



GARDENING: FOR THE UNFULFILLED AND ALIENATED

by Brad Birch

**near The Grand, Pleasance Courtyard, 60 Pleasance, Edinburgh, EH8 9TJ
Thursday 1st August – Sunday 25th August 2013**

A man struggling under the weight of the modern world finds a self-help book that inspires him to take up gardening. And he's good at it. Really good. But there's a dark and violent secret to his success. From fast-rising writer Brad Birch (Soho Theatre, Royal Court) comes the world premiere of a bittersweet play about obsession, death and horticulture. Undeb Theatre, with exciting young director Hannah Bannister, present an intimate storytelling experience for only two audience members at a time.

Step inside Owain's very own garden shed to hear about one man and the lengths he'll go to create a beautiful garden. Men often escape to their garden sheds but Owain is hiding a secret in his. What starts as a gentle play about gardening turns into something far more macabre and haunting, with just a hint cynicism. This dark comedy is magical, quirky and inescapable.

Undeb Theatre are known for their use of the unconventional stage. They like to be a little off-kilter. Under the archway, near the Pleasance Grand, is a fully decked-out garden shed with half empty tins of paint, gardening tools, flower pots and bags of soil. You'd walk past it without realising that it's a new theatre venue. But, once you've been inside, you won't be able to talk about anything else. This tiny shed is at the heart of Brad Birch's new play.

With such a small audience, the drama, the story and the words become sharper and more intense. Once inside, this is just a man talking to you in his shed; honest, revealing and low key it takes you right to the core of Owain's story and makes you really feel something. *Gardening* takes pop-up theatre to a new level with this limited opportunity to witness something very powerful.

Gardening: For the Unfulfilled and Alienated - you'll really dig it!

Notes to Editors

Title	<i>Gardening: For the Unfulfilled and Alienated</i> by Brad Birch
Performance Dates	11am, 12pm, 1pm, 3pm, 4pm and 5pm Thursday 1 st August – Sunday 25 th August 2013 not 6 th , 13 th 20 th August
Running time	30 minutes
Location	near The Grand, Pleasance Courtyard, 60 Pleasance, Edinburgh, EH8 9TJ
Twitter	@undebtheatre, @vlavla, @brad_birch, @ThePleasance, @ChescMood
Box Office	Tickets are available from www.edfringe.com and www.pleasance.co.uk/edinburgh . Previews (1 st and 2 nd August): £7 Monday – Thursday: £9 (£8 concessions) Friday - Sunday: £10 (£9 concessions)
Notes	Recommended age: 12+
Director	Hannah Bannister
Writer	Brad Birch
Producer	Francesca Moody
Artistic Direc	Alexander Vlahos
Designer	Madeleine Girling
Owain	Richard Corgan

Undeb

Founded in 2009, Undeb is a Welsh new writing theatre company committed to establishing strong relationships between Welsh artists and the rest of the world. They are dedicated to extraordinary storytelling that focuses on the event, the audience, the experience. Above all they seek to produce innovative, 'blink and you'll miss it' theatre by commissioning new and established writers that excite them. Past productions: *The Project: Ten Feet Tall*, *Christmas Collaboration*: Cardiff Arts Institute, *The Project – A Valentines Special*: Cardiff Arts Institute, Cardiff Assembly with NATIONAL THEATRE WALES, Cardiff Identity Festival: Cardiff Arts Institute, *Straight* by Neil Bebbler: Tactile Bosch, Undeb – *Veilepmont: Milgi Warehouse*, *Out of Love* by

Alexander Vlahos: White Bear Theatre and *The Welsh Atlantis* by Marged Parry: Latitude Festival. For more information see www.undebtheatre.com.

Hannah Bannister

Hannah is delighted to be directing her debut with Undeb Theatre. Having trained at the Central School of Speech and Drama, her directing credits include: *Crimble* (for Seasonal at the Old Red Lion), *Trapp* (OVNV 24 hour plays), *A Muse of Fire* (Riverside Studios) and *Best Men* for Little Pieces of Gold Festival (Southwark Playhouse). Assistant Director Credits: *The Tempest* (Shakespeare's Globe Theatre), *Longing* (Hampstead Theatre), *Jumpy* (Royal Court and Duke of York's Theatre), *Tiger Country* and *The Stock Da'Wa* (both for Hampstead Theatre).

