



My Beautiful Black Dog by Brigitte Aphrodite

Underbelly Cowgate (Belly Button), 56 Cowgate, Edinburgh, EH1 1EG

Thursday 6th – Sunday 16th August 2015, 2pm

Black dog is what Winston Churchill used to call his depression... I have a beautiful black dog and I call her Creshendorious.

My Beautiful Black Dog by Brigitte Aphrodite is where gig meets theatre. It is a wild and poetic musical exploring the difficult contradictions and complexity of fragile minds. Brigitte Aphrodite comments that, depression is at its heart but it's not depressing – it's joyous, funny and hopeful (I hope...). I believe in hope.

This electrifying show challenges the urgent stigma around mental health and encourages the audience to take ownership of their own black dogs through infectious dance moves, swagger-boss costumes and banging tunes surrounded by silver streamers, sequins and sparkles. There is no-one else like Brigitte!

Below the humour and happiness, dark undertones give serious pause for reflection on the harsh reality of depression. The piece brilliantly fluctuates between an honest portrayal of this illness and its jovial antithesis. *This is not just a fun piece of theatre. It is a way of communicating what depression can look like, and finding a vessel for expression (Exeunt).*

My Beautiful Black Dog is a gnatty, scruffball of a show, but, goodness me, it's like an adrenaline shot to a bruised heart (Matt Trueman).

My Beautiful Black Dog is exec produced by Rachel Tyson and broadcaster Gemma Cairney for their new company Boom Shakalaka Productions - a polymathic new company making content to see, hear and experience. Cairney comments, My heart aches for this show, I had to take it on. I couldn't not.

My Beautiful Black Dog was first performed at the RADAR Festival presented by Iron Shoes in association with the Bush Theatre.

Notes to Editors

Title	<i>My Beautiful Black Dog</i>
Performance Dates	Thursday 6 th – Sunday 16 th August, 2pm
Running time	1 hour
Location	Underbelly Cowgate (Belly Button), 56 Cowgate, Edinburgh, EH1 1EG
Box Office	Tickets are available from www.underbellyedinburgh.co.uk Preview (6 th , 7 th Aug): £6 8 th , 9 th , 12 th , 13 th Aug: £9.50 10 th , 11 th , 14 th , 15 th , 16 th Aug: £10.50
Twitter	@bbbrigitte, @BookShakaProd, @FollowTheCow, #MyBeautifulBlackDog
Website	www.britteaphrodite.co.uk
Notes	Ages 14 plus
Writer/Performer	Brigitte Aphrodite
Director	Laura Keefe
Musical Director/Composer	Quiet Boy
Dramaturg/Sound Designer	John Hoggarth
Producer	Rachel Tyson and Gemma Cairney for Boom Shakalaka Productions
Assistant Producer	Jono Ayling

Supported by and developed in association with Iron Shoes.

Brigitte Aphrodite

Brigitte Aphrodite is a Punk Poet, Musician, Theatre Maker and Feminist Showgirl. With her band, she has played Reading and Leeds Festivals, Bestival, Latitude, Kendal Calling and supported Kate Nash and Jose Long on extensive UK tours. Brigitte's debut studio album is due for release in early 2016 and will coincide with her self-penned musical, *My Beautiful Black Dog* which debuted at The Bush Theatre, London. Brigitte is a proud Mentor for youth Charity 'Arts Emergency'. She has facilitated workshops for Ideastap, National Youth Theatre, The Egg Tooth Project and has invented the sport 'Frunning' (a mix of running and dancing!)

Laura Keefe

Laura is a freelance theatre director from Sheffield. She trained at the Young Vic, is a member of the Old Vic New Voices: 24 Hour Plays Alumni and an Associate Artist for Iron Shoes. Her theatre credits include: *Turning a Little Further* by Francesca Beard (Young Vic), *Our Town* (Arts Ed), *The Lost* by Matthew Dunster (Young Vic), *The Litter* by Matthew Dunster (Rose Bruford), *Used Blood Junkyard* (Arcola), *The Forum* by Charlotte Essex (Underbelly, Edinburgh), *I Know Where The Dead Are Buried* by Matthew Dunster and *The Fading Hum* by Charlotte Essex (24/7 Theatre Festival, Manchester), *Guilt and Shame* (Edinburgh, Latitude, Bestival & Soho Theatre) and *Checkley and Bush* (Edinburgh & Latitude). Associate directing credits: *Mad About the Boy* by Gbolahan Obisesan dir. Ria Parry (Iron Shoes Tour) and *Is Everyone OK?* by Joel Horwood dir. George Perrin (Nabokov tour). Assistant directing credits include: *Feast* dir. Rufus Norris (Young Vic), *A Midsummer Night's Dream* dir. Matthew Dunster (Regent's Park Open Air Theatre), *Salt, Root and Roe* by Tim Price dir. Hamish Pirie (Donmar Warehouse/ Trafalgar Studio 2), *The Two Gentlemen of Verona* dir. Matthew Dunster (Royal and Derngate, Northampton), *Fen* by Caryl Churchill dir. Ria Parry (Finborough Theatre/ National Theatre Studio), *Doctor Faustus* dir. George Perrin (Watford Palace Theatre), *Romeo and Juliet* dir. Bill Buckhurst (Shakespeare's Globe), *Roaring Trade* dir. Roxana Silbert (Soho Theatre/ Paines Plough), *How to Disappear Completely and Never be Found* by Fin Kennedy dir. Ellie Jones (Southwark Playhouse). Laura is a Connections Director for the National Theatre of Great Britain.

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