



Pleasance Futures supports *Freeman, Outside, Propeller* and *The Red Shoes* among others

For over 30 years the Pleasance has provided a platform and launch pad for a great many artists at both the Edinburgh Festival Fringe and Pleasance London. From carpenters, crew, electricians, photographers, reviewers, bloggers and film-makers Pleasance Futures recognises how important those first opportunities into the creative industries can be.

Anthony Alderson comments, *The Pleasance has always had an open door to a multitude of bright ideas, it is our desire to maintain that open door and to give people the opportunity, confidence, ambition and skills to help them find work beyond the festival. Four weeks at the festival can be a life changing experience and we are determined to offer the most from that opportunity.*

Pleasance Futures' umbrella is designed to nurture the Pleasance's core beliefs about creating opportunities, supporting ambition, encouraging excellence and building reputations. Its initiatives across London and Edinburgh include: Kidzone, Young Pleasance, XYP, the Charlie Hartrill Special Reserve Fund, Creative Associates, Associate Company Programme, Litmus Fest, A Pleasance Scratch and the Volunteer Programme.

Young Pleasance is dedicated to offering dynamic, excellent and professional theatre opportunities for young people through workshops and large-scale productions delivered by our ambitious creative team. Since its inception in 1995 this prolific producing arm of the Pleasance has involved over 650 young people.

This year, the highly acclaimed Young Pleasance brings the glitz, glamour, and seedy underworld of interwar Berlin to life with characteristic exemplary production values in their reimagining of Hans Christian Andersen's tale, ***The Red Shoes***. This world premiere follows Lotta as her Red Shoes lead her on a rags to riches journey from the steps of an orphanage through the hedonism of Berlin's dance halls and, finally, as an actress on the silver screen while Germany teeters on the brink of disaster. Young Pleasance is back with a shimmy and shake in this

vivaciously light production with disturbingly dark undertones. *The Red Shoes* features 25 talented actors from across the UK ranging in age from 16 to 21, as well as five young technicians and backstage staff.

Once involved with Young Pleasance, the Pleasance continues to nurture an individual's creative talent and ambition and one such initiative that does this is XYP - a programme specifically designed for Young Pleasance alumni. 2018 sees XYP supporting new company Clay Party with ***Outside***, an honest new comedy exploring humanity, love and the relationships between three friends dealing with life on the inside when the outside is crumbling.

Previous recipients of XYP, Incognito Theatre Company return with the amazing ***Tobacco Road*** – winner of the Les Enfants Terribles' 2018 Greenwich Partnership Award, telling the story of five resourceful youngsters attempting to carve a place for themselves in the murky underworld of 1920s London. Plus, another company born out of the Young Pleasance, the award-winning Spies Like Us present their version of ***Woyzeck***, breathing new life into Buchner's classic tale with their trademark inventive physical style. They also return with last year's sell-out hit ***Our Man in Havana***.

In January 2017, the SDTN and Pleasance Theatre Trust announced a new initiative to support acting, performance and technical theatre graduates from Scotland's Colleges and Higher Education Institutions, as they leave training and embark on their professional careers. The Network, a production ensemble supported by leading theatre professionals, now produces new work annually at the Pleasance during the Fringe. Following the success of *Snowflake* by Mark Thomson in 2017, the second production by The Network will be ***Propeller***, directed by double Fringe First winner Caitlin Skinner (*Woke, At a Stretch, Hair of the Dog with Village Pub Theatre*). *Propeller* is an exciting devised piece about power and the possibility of change. If you ever feel frustrated about the way things are but don't know what to do about it, this is the show for you.

Each year, The Charlie Hartill Special Reserve Fund provides a young theatre company with the rare and extraordinary opportunity to present a ground-breaking performance of a fully-produced play at the Edinburgh Fringe. This is a fantastic opportunity for a team to be creative, innovative, imaginative and entrepreneurial in a big and exciting way. 2017 recipients of the Reserve, Unpolished Theatre won a Fringe First with their incredible production *Flesh and Bone* which has since played in Australia and will be transferring to Soho Theatre this summer.

Freeman by award-winning writer Camilla Whitehill and Strictly Arts is the recipient of this year's The Charlie Hartill Special Reserve Fund. Strictly Arts are the first black-led company, and the first company from the West Midlands, to receive the Special Reserve. Inspired by the first American to plead insanity as his defence, *Freeman* examines the unspoken link between mental health and systemic racism. Throughout time and across oceans, this thought-provoking

production threads together the true stories of William Freeman, David Oluwale, Sarah Reed, Sandra Bland, Daniel M'naghten and Michael Bailey. The controversial lives and deaths of these real-life protagonists also highlight why it is necessary for movements like Black Lives Matter to exist in the 21st Century.

The Charlie Hartill Special Reserve Fund also consists of the Comedy Reserve. The **Pleasance Comedy Reserve** is back for its 14th year at the Edinburgh Fringe with another four dazzling new acts – **Chloe Petts, Helen Bauer, Jack Gleadow** and **Michael Odewale** - handpicked by the Pleasance. This is your chance to see the freshest comedy talent of 2018 from the show that helped launch the careers of Jack Whitehall, Roisin Conaty, Joe Lycett, Simon Brodwin, Holly Walsh, Daniel Rigby and others!

Notes to Editors

<i>Freeman</i>	Wednesday 1 st – Monday 27 th August (not 10 th), 17:00 Pleasance Courtyard (Above), 60 Pleasance, Edinburgh, EH8 9TJ
<i>The Red Shoes</i>	Friday 3 rd – Saturday 18 th August, 15:30 Captioned performance – Saturday 17 th August Pleasance Courtyard (Beyond), 60 Pleasance, Edinburgh, EH8 9TJ
<i>Propeller</i>	Wednesday 1 st – Monday 27 th August (not 13 th or 21 st), 13:00 Pleasance Courtyard (Above), 60 Pleasance, Edinburgh, EH8 9TJ
<i>Outside</i>	Wednesday 1 st – Monday 27 th August (not 13 th), 15:30 Pleasance Courtyard (The Cellar), 60 Pleasance, Edinburgh, EH8 9TJ

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