



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

Wednesday 31st July – Monday 26th August 2019 (not 13th), 14:30

The perfect world premiere for true crime fans, *Drowning* is Jessica Ross' blistering new play about the Lainz Angels of Death. In 1991, four Austrian nurses were charged with murdering 49 elderly patients in their beds, although estimates now put the death toll nearer to 200.

Drowning is directed by Steven Roy and executive produced by Carrie-Anne Moss, star of *The Matrix* and *Jessica Jones*.

Austria was left shaken by the enormity of the institutional silence that surrounded this atrocity within a state-run hospital – it was one of the largest serial killings in post-war European history. What started off as 'mercy killing' led to a genuine desire by this foursome to play god. It has now been more than ten years since the last of the Angels of Death was released early from prison for good behaviour, aged only 49.

At its heart *Drowning* interrogates exactly what evil looks like and how sympathetic it can be, debating whether the Angels' ringleader was a compelling force of personality manipulating young women or a figure of authority who simply gave permission to dark desires. This fantastic piece of new writing forces us to confront what we understand by 'evil' and the terrifying space between 'mercy' and 'murder'. It asks: is it murder if you put an end to suffering? What if it puts an end to their pain but also to the annoyance they cause?

Writer Jessica Ross comments, *I was intrigued by the conversations these women may have had. What makes a killer? What makes the yearning for connection and friendship so great that you would do anything? How does a mind justify the most terrifying act? When we look at those we deem evil, horrible, and hideous, if we delve deep enough we might just see a little bit of us.*

Notes to Editors

Title	<i>Drowning</i>
Performance Dates	Wednesday 31 st July – Monday 26 th August (not 13 th), 14:30
Running Time	60 minutes
Location	Pleasance Courtyard (Above), 60 Pleasance, Edinburgh, EH8 9TJ
Box Office	Tickets are available from www.pleasance.co.uk or 0131 556 6550. Previews: £7 Early Week: £9 (£8) Midweek: £10 (£9) Weekend: £11 (£10)
Director	Steven Roy
Writer	Jessica Ross
Executive Producer	Carrie-Anne Moss
Waltraud	Evelyn Edwards
Stephanie	Andrea Helene
Maria	Aurora Henning
Irene	Jessica Ross
Twitter	@drowningplay, #isitmurderormercy, @SFTWshows, @ThePleasance
Instagram	@drowningtheplay
Website	www.drowningtheplay.com
Notes	Ages 14+, contains adult themes and content including some scenes of violence and some strong language

All enquiries, high res images and further information:

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