



***Chef* by Sabrina Mahfouz**

Underbelly Cowgate – Big Belly, 56 Cowgate, Edinburgh, EH1 1EG

Thursday 31st July – Sunday 17th August 2014, 6.10pm

Chef tells the gripping story of how one woman went from being a haute-cuisine head-chef to a convicted inmate running a prison kitchen. Sabrina Mahfouz's distinct award-winning lyrical style and Jade Anouka's mesmerising performance make this an extraordinary, must-see, new show.

Leading us through her world of mouth-watering dishes and heart-breaking memories, *Chef* questions our attitudes to food, prisoners, violence, love and hope.

Inspired by an interview Mahfouz conducted with Ollie Dabbous, *Chef* studies food as the ultimate art form taking stimulus from Dabbous' obsession with simplicity and making something the best it can be. As the Michelin-star chef of the moment says, '*language is a bit like a dish, you break it down into little parts and it suddenly becomes easier*'.

Chef is an explosively engaging character, leading us through her triumphs and tragedies with words as sharp as her knife: '*The night is packed away into a black bin bag, tagged with a let's not talk of that again, tomorrow will be better and maybe we should just get pizza*'.

Directed by Kirsty Patrick Ward and produced by POP, *Chef* has been made possible through a Sky Academy Arts Scholarship.

'a blistering way with language...this is how theatre can take you anywhere in your imagination'
***** The Herald on *Clean*

POP are also co-presenting John Berkavitch's *Shame*. In this explosive work of spoken-word hiphop-theatre Berkavitch is joined by some of the country's most innovative break-dancers as he explores the feeling of shame through a combination of narrative spoken-word, hip-hop, contemporary dance, illustration, animation and music.

Notes to Editors

Title	<i>Chef</i> by Sabrina Mahfouz
Performance Dates	Thursday 31 st July – Sunday 17 th August, 6.10pm
Running time	50 minutes
Location	Underbelly Cowgate – Big Belly, 56 Cowgate, Edinburgh, EH1 1EG
Box Office	Tickets are available from www.underbelly.co.uk Previews (31 st Jul, 1 st Aug): £6 2 nd , 3 rd , 6 th , 7 th , 11 th , 12 th , 13 th , 14 th , August: £9.50 4 th , 5 th , 8 th , 9 th , 10 th , 15 th , 16 th , 17 th August: £10.50
Twitter	@SabrinaMahfouz, @JadeAnouka, @FollowTheCow
Website	www.poppoetry.co.uk
Extract	https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=J7rLRUXVJSQ

Sabrina Mahfouz

Sabrina Mahfouz won a Sky Academy Arts Scholarship in 2013, which enabled her to set up her poetry production company, POP and create the show, *Chef*. Her play *Clean* transferred to New York from the Traverse Theatre in April as part of Brits Off Broadway and was called '*prodigious ... a mini-poetic masterpiece*' (British Theatre Guide) and '*powerful ... impressive ... brilliant*' (The Scotsman). Her 2012 fringe play *One Hour Only* received the Old Vic New Voices Edinburgh Award and called '*a brilliant play*' (Observer) and '*provocative...excellent*' (Metro). Her debut show, *Dry Ice*, was nominated for The Stage Award for Best Solo Performance in 2011 and transferred to the Bush Theatre, London. Sabrina is currently Poet in Residence for Cape Farewell, a climate change and arts organisation; a writer for Liberty UK and a Global Shaper for the World Economic Forum. She is under commission to Bush Theatre, Theatre Centre and Sky TV. Her first collection of plays and poems, *The Clean Collection*, is published by Bloomsbury.

Jade Anouka

Theatre includes: *Omeros* (Sam Wanamaker Playhouse), *Julius Caesar* (Donmar & St Ann's Warehouse, New York), *Clean* (Traverse & 59E59, New York), *Romeo and Juliet* (Shakespeare's Globe/UAE tour), *Moon on a Rainbow Shawl* (National), *Hamlet* (Shakespeare's Globe/European

tour), *Romeo and Juliet* (Bolton Octagon), *Wild Horses* (Theatre503), *Love's Labour's Lost* (Shakespeare's Globe/US tour), *Blood Wedding* (Southwark Playhouse), *Twelfth Night* (York Theatre Royal), *The Merchant of Venice*, *The Taming of the Shrew*, *The Penelopiad* (RSC), *Dick Whittington*, *Golden Boy* (Greenwich), *Handa's Surprise* (Little Angel), *UnStoned*, *Outright Terror Bold & Brilliant* (Soho). Film includes: *A Running Jump* (dir. Mike Leigh). Television includes: *Doctor Who*, *Shakespeare Uncovered*, *Secrets and Words*, *Law & Order*, *USS Constellation*. Jade will be playing 'Hotspur' in The Donmar Warehouse all-female production of *Henry IV* later this year.

Kirsty Patrick Ward

Theatre as Director includes: *People Like Us* (Pleasance Theatre); *Snow White* (The Old Vic/ Educational Tour); *Chavs* (Lyric Hammersmith/Latitude); *Present Tense* (Live Theatre); *Brave New Worlds* (Soho Theatre); *Life Support* (York Theatre Royal); Old Vic New Voices 24 Hour Plays 2011 (The Old Vic). As Associate Director: *Symphony* (Watch This Space, National Theatre/ Lyric Hammersmith/ Latitude Festival); *Young Pretender* (Edinburgh Festival 2011/ Hull Truck/ Watford Palace). As Assistant Director: *King Lear* (Shakespeare's Globe); *The International Actors Fellowship* (Shakespeare's Globe), *Our New Girl* (Bush Theatre); *Bunny* (Fringe First Winner, Edinburgh Festival 2010/Regional Tour 2011); *The Boy On The Swing* (Arcola). Kirsty is Artistic Director of 'Waifs + Strays' theatre company and an Associate Director for nabokov Theatre. She was shortlisted for the JP Morgan Emerging Directors award in 2013 and was a finalist for the JMK Young Directors award in 2012. She also took part in the 'Old Vic New Voices TS Eliot US/UK Exchange' in 2011 and has assisted directors including Bill Buckhurst, Michael Buffong, Simon Godwin, Charlotte Gwinner and Joe Murphy.

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