



PRESS RELEASE

11 June 2004

BOILERHOUSE BRING HIGH-FLYING ACTION TO EDINBURGH FESTIVAL

Edinburgh-based performance company **BOILERHOUSE** is delighted to confirm that its large-scale outdoor production **THE BRIDGE** will premiere at this year's Edinburgh Festival. Fusing daring aerial performance with an original music score and live film, **THE BRIDGE** is a dark and moving drama exploring the universal story of conflict and the inevitable accompanying human struggle. Edinburgh University's Old College Quad, in the heart of the historic Old Town, will provide an atmospheric backdrop for the performances.

'The bridge was my favourite place. It connected me to you.'

When war breaks out, two women struggle to preserve their lifelong friendship, but can only meet on the bridge, exposed and dangerous. As they fight to survive, a sudden and devastating twist of fate tests their alliance to its limit.

A spectacular piece of total theatre, **THE BRIDGE** unfolds high above the audience's heads and on towering structures, against the backdrop of a giant film screen and the night sky. Two world-class aerialists play the main roles and the show features an integral chorus made up of acting students from Edinburgh's Queen Margaret University College.

THE BRIDGE has evolved out of the 2003 production **SISTER SISTER**, cited by **The Scotsman** as "...the first major Scottish contribution to the growing international genre of truly spectacular outdoor performance." The show will preview at Glasgow's West End Festival in June, before going on to premiere in Edinburgh in August. **BOILERHOUSE** last performed in Edinburgh in 2002, when the company staged the award-winning promenade show **RUNNING GIRL** ("a triumph" - **The Times**) at the Corn Exchange.

BOILERHOUSE Artistic Director, Paul Pinson:

*"We are delighted to be bringing **THE BRIDGE** to this year's Edinburgh Festival and of course to be performing in our home town again. We also have fond memories of the Old College Quad, having enjoyed success there with our show **SEIZER** at the Festival in 1997.*

***SISTER SISTER** was the start of a major journey for us, of which **THE BRIDGE** is the next stage. Building on our experience of outdoor film work, aerial choreography and pyrotechnics, we want to offer audiences a breathtaking theatrical experience."*

In addition to the UK dates, this summer's tour also includes performances at the French festival **Les Accroche-Coeurs** which takes place in Angers, north-west France, this September.



BOILERHOUSE is an award-winning Scottish touring theatre company which creates spectacular performance events in a variety of dramatically unusual indoor and outdoor locations. Established in 1992, the company's aim is to relate contemporary stories through a unique mix of live performance, physical action, music and film.

THE BRIDGE - PERFORMANCE INFORMATION

WEST END FESTIVAL [Previews]

Thu 17 – Sat 19 June

10:30pm

Kelvingrove Park, Glasgow - ENTRY FREE

www.westendfestival.co.uk

EDINBURGH FESTIVAL FRINGE

Tue 17 – Sun 29 August [not Mon 23]

• PRESS NIGHT – Wednesday 18 August •

10pm

Old College Quad (Venue 192), South Bridge, Edinburgh

TICKETS: 17 Aug All tickets £8.00
18 – 29 (not 23) Aug £12.00 Full | £9.00 Concession
Venue Box Office 0131 662 8740 | www.uoefo.com

Tickets can be purchased through the box office number or from the venue half an hour before the show.

Fringe Box Office 0131 226 0000 | www.edfringe.com

★ MATURE SUBJECT MATTER ★

GENERAL INFO: 0131 317 3966 | www.boilerhouse.org.uk

PRODUCTION IMAGES: AVAILABLE FROM 22nd June. A SELECTION WILL BE SENT TO FRINGE PRESS OFFICE & PICTURE DESKS, FURTHER IMAGES AVAILABLE ON REQUEST.

For further information, please contact:

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THE BRIDGE – Cast & Company

Performers

SAMRA
AIDA
CHORUS

Chantal McCormick
Jennifer Paterson
The students of Queen Margaret University
College

Conception & Design

DEvised BY

The Creative Team (below)

WRITTEN & DIRECTED BY
PRODUCTION DESIGNER
COMPOSER
AERIAL DESIGNER
VIDEO ARTIST/EDITOR
LIGHTING DESIGNER

Paul Pinson & Roxana Pope
Allan Ross
Jim Sutherland
Jonathan Campbell
Ian Dodds
George Tarbuck



BIOGRAPHIES

Creative Team

PAUL PINSON CO-DIRECTOR

Paul is Founder and Artistic Director of BOILERHOUSE and has led the creative teams on nearly all of the Company's work. During that time he has directed over 30 productions, including the creation of both large-scale work (RUNNING GIRL, HEADSTATE, BARRABAS) and outdoor work (SEIZER, BLEACH, and MOUTH in New Zealand).

ROXANA POPE CO-DIRECTOR

Roxana is an Anglo-Iranian director, writer, performer & musician. Most recently she performed in MAJNOUN at London's Riverside Studios, and appeared in the world premiere of Eve Ensler's THE GOOD BODY in Croatia. She has lived and worked in Sarajevo & Mostar, where she was responsible for numerous drama projects. Much of her work has taken place outdoors, including co-direction of THE AFRICAN JULIUS CAESAR (Winner of a 'Herald Archangel' award) and JOSEPH ROCK (Winner of a Scotsman 'Fringe First' award).

