



# ***Brute* by Izzy Tennyson**

**Underbelly Cowgate (Iron Belly), 56 Cowgate, Edinburgh, EH1 1EG**

**Thursday 6<sup>th</sup> – Monday 31<sup>st</sup> August 2015, 4.10pm**

Being 14 is an awful age. You're not a very nice person at 14. No one knows this better than new girl Poppy who has just started at an all-girls state school. There are rules with no logic, sadistic jokes that aren't actually funny and the most sinister games played out of boredom. And, you'd better not be fat or clever or you're fucked.

*Brute* (winner of the 2015 IdeasTap Underbelly Award) is an exciting piece of new writing based on the true story of a rather twisted, horrible schoolgirl. Set in a girls' school in a provincial English town far away from cosmopolitan and cultural influences, *Brute* explores memories of the protagonist's intensely passionate female friendships as they escalate into violence.

Mainly written in monologue, the piece is interwoven with scenes involving four characters based on girls from Tennyson's peer group; these students are mostly from white, lower working class families, many with unconventional backgrounds.

The themes in *Brute* explore the economic climate, bullying and female violence along with the complexity of adolescent female friendships. *Brute* also touches on the sensitive topics of adolescent hysteria and girls' relationships with authority, especially how female 'problem cases' are handled at school.

Mentor Penny Woolcock commented, *As soon as I heard Izzy Tennyson perform a blistering excerpt from Brute I knew that that here was a brilliant and original voice dealing with tantalizing territory, the passionate friendships and shocking cruelty of teenage girls. She is as merciless to herself as she is to others, fearlessly admitting to deeds, thoughts and feelings most of us would lie about, laced with a deliciously scabrous humour.*

## Notes to Editors

Title	<i>Brute</i> by Izzy Tennyson
Performance Dates	Thursday 6 <sup>th</sup> – Monday 31 <sup>st</sup> August, 4.10pm
Running time	1 hour
Location	Underbelly Cowgate (Iron Belly), 56 Cowgate, Edinburgh, EH1 1EG
Box Office	Tickets are available from <a href="http://www.underbellyedinburgh.co.uk">www.underbellyedinburgh.co.uk</a> Previews (6 <sup>th</sup> Aug): £6 Weekdays: £10 (£9) Weekend: £11 (£10)
Twitter	@IzzyTennyson, @FollowTheCow, #Brute, #iUAward
Writer/Performer	Izzy Tennyson
Mentor	Penny Woolcock
Development Director	Ellie Browning
Producer	Polly Beck

## Izzy Tennyson

Izzy Tennyson's work encompasses playwriting, stand-up comedy, poetry and performing her own autobiographical work and immersive theatre. After winning third prize in the Roundhouse's 2014 Poetry Slam, Izzy went on to perform her work at Bestival and as a curtain-raiser for Kate Tempest's *Hopelessly Devoted* with the Roundhouse Collective and has supported Byony Kimining's at Scottee's Frapp Night. She has performed stand-up with the Soho Theatre Comedy Lab and took her act to the 2014 Edinburgh Fringe Festival as part of Rooke, Woods and Tennyson. Alongside performing, she has also written several plays, including *On Hold*, which had a well-reviewed one month run at the 2013 Edinburgh Fringe Festival and with the theatre company Scatchworks won the award for the 'Best Overall Body of Creative Work' from the NSDF/Sunday Times. Izzy has also written with the Almeida Theatre Latitude Show as well as working with Viv Franzmann at the Lyric Hammersmith Young Writers and has been selected to compete for the Soho Theatre Young Writers Award.

## Ellie Browning

Ellie is a freelance theatre director and producer, and Artistic Director of verbatim theatre company Every Day. Credits as director include: The Love Project, Underbelly and UK tour; Love

Reimagined, Only Connect; Chronic - Courting Drama, Southwark Playhouse. Credits as assistant director include: You Once Said Yes, Underbelly and UK tour / Fringe First and Total Theatre Award winner; NOLA, Underbelly. Ellie is an Associate Artist at Only Connect, and is currently reading for The Bruntwood Prize at The Royal Exchange. She has held posts such as Creative Workshop Manager at IdeasTap, Associate Director with Look Left Look Right and Resident Assistant Director at The Finborough Theatre.

## Penny Woolcock

Penny is a writer/director working across genres, documentary, television fiction, feature films and opera. She has also researched and street cast fictions about life on the margins *Tina goes shopping* and *Tina Takes a Break*. Her feature films include *The Principles of Lust*, *Mischief Night*, *Exodus* and *1 Day*. Her film opera *The Death of Klinghoffer* led to stage productions of John Adams' *Doctor Atomic* and Bizet's *The Pearl Fishers* for the Metropolitan Opera in New York and The English National Opera. Her documentaries include *One Mile Away* documenting a peacemaking process between two inner city gangs, *Going to the Dogs*, *The Wet House* and *On The Streets*. She is currently working on a major installation for the Roundhouse in Camden for August 2015. Her Awards include The Michael Powell Award, a Grammy, The Liberty Human Rights Arts Award, The Grierson Trustees Award, the Prix Italia, Banff Jury Award, Royal Television Society awards for both drama and documentary, Sheffield DocFest Inspiration Award, the Prix Italia and the Women in Film and Television Achievement of the Year.

All enquiries, high res images and further information:

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