



The Song of Lunch **by Christopher Reid**

Pleasance Courtyard (Forth), 60 Pleasance, Edinburgh, EH8 9TJ

Wednesday 1st – Monday 27th August 2018 (not 13th), 14:20

Robert Bathurst (*Cold Feet*, ITV; *Downton Abbey*, ITV; *Toast of London*, Channel 4) and Rebecca Johnson (*The Trip*, BBC Two; *The Flood*, Megatopia Films) star in this hilarious and poignant drama of a disastrous attempt to rekindle lost love. Set in a Soho Italian restaurant, Costa Award Winner Christopher Reid's verse comedy is exquisitely intertwined with glorious animations by Charles Peattie (*Alex* cartoon, Daily Telegraph) in this bittersweet tragicomedy of love, loss and Chianti.

Simultaneously an homage to the long Soho lunch and a yearning for paths not taken, *The Song of Lunch* is a celebration of language. Its immediacy and rich comic prowess transports us to the old haunt of two ex-lovers, Zanzotti's, where they are meeting for lunch with the prospect of some rapprochement, a rekindling perhaps. What could possibly go wrong?

Celebrated cartoonist Charles Peattie's richly beautiful projected animations create a visual feast, illustrating both the action and the characters' flights of fancy. This multi-disciplinary production dissects human frailty, portraying a descent of epic proportions and prompting us, perhaps, to recall our own past excess and misjudgements.

Robert Bathurst comments, *Charles Peattie's spectacular artwork accompanies the Edinburgh show. His intricate, witty, beautifully drawn animations allow the two performances to be stylised with no props - no tables, menus, wine glasses or pigeons; the animation is designed to work beautifully with the words and create a theatrical whole. I've long been an admirer of*

Christopher Reid, one of our finest living writers. He's huge in the poetry world and I relish the prospect of bringing his writing to theatre audiences.

Directed by Jason Morell (*Against Prejudice* and *The Terrors of the Night* for the Wanamaker Theatre at Shakespeare's Globe), *The Song of Lunch* is a show for anyone who has ever been on a disastrous date!

The Song of Lunch brings together a line-up of top-class, West End creatives including: Tim Bird (*McQueen*, St James Theatre/West End; *The Hudsucker Proxy*, Nuffield Southampton/Liverpool Everyman & Playhouse – winner 'Best Design' UK Theatre Award; *Backbeat*, Citizen's Theatre Glasgow/Duke of York's Theatre/Toronto/Los Angeles), Colin Grenfell (*Theatre of Blood*, National Theatre; *The Hanging Man*, West Yorkshire Playhouse; *Pandas*, Traverse Theatre) and Gregory Clarke (*Barnum*; Menier Chocolate Factory; *Albion*, Almeida Theatre; *The Goat, Or Who Is Sylvia?*, Theatre Royal Haymarket).

Notes to Editors

Title	<i>The Song of Lunch</i>
Performance Dates	Wednesday 1 st – Monday 27 th August (not 13 th), 14:20
Running time	50 minutes
Location	Pleasance Courtyard (Forth), 60 Pleasance, Edinburgh, EH8 9TJ
Box Office	Tickets are available from www.pleasance.co.uk Previews: £8 Early Week: £11 (£10.50) Midweek: £12.50 (£11.50) Weekend: £14.50 (£13.50)
Author	Christopher Reid
Director	Jason Morell
Animation designs and drawing	Charles Peattie
Scenic Concept	Timothy Bird
Lighting Design	Colin Grenfell
Sound Design	Gregory Clarke
Video Facilitation	Nina Dunn
Producers	Thirty/20 Theatre and Something For The Weekend
Performers	Robert Bathurst and Rebecca Johnson
Twitter	@RobertBathurst, @beccyljohnson, @SFTWshows, @SuzRos, #TheSongOfLunch, @ThePleasance
Notes	Ages 12+

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