



SPINE

Foolscap, in association with Soho Theatre, present

Spine by Clara Brennan

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

Thursday 31st July – Sunday 24th August 2014 (except 12th), 3.30pm

From fast-rising writing star Clara Brennan, winner of the Channel 4 playwright scheme and resident playwright at Soho Theatre, comes the world premiere of a hilarious, pan-generational and heart-breaking call to arms for our modern age.

This touching, delicately multi-layered monologue stars Fringe favourite Rosie Wyatt who won a Fringe First with her acclaimed performance in Jack Thorne's *Bunny* in 2010. She returns to Edinburgh after the hugely successful *Blink* and the world tour of *One Man, Two Guvvorns*.

Spine was originally created as a 15 minute short as part of Theatre Uncut 2012 (Fringe First Award Winner) – in which Wyatt also starred - and this year sees the premiere of the full-length version. *I'm coming to the conclusion that one of the great performances of the Fringe was not in a well drilled and fully funded production, but in an early-morning reading that had just an hour's rehearsal... Wyatt performs it with a keen understanding of character and a wide-eyed openness to the world* (The Scotsman).

Spine charts the explosive friendship between a ferocious, wise-cracking teenager and an elderly East End widow (skillfully brought to life by one actress) which blossoms over stolen library books. Mischievous activist pensioner Glenda is hell-bent on leaving a political legacy and saving Amy from the Tory scrapheap because, as she says, *'there's nothing more terrifying than a teenager with something to say.'*

In this era of damaging coalition cuts and disillusionment, has politics forgotten the people it's meant to represent? Can we really take the power back? Amy is about to be forced to find out.

Spine tells the story of Amy, a young, mouthy student whose unexpected friendship with an old lady prompts her to realise the cost of the loss of the local library. A sharp, witty, angry piece about the galvanising power of knowledge (Financial Times). It is the life affirming story of a young woman finding her political voice in an age of apathy and disillusionment.

London based Producer Francesca Moody returns to Edinburgh to present *Spine* under new company Foolscap in association with Soho Theatre after the smash hit success of *Fleabag* and *Gardening: For The Unfulfilled and Alienated*.

Bethany Pitts directs, returning to the Fringe after working as Assistant Director on *Dark Vanilla Jungle* by Philip Ridley which won a Fringe First in 2013.

Notes to Editors

Title	<i>Spine</i> by Clara Brennan
Performance Dates	Thursday 31 st July – Sunday 24 th August (except 12 th), 3.30pm
Running time	1 hour
Location	Underbelly Cowgate – Big Belly, 56 Cowgate, Edinburgh, EH1 1EG
Box Office	Tickets are available from www.edfringe.com and www.underbelly.co.uk Previews (31 st Jul, 1 st Aug): £6 Weekdays: £10 (£9) Weekends: £11 (£10)
Twitter	@ClaraAloysius, @SpineThePlay, @FollowTheCow

Clara Brennan

Clara won the Channel 4 Playwright award for her forthcoming play *The Vendor* and is resident at the Soho Theatre for 2014. She received the OffWestEnd Adopt a Playwright Award in 2012. Previous work includes *Bud Take the Wheel I Feel a Song Coming On* (Underbelly), Theatre Uncut plays *Hi Vis* (Southwark Playhouse, Teatre Lliure), *Spine* (Young Vic) and *The Wing* (Young Vic), *Monogram* (Cockpit Theatre) *Rain* as part of *Lough/Rain* (Underbelly/York Theatre Royal) *Portmanteau* (Bike Shed Theatre) and *Births, Marriages and Deaths* (High-Hearted Theatre). She has film and television series in development. A reading of her new play *Boa* starring Dame Harriet Walter premiered at the HighTide Festival 2014.

Francesca Moody

Francesca is currently the Assistant Producer for Paines Plough. She is also the Producer for DryWrite and Undeb Theatre and Associate Producer at SEArED Productions and Look Left Look Right. Recent credits include: *Debris* (Southwark Playhouse/OpenWorks), *Home* (SEArED/Arcola), *Fleabag – FRINGE FIRST* (DryWrite/Soho Theatre/Underbelly), *Gardening: For the Unfulfilled and Alienated – FRINGE FIRST* (Undeb /Pleasance), *Where The White Stops* (Antler/Underbelly), *Jekyll & Hyde* (Flipping the Bird/Assembly/Southwark Playhouse), *Chamber of Curiosities* (Latitude), *Mydidae* by Jack Thorne (DryWrite/Soho Theatre/Trafalgar Studios), *JOE/BOY* (We Were here/The Last Refuge), *Not Another Musical*, *The Welsh Atlantis* (Latitude Festival), *You Once Said Yes* (Look Left Look Right/The Roundhouse/LIFT Festival/Lowry), *NOLA* (Underbelly/Escalator East to Edinburgh) and *Brimstone and Treacle* (Arcola Theatre).

Bethany Pitts

Bethany Pitts is a theatre director specialising in new work, both scripted and devised and has trained in directing with Katie Mitchell, Di Trevis, Lyndsey Turner, Told By An Idiot and through the Young Vic Director's Network. She was Assistant Director at Theatre Royal Plymouth from 2012–2013, working under Artistic Director Simon Stokes, and prior to that worked as Resident Assistant Director at Theatre 503. She co-runs the MolinoGroup for whom directing includes *DESERT* (National Tour / Latitude Festival) and *The Roland Piece* (Bike Shed Theatre / Rosemary Branch). Freelance directing credits include *Acres* (New Diorama) *The Caravan* (Park Theatre), *The Neighbour* (Arcola), *Locked* (OvalHouse) and assisting includes *Theatre Uncut* at the Young Vic, *Dark Vanilla Jungle* by Philip Ridley (Soho / Pleasance - Fringe First winner 2013), *Forever House* and *The Astronaut's Chair* by Rona Munro (Drum Plymouth) and *Girl in the Yellow Dress* (Theatre 503). She is also a freelance script reader for venues including The Drum and writing competitions including King's Cross New Writing Award.

Rosie Wyatt

Rosie trained at the Royal Welsh College of Music and Drama. Theatre work includes: *Worst Wedding Ever* (Salisbury Playhouse), *Blink* (Soho Theatre and Jagriti Theatre in India), *Virgin* (Watford Palace) *One Man, Two Guvnors* (National Theatre UK and International tour), *Blink* (Edinburgh Festival and Soho), *Mogadishu* (Lyric Hammersmith and UK tour), *Bunny* (Nabokov UK tour, Soho and 59E59 theater New York), and *Love Love Love* (Paines Plough UK tour and Galway Festival). Television work includes: *Doctors* (BBC).

Foolscap

Foolscap was set up in 2014 by Francesca Moody, Bethany Pitts and Clara Brennan to craft

politically conscious new work with storytelling at its heart. Foolscape are passionate about galvanising audiences, through a combination of grit, wit and great theatre.

Soho Theatre

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Soho Theatre is a major creator of new theatre, comedy and cabaret. Across our three different spaces we curate the finest live performance we can find, develop and nurture. Soho Theatre works with theatre makers and companies in a variety of ways, from full producing of new plays, to co-producing new work, working with associate artists and presenting the best new emerging theatre companies that we can find. We have numerous writers and theatre makers on attachment and under commission, six young writers and comedy groups and we read and see hundreds of shows a year – all in an effort to bring our audience work that amazes, moves and inspires.

All enquiries, high res images and further information:

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