



## ***Whiskey Tango Foxtrot***

**Underbelly Cowgate (White Belly), 56 Cowgate, Edinburgh, EH1 1EG**

**Thursday 6<sup>th</sup> – Sunday 30<sup>th</sup> August 2015 (not 17<sup>th</sup>), 4.30pm**

*“Happy 17<sup>th</sup> Birthday Crookshank...how ‘bout a cup of SUCK IT THE F\*\*K UP?!”*

Based on Rebecca Crookshank’s time in the Royal Air Force serving Queen and country, protecting the UK Air Defence Region, *Whiskey Tango Foxtrot* charts her journey from basic training to the Falkland Islands. From feeling low to flying high (literally, in a Tornado F3), this is a deeply moving, hilarious and heart-warming adventure.

Crookshank grew up in rural Devon, daughter of a midwife and a Royal Marine. Raised by a giver of life, and a trained killer, embracing creativity was on nobody’s radar. Crookshank comments, *My dad and grandad were both Royal Marines and I wanted my Green beret. But I was told that girls couldn't be proper Royal Marines. So I joined the RAF instead. I guess making the show is like creating my own Green beret.*

*Whiskey Tango Foxtrot* highlights the challenges women face in being defined by their gender and celebrates the wonderful women who forged a path for others. When Crookshank left the RAF she knew it was time to pursue her dream of doing something creative. She says, *Exploring our identity is a life-long challenge. Reinventing yourself and finding a voice in such a disciplined environment as the military is unique – it has inspired me to create some art which I think makes for an interesting story.*

*Whiskey Tango Foxtrot* has been supported by Arts Council England and the RBL Women’s Section throughout the research and development phase, and is being supported by Stage One for the Edinburgh run.

Warning: Contains weapons, strong language and penguins.

## Notes to Editors

Title	<i>Whiskey Tango Foxtrot</i>
Performance Dates	Thursday 6 <sup>th</sup> – Sunday 30 <sup>th</sup> August (not 17 <sup>th</sup> ), 4.30pm
Running time	1 hour
Location	Underbelly Cowgate (White Belly), 56 Cowgate, Edinburgh, EH1 1EG
Box Office	Tickets are available from <a href="http://www.underbellyedinburgh.co.uk">www.underbellyedinburgh.co.uk</a> Previews (6 <sup>th</sup> , 7 <sup>th</sup> Aug): £6 Monday - Thursday: £9 (£8) Friday - Sunday: £10 (£9)
Twitter	@WTFThePlay, @RJCrookshank, @OliverTProds, @FollowTheCow, #WhiskeyTangoFoxtrot
Website	<a href="http://www.wtftheplay.co.uk">www.wtftheplay.co.uk</a>
Writer/Performer	Rebecca Crookshank
Director/Dramaturg	Jessica Beck
Designer	Cherry Truluck
Sound/Lighting Design	Phil Hewitt
Assistant Director	Katharina Reinthaller
Producer	Oliver Taheri

## Rebecca Crookshank

Rebecca left the Royal Air Force to train at The Italia Conti Academy of Theatre Arts where she gained a First Class BA (Hons) in Acting in 2005. Rebecca is a proud member of the Royal British Legion Women's section, and was asked to sing with the Royal Marine Band for a festival of remembrance in 2008. Writing credits: *Whiskey Tango Foxtrot* (Tristan Bates First Festival and Edinburgh Festival); *Alice: A New Musical* (St James Theatre, London). Theatre credits include: *Etiquette & Vitriol* (Soho Theatre, London); Dick Whittington in *Poppy* (Landor Theatre, London); *England Street* by Kenny Emson, *LBW* directed by Fin Irwin, and *Tin Girls* directed by Jessica Beck (all for The Bike Shed Theatre); *Loveplay* (Rose and Crown), and *Taming of the Shrew* (St Leonard's Church-Shoreditch) both for New Rep Company; *Impotent* (Lion & Unicorn); most recently Lady Bracknell in *The Importance of being Ernest* (St James Theatre Studio); *Whiskey Tango Foxtrot* in development (First Festival-Tristan Bates). Recent Film, & TV credits

include: *Alice in Wonderland* directed by Tim Burton (Walt Disney Pictures); *Casualty* directed by Nigel Douglas (BBC); *Robson Green's Extreme Fishing* (Channel 5).

## Jessica Beck

Jessica Beck is an American theatre artist, living and working in the UK for over a decade, as a freelance director, an Artistic Associate of The Bike Shed Theatre, Exeter, and formally an Associate of Theatre503 (2004-2010). Jessica specialises in new writing, as well as creating plays from scratch. She is also a recipient of The New York International Fringe Festival Award for Outstanding Direction (2007). Directing credits include: *Normal/Madness* (Pleasance Theatre, Edinburgh Festival 2014/Scottish Tour); *Icarus in Love*, *The Exeter Blitz Project*, *Tin Girls*, *Than a Year* (all for The Bike Shed, Exeter); *Alice's Adventures in the New World* (Old Red Lion, UK Tour); *Ein Abend Mit Ruby* with the Ruby Dolls (Jermyn Street); 2002 and 2008 for *Decade* by Phil Porter (Theatre503); *Up The Gary* (Theatre503/Edinburgh/UKTour/NYC); *Zoo* (Union Theatre); *Dogfight* (Arcola/Edinburgh); *All Alone* (Edinburgh/Project Arts Centre, Dublin/Soho Playhouse, NYC); *Terrorist! The Musical* (Edinburgh). Jessica was also the recipient of The New York Fringe Festival Excellence Award for Outstanding Direction 2007.

All enquiries, high res images and further information:

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