



**Pleasance and The Showstoppers present  
A Hampstead Theatre Production  
*Ken* by Terry Johnson**

**Pleasance Dome (Ace Dome), Potterrow, Edinburgh, EH8 9AL  
Wednesday 1<sup>st</sup> – Monday 27<sup>th</sup> August 2018 (not 13<sup>th</sup> or 20<sup>th</sup>), 15:20**

Following highly successful runs at Hampstead Downstairs and The Bunker, Terry Johnson's *Ken* now comes to its spiritual home in Edinburgh. Marking the ten year anniversary of the death of Ken Campbell, *Ken* pays tribute to the maverick writer and theatre director.

Ken Campbell was regarded as 'one of the most original and unclassifiable talents in the British theatre...' (Michael Coveney), known for pushing the boundaries of the experimental. He was a unique comedic thinker, a legendary practical joker, a genius at producing shows on a shoestring and an inspiration to many still working in the industry today.

Olivier and Tony Award-winning writer Terry Johnson (*Prism*, Hampstead Theatre; *Cleo*, *Camping*, *Emmanuelle* and *Dick*, National Theatre; *Dead Funny*, Hampstead Theatre and West End) and Jeremy Stockwell (*How To Burn A Million Quid*, BBC; *Alien: Rivers of Pain*; Audible; dir. *The Very Perry Show*, United Theatre Solo Festival, New York – winner of Best Comedy Show Award) will be reprising their roles in this joyful production.

1978, London. A 23 year-old aspiring playwright in a rundown flat-share off the North End Road is wrestling with his masterpiece for the Royal Court. The house phone rings, the young man answers... it is a call for the person who used to occupy his room who has recently moved to Amsterdam. But even once this information is imparted, the man at the other end doesn't hang up. He's called Ken. And he's about to change the young man's life forever.

Pleasance director Anthony Alderson comments, *We are delighted to be presenting this gorgeous production from Hampstead Theatre. Terry Johnson is the master playwright and performs with an unquenchable sense of style and comic timing. Jeremy Stockwell inhabits an irrepressible Ken Campbell with a performance that is a sheer joy to behold. Even if you didn't know anything about Ken Campbell, this play is a delight.*

*Ken* is the retelling of an extraordinary friendship from beginning to end, replete with wickedly funny anecdotes, magnificent hoaxes, and general chaotic lunacy – all infused with the spirit of the great man...

The Edinburgh transfer is being co-produced by The Showstoppers which is especially poignant as the two co-founders, Adam Meggido and Dylan Emery, first met at one of Ken's clandestine workshops in 2004. Ken inspired them to create an improv musical which later led to the Olivier award-winning *Showstopper! The Improvised Musical* (returning to Pleasance Grand this summer) and to The Showstoppers becoming one of the most acclaimed and in-demand improv groups in the UK. Adam said that it was 'impossible to meet Ken and for life to be the same again'.

*Quirky but captivating ... This is a paean to a spirit of adventure (★★★★ The Times).*

## Notes to Editors

Title	<i>Ken</i> by Terry Johnson
Performance Dates	Wednesday 1 <sup>st</sup> – Monday 27 <sup>th</sup> August (not 13 <sup>th</sup> or 20 <sup>th</sup> ), 15:20
Running time	90 minutes
Location	Pleasance Dome (Ace Dome), Potterow, Edinburgh, EH8 9AL
Box Office	Tickets are available from <a href="http://www.pleasance.co.uk">www.pleasance.co.uk</a> Previews: £7 Early Week: £11 (£10) Mid Week: £12.50 (£11.50) Weekend: £14.50 (£13.50)
Producer	Pleasance Theatre and The Showstoppers present a Hampstead Theatre Production
The Writer	Terry Johnson
Ken	Jeremy Stockwell
Twitter	@TheShowstoppers, @ThePleasance, #Ken

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