use a recording studio as the setting for their abridged and unfussy rendition of **Twelfth Night**, where live and recorded sound come together as the piece is reworked for each unique performance.

--- 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](mailto:press@underbelly.co.uk).

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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.