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Underbelly Edinburgh Fringe 2019 charges into action as first shows announced

- **First five Underbelly Edinburgh Fringe 2019 shows on sale**
- **Heading up the 2019 Fringe herd are Irish comedy sketch actual legends Foil, Arms & Hog, world leading rock star circus performers CIRCA, awarding winning Thinking Drinkers, oceanic acrobats Splash Test Dummies and the masters of late-night Fringe, Spank!**
- **Tickets go on sale Wednesday 30th January at 10am via www.underbellyedinburgh.co.uk**

Underbelly today fired its starting pistol for this year's Edinburgh Festival Fringe announcing the tantalising first five shows on sale. These shows offer eager fans the chance to milk that early Fringe fix with a fantastic selection from the cream of comedy, circus and cabaret.

Following a smash hit 2018 Fringe, **Foil, Arms and Hog**, the Irish comic YouTube masters return to Edinburgh's majestic McEwan Hall with an hour of comedy sketches in their brand-new show **Swines** from **31st July – 25th August at 9pm**.

Five-star Fringe favourite **CIRCA** (Closer, Beyond, Wunderkammer) returns to Underbelly's Circus Hub after its 2017 blockbuster season with **Humans**. This is thrillingly fearless, boundary-pushing circus at its best. Running from **2nd – 24th August at 7pm**, ten acrobats take us on a stirring journey of what it means to be human, and how our bodies, our connections, and our aspirations all form part of who we are. Created by Yaron Lifschitz, **Humans** asks how much can we take – how much weight can we carry?

Ensuring families are kept entertained and joining CIRCA in The Lafayette tent at Circus Hub, the **Splash Test Dummies** are back, ready to roll out their beach towels and spring into an hour of circus-filled hilarity for the whole family. See a brilliant array of catch-your-breath stunt work, acrobatics, juggling and the side-splitting, slapstick comedy for which the dummies are famous. Get set to drown in tears of laughter from the **3rd – 24th August at 1pm**.

Spank! returns to its spiritual home, Underbelly Cowgate for an incredible 16th year with hilarious hosts, awesome comedians and gratuitous nudity. Showcasing the most exciting comedy and cabaret on the Fringe, don't miss the 'best wild night out' (Scotland on Sunday) at the festival! 'Comedy and legendary party night... if you haven't experienced this night, get down there right away!' (Time Out). It's raunchy, raucous and ridiculous and runs in The Belly Dancer from **2nd – 25th August at 11.55pm.**

Expanding into Underbelly's Cowbarn in Bristo Square following a smash hit Fringe 2018, the **Thinking Drinkers** return with a brand-new, hilarious and intoxicating look at history's greatest drinkers from the **31st July – 25th August at 8.20pm.** Enjoy five free drinks as the award-winning experts reveal how alcohol has inspired pioneering explorers, politicians and painters in equal measure, from Plato and Picasso, to Nelson, Napoleon and Norm from Cheers. You'll learn a lot and laugh a lot!

Charlie Wood and Ed Bartlam, directors of Underbelly said; “Edinburgh is our home. The Fringe is where Underbelly started 19 years ago and today as we announce our first five brilliant shows to head up our 2019 programme, we are hugely excited at the prospect of another amazing Underbelly Fringe this year!

“Today's first on sale offers just a taste of what we have in store this year, including the return of the mighty Foil, Arms & Hog following their absolute triumph at McEwan Hall last year and of course we have the superhumans of the circus world, CIRCA return with Humans to dazzle audiences at our Circus Hub on The Meadows.”

The **Underbelly Edinburgh Fringe runs from the 31 July - 26 August 2019** across 22 venues and 4 sites; George Square, Circus Hub, Cowgate and Bristo Square. Further exciting programme details will be revealed in the coming months.

ENDS

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For further media information, photos, interviews and tickets please contact The Corner Shop PR

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Keep up to speed with Underbelly at the Edinburgh Fringe

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LISTINGS

Circa: Humans

Underbelly's Circus Hub on the Meadows, The Lafayette, 2nd – 24th Aug, (7.00pm) (no show Wednesday 7th, Monday 12th, Monday 19th), runtime 60 mins

Preview: 2nd August, £12

Weekend: 3rd – 6th, 9 – 11th, 16th – 18th, 23rd -24th, £20 (£19)

Weekday: 8th, 13th – 15th, 20th – 22nd, £18 (£17)

Five-star Fringe favourites Circa (Closer, Beyond, Wunderkammer) return after their 2017 blockbuster season. This is thrillingly fearless, boundary-pushing circus at its best. Ten acrobats take us on a stirring journey of what it means to be human, and how our bodies, our connections, and our aspirations all form part of who we are. Created by Yaron Lifschitz, Humans asks how much can we take – how much weight can we carry? Who can we trust to support our load? 'The rock stars of the circus world' ***** (List).

Foil Arms and Hog - Swines

Underbelly Bristo Square, McEwan Hall, 31st July – 25th August, (9.00pm), runtime 60 mins

Preview: 31st July – 2nd August, £9

Weekend: 3rd – 6th, 9 – 11th, 16th – 18th, 23rd -25th, £17.50 (£16.50)

Weekday: 7th - 8th, 12th – 15th, 19th – 22nd, £14.50 (£13.50)

Irish comedy, potato, potato... you racist. Sold-out Fringe 2009-2018. Over 100 million hits on YouTube. Foil, Arms and Hog return to the magnificent McEwan Hall with their brand new show 'Swines'. ***** (Irish Times). ***** (Times). ***** (Irish Examiner). 'Very funny' (Rowan Atkinson). 'An effervescent hour of fast-paced gags, fizzing with energy, invention and great lines' (Chortle.co.uk). 'Quite simply, a sensation' (Edinburgh Festivals Magazine).