Roxana directed three short pieces for The Iranian Film & Theatre Festival and has devised, directed and performed throughout the Balkans, in Africa, Iran and Georgia. She recently co-founded dance theatre company Papillon Productions, whose new production CONFINEMENT will premiere in autumn 2004.

ALLAN ROSS PRODUCTION DESIGNER

Allan originally trained as a sculptor under Eduardo Paolozzi and has a long track record in Scottish theatre. One of the founder members of 7:84 in 1973, he performed as a musician with the original tour of THE CHEVIOT, THE STAG, AND THE BLACK, BLACK OIL. He designed many Wildcat and 7:84 shows, including BORDER WARFARE and JOHN BROWN'S BODY. He has also worked in film design and as a sculptor.

One of the few designers in Scotland with experience in creating large-scale outdoor work, Allan has latterly designed a number of outdoor performances, including LIBERA ME for Edinburgh's Hogmanay.

JIM SUTHERLAND COMPOSER

Jim is an internationally respected producer, songwriter, composer and musician. Since 1984, he has created many film and TV compositions for BBC and Channel 4, a number of which have won awards. Recent productions include THE SUN WORSHIPPERS (BBC2), GRUTH IS UACHDAR (BBC2), TAGGART (STV) and KING JAMIE AND THE ANGEL (C4).

He was a founder member of the legendary folk band The Easy Club and was a signed artist with Columbia Records with The Lanterns. He has guested for a number of well-known artists including The Chieftans, Van Morrison, John Martyn, Page & Plant, and Emmylou Harris. His recent composition COLD WEATHER DANCING, commissioned by Scottish winter music festival Celtic Connections, premiered to great acclaim in early 2004.

JONOTHAN CAMPBELL AERIAL DESIGNER

Jonathan studied at Fool Time - The National Centre for Circus Skills & the Performing Arts and trained at L'Ecole de Trapèze Volant Jean Palacy in France. A founder member of Shiftwork Physical Theatre Company and

Scaramouche New Circus, he worked as Aerial Designer on V.amp Production's BURNING BRIGHT (Tramway) and Communicado's BRAVE (Fruitmarket), where he also performed. He was Stunt Co-coordinator for Grid Iron's Fringe First award-winning DECKY DOES A BRONCO and also directed METCHEN (Elbow Room Dance Company).



He has spent the last year performing in the National Theatre production of JUMPERS. Whilst in London, he also found time to direct Leo Kay and the London Philharmonic Orchestra in a homage to Charles Chaplin.

IAN DODDS AUDIO-VISUAL ARTIST

An award-winning graduate of The Royal College of Art, Ian's films as Cinematographer include FROG (Winner of The Celtic Film Festival prize), TO WHOM IT MAY CONCERN (C4 – Winner of a Scottish Bafta), THE KEY (BBC2), THE CLEARING (C4), MANJI (BBC1 – Tartan Short), UNEXPLAINED PHENOMENA (BBC2), and A LIFE IN DEATH (BBC2).

Ian was also Cinematographer on the BBC documentary GOD'S ISLAND – a year in the life of the island of Gigha. His directing work includes LEILA (BBC – Cineworks), SEAHOUSES (C4), and BREAKING THE ANGELS' BACK (BBC2). Ian has also made music videos for groups as varied as Pulp and Teenage Fanclub and his theatre work includes a show with the ground-breaking company IOU.

GEORGE TARBUCK LIGHTING DESIGNER

A multi award winning lighting designer, George has lit over a hundred shows world wide from Australia to Orkney via Nairobi. His Scottish work includes shows for Grid Iron, BenchTours, Prime Productions, Edinburgh International Festival, Traverse Theatre, The Arches, Universal Arts, St Magnus Festival, Comunicado and many others.

This is his third show with Boilerhouse and he is delighted to be back working outside in the sunny Scottish weather. George is subject leader in lighting and sound at Queen Margaret University College in Edinburgh. He has also worked as a pyrotechnician, despatch rider and piano player with the punk band Crass.

Performers

CHANTAL McCORMICK AERIALIST

Chantal trained as a dancer and choreographer at the London School of Contemporary Dance and subsequently became interested in aerial circus. For the last 7 years she has been performing internationally both with her own company Fidget Feet, as well as other established dance and circus companies, including Scarabeus Theatre, Northern Stage Ensemble, Green Candle, Sirens Crossing, Seven Sisters, Isabel Rocamora, Dream Engine and Expressive Feet.

In 2002 Chantal received a Choreographer's Award from the Irish Arts Council and travelled to the US to study 'contact dance'. She has recently been commissioned by Customs House Newcastle to create a new solo show entitled I CAN'T HANDLE ME! She loves working on the ground using dance, contact or theatre and enjoys finding ways to bring them into the air, using anything to climb or fly on.

JENNIFER PATERSON AERIALIST

Originally from Stirling, Jennifer trained at London Contemporary Dance School, and has gone on to perform internationally in dance, theatre, aerial and film. She has worked with several dance and physical companies, from Dance Umbrella, Plan B Collaborative Theatre and Scarabeus Theatre to Ireland-based Fidget Feet. She also performed in the award-winning productions IN SITU (Leah Stein) and Katrina McPherson's dance film MOMENT.

Jennifer has recently been seen in Spinal Chord Project's latest tour THE KINETIC SYSTEM and with Tartan Chameleon in HYPOTHETICALLY MURDERED, and has just finished a second tour with Company Chordelia.

CHORUS

The people of the city are played by acting students from Edinburgh's Queen Margaret University College.