



## *Bobby & Amy*

**Pleasance Courtyard (Upstairs), 60 Pleasance, Edinburgh, EH8 9TJ**

**Wednesday 31<sup>st</sup> July – Monday 26<sup>th</sup> August 2019 (not 12<sup>th</sup>), 12:45**

From Fringe First award-winner Emily Jenkins (*Rainbow*, Edinburgh Fringe; *Cookies*, Theatre Royal Haymarket) comes *Bobby & Amy*, a dark comedy about friendship, heartache and the repercussions of foot-and-mouth disease. Starring Will Howard (*The Archers*, BBC Radio 4) and Kimberley Jarvis (*Lear's Daughters*, Cambridge alumni Footfall Theatre), this powerful new play asks what happens when our way of life is threatened by those who don't understand it.

It's the late nineties: Take That, Tamogotchis, Dib Dabs and Pog Swaps. When 13 year old Bobby and Amy meet, hundreds of cows dot the fields and the sun always shines. But when foot-and-mouth disease hits the farming communities in rural England and the cows begin to burn, Bobby and Amy's sleepy Cotswold town faces a catastrophe that will change their home forever.

In February 2001, foot-and-mouth was discovered at an Essex abattoir and it quickly spread across the UK. The highly infectious disease plunged the agricultural industry into its worst crisis for decades with over six million cows and sheep killed in an eventually successful attempt to halt the disease. However, the devastation the outbreak left behind lasted much longer with rural life being permanently eroded and areas of the country torn apart.

Having grown up in the countryside, writer Emily Jenkins has strong memories of the horrors of foot-and-mouth disease – the smell of burning and disinfectant and the bright yellow tape strung across every gate and sty. Communities were irrevocably changed by the outbreak and many farming villages have never been able to return to how things were. But, as well as looking at this catastrophe, *Bobby & Amy* is also a celebration of British agriculture, small rural communities and the huge amount they contribute to the wider world. Currently 71% of the land in the UK is being used for farming (it was a great deal more in 2000) which provides over 500,000 jobs to this country.

Emily Jenkins comments, *The day the cows started burning, my community was changed forever. But, as a Gloucestershire-raised writer and director, it struck me that nothing in the theatre I'd seen – or anything, really – was talking about an event that deeply affected the childhood of so many of us, or about the continuing erosion of a way of life centuries in the making. So that's why I wrote Bobby & Amy. To talk about what has happened to my town and others like it.*

## Notes to Editors

Title	<i>Bobby &amp; Amy</i>
Performance Dates	Wednesday 31 <sup>st</sup> July – Monday 26 <sup>th</sup> August (not 12 <sup>th</sup> ), 12:45
Running Time	60 minutes
Location	Pleasance Courtyard (Upstairs), 60 Pleasance, Edinburgh, EH8 9TJ
Box Office	Tickets are available from <a href="http://www.pleasance.co.uk">www.pleasance.co.uk</a> or 0131 556 6550. Previews: £7 Early Week: £10 (£9) Midweek: £11 (£10) Weekend: £12 (£11)
Writer/Director	Emily Jenkins
Producer	Emma Blackman
Stage Manager	Roshan Conn
Bobby	Will Howard
Amy	Kimberley Jarvis
Social	@BobbyAndAmyPlay, #BOBBYandAMY, @ThePleasance
Notes	Ages 12+

All enquiries, high res images and further information:

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