



Gutted

Pleasance Dome (Jack Dome), 1 Bristo Square, Edinburgh, EH8 9AL
Wednesday 2nd – Sunday 13th August 2017, 14:40

Liz Richardson has an embarrassing problem and these yogurts aren't helping! Here, she shares her real life experiences of living as a twenty-something with a chronic bowel condition called ulcerative colitis, similar to Crohn's Disease. A shameless tale of love, laughter and lavatories, *Gutted* (co-produced by The Conker Group and HOME) is a pastiche of the many people Liz has met on her journey, from hospital staff to complete strangers, patients to friends.

With a contemporary aesthetic, visceral moments and a love story bubbling underneath, *Gutted*, co-created with theatre maker Tara Robinson, is an engaging investigation into how we think about illness and the boundaries that cause us to feel shame. Sitting on top of a subtle celebration of the healthcare system, it explores how we treat each other and form relationships, the nature of hidden disabilities and femininity in the face of an embarrassing physical condition. *Gutted* is a frank, funny and compelling autobiographical exploration of living with an inflammatory bowel disease.

*Liz comments, Enough sh*t, let's talk frankly: I'm a woman who doesn't poo flowers out her bum. I'm exposing myself in hopes that more people will do the same. In an age of Instagram filters, this show attempts to give audiences the courage to find joy in the unedited journey of life, with its ups and downs and the relationships that guide you on it.*

Liz underwent surgery to have her colon removed when she was 28 and lived for a period with an ileostomy bag (or stoma bag) before having a 'reversal' which involves the creation of an internal pouch. She lives without pain now, but needs to manage and regulate her physical wellbeing carefully. While Liz is able to control her illness to a certain degree, this hidden disability does have its limitations and the shorter Edinburgh run reflects her awareness of potential physical fatigue.

Notes to Editors

Title	<i>Gutted</i>
Performance Dates	Wednesday 2 nd – Sunday 13 th August, 14:40
Running time	60 minutes
Location	Pleasance Dome (Jack Dome), 1 Bristo Square, Edinburgh, EH8 9AL
Box Office	Tickets are available from www.pleasance.co.uk Previews: £6.50 Early Week: £7.50 Weekday: Weekend: £11
Twitter	@TheConkerGroup, #GuttedTheShow, @ThePleasance
Trailer	https://vimeo.com/176319582
Notes	Ages 14+
Performer	Liz Richardson
Co-creator/Director	Tara Robinson
Video Designer	Jim Dawson
Sound Designer	Karen Lauke
Lighting Designer	Sarah McColgan
Producers	Jake Orr and Leo Burtin, Making Room

Supported by The Wellcome Trust, IA: The Ileostomy and Internal Pouch Support Group and Arts Council England.

Liz Richardson

Liz trained at East 15 Acting School and moved back to the North in 2014. Before this, Liz performed with The Factory Theatre Company for 6 years in classics and improvisation. She has also performed with theatre companies Scene & Heard; Forward Theatre; Creation Theatre; Drywrite; Look Left Look Right and appeared in the West End's One Flew Over The Cuckoo's Nest. Her comedy background includes appearing for Amused Moose; the Hackney Empire and Funny Women, Edinburgh. Radio credits include The Changeling for BBC Radio 3.

Liz is now a supported artist at HOME, runs their 'Mothers Who Make' group, and regularly chairs the play reading group.

Tara Robinson

Tara is a theatre maker, writer and director. Her most recent work includes *My Body Welsh* (Welsh Tour), *Gutted* (co-produced by HOME Manchester), *Five Tins & A Matter of Time* (The Yard, NOW '15) and *The Consecration of the Bishop* by Tim Crouch, written for her as part of the Jerwood Young Director's Programme at The Young Vic. She is a MGC Futures Bursary Award recipient and will be developing new project *A Very British Bird Show* mixing professionals with 16-23 year olds at Pegasus, Oxford, throughout 2017. She is a Creative Associate at The Gate, a former Resident Artist with Boundless (2015-16), and a supported artist with Farnham Maltings. She began directing in Dublin, where she was the Resident Assistant at the Abbey and trained at RADA. Among many assistant director credits, she has worked as an Associate Director in the West End (Michael Grandage Company), and directed freelance projects at The Tricycle, The Landor and for Old Vic New Voices.

The Conker Group

The Conker Group began in 2012 as a company dedicated to making new work that responds to the world around us in subject and form. They create formally inventive shows to explore contemporary socio-political issues. The company is led by director Tara Robinson who co-created *Gutted* and whose new play *My Body Welsh* is currently touring Wales and has been published by Methuen.

Home

HOME is Manchester's centre for international contemporary art, theatre, film and books, which opened its doors in 2015 It's a place for curiosity seekers, for lovers of the dramatic, the digital and the deeply engaging; for radicals and reciprocators. HOME works with artists to produce new and extraordinary theatre experiences, programming an exciting, eclectic mix of drama and dance with a strong focus on international work, new commissions and talent development. The patrons of HOME are Danny Boyle, former National Theatre Artistic Director Nicholas Hytner, actress Suranne Jones, playwright and poet Jackie Kay MBE, artists Rosa Barba and Phil Collins, filmmaker Asif Kapadia, and actress and author Meera Syal CBE.

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