



Happy Dave

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

Wednesday 3rd – Monday 29th August 2016 (not 16th), 16:15

Following on from Smoke & Oakum's 2015 hit show *Cornermen* comes *Happy Dave*, also by Oli Forsyth – a show questioning what youth culture today really means and the ethos of Generation Y.

David Blessed spent the 90s DJ-ing in fields during the rave era, dropping beats for thousands of young revelers. But now, aged 45, he's working a dead-end job in an advertising firm selling things he hates. However, old habits die hard and soon Dave leads a group of disenchanted young millennials back into the fray.

In 1992, nearly 50,000 people gathered for an illegal rave at Castlemorton that lasted a week. Two years later, the new Criminal Justice Act brought that entire movement, one that had marched on Parliament and occupied Hyde Park, to a close. Out of the ashes came the 'millennials' – a generation characterised by its uncertainty.

The rave scene has now changed – today youth culture is centred around expensive festivals, headlined by aging rockers with tickets costing hundreds of pounds. It seems the millennials are a generation that is constantly recycling things rather than forming their own identity. As David Blessed says in the play, *It's 'cos they're lost. Whole lot of 'em. I see an entire nation, full of young people who have no idea what's happening to them. They feel no sense of unity or belonging... They're just lost.*

Writer Oli Forsyth comments, *Happy Dave came from the experiences I've had growing up into what would later be labelled 'Generation Y'. It struck me that from the birth of modern jazz to rock'n'roll, punk and eventually rave there was a familiar pattern of each generation bringing to the fore its own genre of music and expression which was at once exciting for them, and unnerving to older generations. Generation Y are marked by uncertainty, by a materialistic drive and by a culture of overwork. I think we need a shake-up.*

Notes to Editors

Title	<i>Happy Dave</i>
Performance Dates	Wednesday 3 rd – Monday 29 th August (not 16 th), 16:15
Running time	75 minutes
Location	Pleasance Courtyard (Beneath), 60 Pleasance, Edinburgh, EH8 9TJ
Box Office	Tickets are available from www.pleasance.co.uk Previews: £6.50 Early week: £8.50 (£7.50) Midweek: £10 (£8.50) Weekend: £11 (£10)
Twitter	@smokeandoakum1, @ThePleasance, #HappyDave
Notes	Ages 14+
Writer	Oli Forsyth
Director	Sam Carrack
Producer	Oli Forsyth
Dave	Andy Mcleod
Jess/ Molly	Helen Coles
Steph	Lucy Hagan-Walker
Alex	Kiell Smith-Bynoe
Danny/ Young Dave	Oli Forsyth

Oli Forsyth

Oli trained at East 15 Acting School having graduated from the University of Leeds with a degree in Political Science. Two weeks after graduating he set up Smoke & Oakum Theatre, a new writing company based in London. His first show, *The Cow Play*, by Ed Harris, ran at the 2013 Brighton and Edinburgh Festivals, as well as having a brief run at Theatre503. In 2014 Smoke & Oakum returned to Theatre503 and The Edinburgh Fringe with Oli's first play *Tinderbox*. The show was well received, selling out many shows, being nominated for an Amnesty International Award before transferring back to London in the winter. In 2015 Oli's second show *Cornermen*, based on his experiences as a boxer, opened at The Old Red Lion before heading up to the

Pleasance Courtyard. The show was an enormous success, receiving great critical acclaim across the board. Following the Festival *Cornermen* transferred to The New Diorama, where the company became part of their Emerging Artists program, OtherPlace Brighton and finally to the 2016 VAULT Festival. *Cornermen* also had the privilege of being published by Nick Hern Books. Oli produces, writes and acts in nearly all Smoke & Oakum's shows as well as overseeing the day to day running of the company.

All enquiries, high res images and further information:

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