



***The B*east*s**

Underbelly Cowgate (Big Belly), 66 Cowgate, Edinburgh, EH1 1JX

Thursday 3rd – Sunday 27th August 2017 (not 14th), 18:00

Setting the modern obsession with putting your own child first against our responsibility as a society towards our children as a whole, this dark tale, written by and starring BAFTA award-winning actress Monica Dolan (*W1A*, *Appropriate Adult*, *The Witness For The Prosecution*), explores how far one mum will go to put what her child wants first.

Dolan's first solo play, a searing 'What If?' production, explores the pornification of our culture and the sexualisation of our children. In a society where sexuality and gender are such a huge part of who we are, how we identify, and how we are defined, *The B*east*s looks at how soon is too soon to strive for perceived sexual ideals. Can the journey to reach that supposed perfection start before we are even consciously aware of the journey we have begun?

*The B*east*s follows the repercussions of an event which could plausibly present itself and unfold within today's culture.

The central concept of *The B*east*s invites us to examine our culture from an extreme perspective, taking a circumstance that we see as abhorrent and abnormal and showing how it can germinate in what we have come to regard as normality. As Tessa, the central character says, 'you only have the choices you can see'. So when, and how, do you start noticing that your moral compass may be being directed by popular culture?

Dolan is about the best actor on TV at the moment (Guardian). *A fantastic actress* (The Daily Telegraph). *[A] superb performance* (Independent).

Notes to Editors

Title	<i>The B*east</i> s
Performance Dates	Thursday 3 rd – Sunday 27 th August (not 14 th), 18:00
Running time	60 minutes
Location	Underbelly Cowgate (Big Belly), 66 Cowgate, Edinburgh, EH1 1JX
Box Office	Tickets are available from www.underbellyedinburgh.co.uk or 03333 444 167 Previews: £6.50 Weekday: £10 (£9) Weekend: £11 (£10)
Twitter	@Monica Dolan, @SFTWshows, #TheBeasts, @followthecow
Notes	Ages 14+
Writer/Performer	Monica Dolan
Director	John Hoggarth
Designer	James Button
Producer	Suzanna Rosenthal for Something for the Weekend
Previews	Etcetera Theatre, London 24 th July, 8:30pm 25 th July, 6:30pm 29 th July, 6:30pm

Monica Dolan

This Middlesbrough born actress has recently appeared on television as Angela in *Mid Morning Matters With Alan Partridge*, straight-talking Senior Comms Officer Tracey Pritchard in *W1A*, Alice More in *Wolf Hall*, Tess Wall in JK Rowling's *The Casual Vacancy*, MI5 director Judith in *Complicit* and Janet McIntyre in *The Witness For The Prosecution*. Her film credits include MP Angela Northman in *Eye In The Sky*, Marion in *Pride*, chain-smoking headmistress Miss Alvaro in *The Falling*, Angela Ashbourne in *Alpha Papa* (The Alan Partridge Movie) and Ann

Hamilton in *The Arbor*. Onstage she has appeared as Lisa in *The Glory Of Living*, Megan in *Plaques and Tangles*, The Artist in *Birth Of A Nation* (Royal Court), in *The Same Deep Water As Me* (Donmar), and as Lady Macbeth in Max Stafford-Clark's ground-breaking production of *Macbeth* with Out Of Joint. Monica has worked at the National Theatre and extensively at the Royal Shakespeare Company, where she took on the roles of Regan and Masha in Trevor Nunn's productions of *King Lear* and *The Seagull*. Monica's most notable role was as killer Rosemary West in ITV's 2011 drama *Appropriate Adult*; she won the BAFTA for Best Supporting Actress.

All enquiries, high res images and further information:

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