



A Tale of Two Cities: Blood for Blood

Pleasance Courtyard (Beyond), 60 Pleasance, Edinburgh, EH8 9TJ

Wednesday 3rd – Sunday 28th August 2016 (not 10th, 17th, 24th), 14:40

Dickens' classic of heroism, espionage and revenge is thrillingly reimagined by multi- award-winning writer-director Jonathan Holloway. The show makes its European premiere direct from an acclaimed Hong Kong season.

This powerful ensemble production relocates the story in the present day, shunning cosy Dickensian theatricality in favour of a world of shadows and fakery. Six actors in a sea of empty chairs and discarded shoes recall 'the disappeared'. Here, there are no wigs, no period frippery and very few of Dickens' original words. Dickens' well-thumbed classic is hurled into the arena of duplicitous hotel room fixers and secret assignations that reverberate through a lifetime.

Playwright and director Jonathan Holloway comments, *This Tale of Two Cities is just what Dickens would have wanted in 2016. He was a social campaigner, a romantic, an unconventional artist and a polymath who adapted and performed his own work for live audiences. He was committed to watertight narrative and a populist who knew audiences think they know what they want, when what they really want is to be taken by surprise.*

Original music underscores an exquisitely designed production building on the success of 2015's UK/Hong Kong Chung Ying collaboration with *Jekyll & Hyde*. A group of accomplished UK artists including Graeme Rose, Nicki Hobday and Eric Maclennan has once again been recruited to create work of international standing with one of Hong Kong's most impressively ambitious and accomplished theatre companies. The show is created and presented with the UK's legendary Red Shift Theatre Productions, and Olivier Award winning producers Seabright Productions.

Notes to Editors

Title	<i>A Tale of Two Cities: Blood for Blood</i>
Performance Dates	Wednesday 3 rd – Sunday 28 th August, 14:40
Running time	90 minutes
Location	Pleasance Courtyard (Beyond), 60 Pleasance, Edinburgh, EH8 9TJ
Box Office	Tickets are available from www.pleasance.co.uk Previews: £6 Weekday: £12 (£11) Weekend: £13 (£12)
Twitter	#Bloodforblood, @ThePleasance,
Notes	Parental guidance
Jonathan Holloway	Playwright, Director, Lighting Designer, Performer
Neil Irish	Set, Costume & Props Designer
Sarah Llewellyn	Composer & Sound Designer:
James Camp	Cruncher/Charles Darnay
Mike Rogers	Monsieur Defarge/Stryver
Abby Wain	Lucie Manette/Barsad
Graeme Rose	Sydney Carton/Evremonde
Nicki Hobday	Mme Defarge
Eric Maclennan	Jarvis Lorry/Magistrate
Jonathan Holloway	Dr Manette

Jonathan Holloway

Jonathan is best known as founder and Artistic Director of Red Shift Theatre Company which toured throughout the UK and beyond from 1982 - 2011, and was subsidised by Arts Council England from 1986. His work as a director, writer and teacher has been seen and heard all over the world. He has directed events ranging from crowd-embedded performance to pocket musicals to landmark reinventions of the classics; run companies and venues; written over 70 professionally produced plays; collaborated with some of the most important writers, designers and composers in British theatre. Jonathan has contributed a huge body of work to BBC Radio 3

& 4, the world's most prolific broadcasting outlet for quality drama. His work as a writer and director has won numerous awards including a First Prize at the 2013 Prix Italia, three consecutive Scotsman Fringe First Awards, the Shakespeare Prize and Best Actor Award at Chile's World Festival of Theatre, The Stage's Edinburgh Festival Best Actor Award and a Best Actor nomination for Jo Millson at the BBC Audio Drama Awards 2014, nomination in the final six for Best Adaptation at the BBC Audio Drama Awards 2015. In 2015 Jonathan directed his radical adaptation of *Jekyll & Hyde* for Chung Ying in Hong Kong and London. In 2016, work for the BBC includes a new commission for a substantial drama examining the phenomena of radicalisation across the centuries, and a new adaptation of *The Scarlet Pimpernel* starring James Purefoy for Johnny Vegas' Woolyback Productions. Jonathan's original play *Big Time*, written for the 400th anniversary of Shakespeare's death, will be broadcast by the BBC in April, while his new version of *Brave New World* will be aired later in the year.

Chung Ying

Chung Ying is one of Hong Kong's largest and most influential companies presenting ambitious work in English and Cantonese and delivering theatre of the highest calibre to the people of Hong Kong. Under the leadership of its Artistic Director Ko Tin-lung it promotes cultural exchange and enriches local life. It has staged more than 250 productions since its inception in 1979, and attracted over 100 nominations and 75 awards at the past 20 annual Hong Kong Drama Awards ceremonies. The company has its own extensive premises and maintains a close relationship with the Theatre Department of the Hong Kong Academy of Performing Arts.

All enquiries, high res images and further information:

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