Spank!

Underbelly Cowgate, Belly Dancer, 2nd – 25th Aug, (11.55pm), runtime 180 mins

Weekend: 2nd – 3rd, 9th – 10th, 16th – 17th, 23rd – 24th, £16.50 (£15.50)

Weekday: 4th - 8th, 11th – 15th, 18th – 22nd, 25th, £15.50 (£14.50)

Spank! returns for an incredible 16th year with hilarious hosts, awesome comedians and gratuitous nudity. Showcasing the most exciting comedy and cabaret on the Fringe, don't miss the 'best wild night out' (Scotland on Sunday) at the festival! 'Comedy and legendary party night... if you haven't experienced this night, get down there right away!' (Time Out). 'It's raunchy, raucous and ridiculous. Utterly and absolutely hilarious' ***** (BroadwayBaby.com). 'Everything you could hope for in a late-night comedy showcase... absolutely must-see show' ***** (ThreeWeeks). 'Atmosphere is electric... you just don't quite know what is going to happen next... superb' ***** (One4Review.co.uk).

Splash Test Dummies

Underbelly's Circus Hub on the Meadows, The Lafayette, 3rd – 24th Aug, (1.00pm) (no show Monday 12th, Monday 19th), runtime 60 mins

Weekend: 3rd – 6th, 9 – 11th, 16th – 18th, 23rd -24th, £12.50 (£11.50)

Weekday: 7th - 8th, 13th – 15th, 20th – 22nd, £11.50 (£10.50)

Rub-a- dub-dub, The Dummies are back with their "splashingly awesome adventure" (Edinburgh Festival for Kids) set to drown you in tears of laughter. From the makers of hit show Trash Test Dummies! Splash Test Dummies are here, ready to roll out their beach towels and spring into an hour of circus-filled hilarity for the whole family. See a brilliant

array of catch-your-breath stunt work, acrobatics, juggling and the side-splitting, slapstick comedy for which the dummies are famous. Join the Dummies and come diving from bathtubs to beaches in this aquatic adventure! "Just plain joyous" ★★★★★ FEST MAGAZINE,

"Action-packed and full of high jinx." ★★★★★ FAMILIES EDINBURGH

The Thinking Drinkers

Underbelly Bristo Square, Cowbarn, 31st July – 25th August, (8.20pm), (no show Monday 12th), runtime 60 mins

Preview: 31st July – 1st August, £8

Weekend: 2nd – 3rd, 5th – 6th, 9th – 10th, 16th – 17th, 23rd – 24th, £16.50 (£15)

Weekday: 4th, 7th – 8th, 11th, 13th – 15th, 18th – 22nd, 25th, £13.50 (£12)

After eight years of sell-outs, the Thinking Drinkers return with a brand-new, hilarious and intoxicating look at history's greatest drinkers. Enjoy five free drinks as the award-winning experts reveal how alcohol has inspired pioneering explorers, politicians and painters in equal measure, from Plato and Picasso, to Nelson, Napoleon and Norm from Cheers. You'll learn a lot, laugh a lot and, don't forget, you get five free drinks. 'Pioneers of alcohol-based comedy' (Sunday Times). 'A terrific show. The best value for money in town' **** (Scotsman). 'Hugely funny, genuinely fascinating' **** (Edinburgh Evening News).

NOTES TO EDITORS

About Underbelly

Underbelly is a UK based live entertainment company. Their events and festivals division operates one of the largest operations at the Edinburgh Festival Fringe, selling over 460,000 tickets for over 200 shows, in 22 venues over 25 days in 2018.

2018 was the sixth year Underbelly produced Edinburgh's Christmas for City of Edinburgh Council (2017/18 saw a record breaking 781,520 tickets issued to visitors from 47 different countries), and the second year of producing Edinburgh's Hogmanay also on behalf of City of Edinburgh Council, which in 2017-18 welcomed 160,000 over 3 days.

2019 marks the eleventh year of Underbelly Festival on the Southbank - one of the biggest multi-arts offerings in London - with over 100 shows programmed over 6 months on the South Bank.

Underbelly also produces Christmas in Leicester Square, Underbelly Festival in Hong Kong, West End Live in Trafalgar Square for Westminster City Council and the Society of London Theatre.

Underbelly Productions is the theatrical arm of Underbelly, presenting, producing and promoting a diverse programme of international work. In 2017, in association with Cameron Mackintosh, they produced a major revival of the classic musical Five Guys Named Moe, which ran for 30 weeks at the purpose built Marble Arch Theatre. This scorching production garnered rave reviews and was nominated for 3 WhatsOnStage Awards (including Best Musical Revival) and as Best Entertainment and Family at the 2018 Olivier Awards. In 2017 they were also Associate Producers on the UK Premiere of the musical Big Fish starring Kelsey Grammar, which enjoyed a sold-out Christmas run at The Other Palace. As part of the 2018 Edinburgh Festival Fringe, Don't Tell Me Not to Fly a one-woman cabaret featuring a

revolving cast of some of the West End's favourite leading ladies premiered in the 900 seater McEwan Hall.

In 2018 Underbelly sold over 1.5 million tickets to their various events.