

BLUSH

Underbelly Cowgate (Big Belly), 56 Cowgate, Edinburgh, EH1 1EG
Thursday 4th – Sunday 28th August 2016 (not 16th), 18:00

She just needs to understand that it's not her fault, that she's not to blame, that she's not a slut.

BLUSH, written by Charlotte Josephine and presented by Snuff Box Theatre, the team behind the sell-out, multi-award winning *Bitch Boxer*, tells five candid stories about revenge porn and all its many victims. *BLUSH* is a slap in the face and a call to arms.

This angry, honest and heartfelt piece seeks to encourage and broaden examination of how the scarcity culture in modern society is fuelling our shame, encouraging the destructive belief systems that we are not enough.

BLUSH is a fast-paced two-hander that explores where our desire to shame others comes from, the unwritten laws of gender-related responsibility and how the shame we feel at not measuring up spills out sideways into acts of violence.

The catalyst for the piece was legislation passed in April 2015 to make revenge pornography a criminal act. The law now makes it illegal to disclose a 'private sexual photograph or film' without the consent of the person depicted. Many people consent to the creation of an image but having it made public is a very different matter.

While revenge pornography may have been the catalyst of *Blush*, the true focus of the work is shame. Just as politics needs fear to prosper, consumerism needs shame in order to successfully thrive. *BLUSH* explores why society has a desire to shame, what it's the result of and how we allow this to happen. *BLUSH* shines a light on the secrets we attempt to keep in the dark, our fears of disconnection and our attempts to be part of the tribe.

Writer Charlotte Josephine comments, *Research for this play was a revelation for me, it reminded me that anger is an emotional reaction to a perceived threat, that most monsters are in fact victims. I learnt to feel the beginnings of empathy for these men's behaviour, which shocked me. It think the manifestations of shame are far more complicated than we give them credit for. I think we desperately need to relook at our sex education system in schools. Our 'scarcity' culture is incredibly dangerous. Shame grows in secrecy and in silence, empathy is the cure.*

BLUSH is in association with Underbelly Untapped.

Notes to Editors

Title	<i>BLUSH</i>
Performance Dates	Thursday 4 th – Sunday 28 th August, 18:00
Running time	1 hour
Location	Underbelly Cowgate (Big Belly), 56 Cowgate, Edinburgh, EH1 1EG
Box Office	Tickets are available from www.underbellyedinburgh.co.uk Previews: £6 Weekday: £10 (£9) Weekend: £11 (£10)
Twitter	@SnuffBoxTheatre, @FollowTheCow, #Blush
Writer	Charlotte Josephine
Director	Edward Stambollouian
Designer	James Turner
Sound Design	Harry Blake
Lighting Designer	Seth Rook Williams
Producer	Jake Orr
Dramaturg	Sarah Dickenson
Cast	Charlotte Josephine, Daniel Foxsmith
Notes	Ages 16+ with strong language

Charlotte Josephine

Charlotte trained on the Contemporary Theatre course at East 15 Acting School and is co-artistic director of Snuff Box Theatre. Acting includes *Buckets* (Orange Tree Theatre), *Julius Caesar* (Donmar Warehouse), *Secret Theatre Company* (Lyric Hammersmith), *Bitch Boxer* (Soho Theatre, National and International Tour) and *Perfection* (Edinburgh Festival Fringe). Writing includes *Bitch Boxer* (Soho Theatre, National and International Tour) and *Perfection* (Edinburgh Festival Fringe). *Bitch Boxer* won the Soho Theatre Young Writers Award, Old Vic New Voices Edinburgh Season 2012, the Holden Street Theatres Award and the Adelaide Fringe Award 2013.

Snuff Box Theatre

Snuff Box Theatre is a multi-award winning collective formed in 2011 by Bryony Shanahan, Charlotte Josephine and Daniel Foxsmith. The company has produced four shows to date including *Weald*, *Bitch Boxer*, *The Altitude Brothers* and *The Observatory*. *Weald* was shortlisted for the Hodgkiss Award and the Yale Drama Series Prize and included a nomination for Best Actor in the Off West End Awards. *Bitch Boxer* won the Soho Theatre Young Writers Award, Old Vic New Voices Edinburgh and the Adelaide Fringe Award before touring nationally and internationally. *The Observatory* won the Ideastap/NSDF/Methuen Edinburgh Award and the Scottish Daily Mail/CDS Edinburgh Drama Award.

Edward Stambollouian

Ed trained on the MA in Theatre Directing at Bristol Old Vic Theatre School. His work has been seen recently at the Unicorn, the Arcola, Shoreditch Town Hall, Vault Festival and the Edinburgh Fringe. He has an interest in new writing from the UK and North America and recently directed the world premiere of Rob Hayes' *Awkward Conversations with Animals I've F*cked*. Ed also directs comedy, most recently working with standup comedian Joe Lycett on his UK tour; with the Invisible Dot on their Birthday Gala at the Hammersmith Apollo and with Youtube stars Dan & Phil on the UK and American tour of their stage show: *The Amazing Tour is not on Fire*. He was recently named as one of the Old Vic 12, a group of emerging creatives attached to the Old Vic Theatre for a year under incoming artistic director, Matthew Warchus. Ed has worked extensively as an assistant director in the West End, at the RSC and regionally. Ed spent a year working as associate director to Jamie Lloyd on his Trafalgar Transformed Season (*Macbeth*, *The Hothouse*, *The Pride*). Alongside the season he directed two Pinter shorts starring Joanna Lumley and Andrew Scott and the UK tour of *The Pride* with Mat Horne.

All enquiries, high res images and further information:

Chloé Nelkin, Chloé Nelkin Consulting

E: chloe@chloenelkinconsulting.com, M: 07764 273 219

W: www.chloenelkinconsulting.com