Brad Birch

Brad is the Writer in Residence of Undeb Theatre and is a member of Theatre503's 503 Five. Over the past five years Brad has had work produced by Theatre Powys, Sherman Cymru, Theatre503, Dirty Protest, the Royal Court, the Arcola and the Lyric. Brad is a graduate of the Royal Court's internationally renowned Young Writers' Programme and subsequent progressions including the prestigious "Supergroup" and was a member of Sherman Cymru's New Writers' and Advanced Writers' groups in 2010. Brad is currently under commission from Headlong and will have the world premiere of his play *Even Stillness Breathes Softly Against a Brick Wall* at Soho Theatre Upstairs in May 2013.

Richard Corgan

Recent Theatre credits include: *A Provincial Life* (National Theatre Wales), *Taming of the Shrew*, *Macbeth*, *Twelfth Night* (Ripley Castle), *Macbeth*, *The Changeling* (The Pit, Barbican), *Flowers from Tunisia* (Torch Theatre), *Taming of the Shrew* (The Globe), *Frozen*, *Merlin* and *The Cave of Dreams* (Sherman Cymru), *Romeo & Juliet* (The Lord Chamberlain's Men), *The Ballad of Blood & Darling* (Rose Theatre), *The Long, The Short & The Tall* (Pleasance, Islington), *La Fanciulla del West* (Royal Opera House), *Aladdin* (RCT). Recent Television credits include: *Baker Boys – 2* series (BBC Wales), *Doctors* (Regular), *Casualty*, *Caught in the Web*, *The B Word* (BBC) and *Pobol y cwm* (S4C). Film credits include: *Diana* (Princess of Wales) Ecosse Films, *Magpie*, *Colin*, *Nowhere East* (Nowhere Fast Productions), *Hindsight* (Ignition Films), *The Sunday* (U.W.A.). Radio credits include: *Blue Remembered Hills* (Christchurch Studios), *Great Ormond Street Charity Concert* St Paul's (LBC).

Madeleine Girling

Madeleine trained in Theatre Design at The Royal Welsh College of Music and Drama, where she received The Lord Williams Memorial Prize for Design 2012. Recent design experience

includes: *Tender Napalm*; *How To Curse* (BOVTS Director's Showcase), *A Welshman's Guide To Breaking Up* (short film by Keri Collins), *Hey Diddle Diddle* (Bristol Old Vic), *The Cagebirds* (LAMDA Director's Showcase), *The Life After Prelude Performance* (Bristol Old Vic Young Company), *Blood Wedding* (RWCMD Burton Company), *The Ducks* (SEArED Productions). She is currently working and living in Stratford-Upon-Avon as an assistant designer for The Royal Shakespeare Company

Francesca Moody

Francesca is a freelance theatre producer. She is also resident Producer for DryWrite and Undeb Theatre and Associate Producer at The Yard Theatre, Look Left Look Right and SEArED Productions. Recent credits include: the West End Transfer of *Mydidae* by Jack Thorne, *Mydidae* (Soho Theatre/Trafalgar Studios/DryWrite), *JOE/BOY* (We Were Here/The Last Refuge), *You Once Said Yes* (The Roundhouse/LIFT Festival, Manchester Lowry), *NOLA* (Underbelly/Escalator East to Edinburgh), *Not Another Musical*, *The Welsh Atlantis* (Latitude Festival), *Brimstone and 4 Treacle* (Arcola Theatre), *Rose*, *The Ducks* (Pleasance Theatre), *Out of Love* (White Bear Theatre), *Teddy and Topsy* (Old Red Lion) and *Colliery Row* (Northern Stage/Washington Arts Centre). Other Edinburgh Fringe shows this year include: *Jekyll & Hyde* (Flipping the Bird / Red Shift / Assembly) and *Fleabag* (DryWrite/Underbelly). Future projects include productions at The Arcola and The Yard Theatre. Francesca is supported through IdeasTap on the Creative Space programme.

Alexander Vlahos

Alexander is an actor, writer and Artistic Director of Undeb Theatre. Graduating from the Royal Welsh College of Music & Drama in 2009, his previous roles as an actor include: *Privates*, *Merlin* and *The Indian Doctor* (BBC), *Emperor & Galilean* (National Theatre), *Hamlet* (Sheffield Crucible). As a writer, Alex has had worked commissioned by Sherman Cymru, BBC Wales and Big Finish audios. As a director, he has overseen all the productions by Undeb Theatre. He is about to begin rehearsals for *Macbeth* at Manchester International Festival with Kenneth Branagh and Alex Kingston.

All enquiries, high res images and further information:

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To book review tickets for this show, please contact the Pleasance Press Office:

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