



Robert Bathurst stars in *Love, Loss & Chianti*

Assembly Rooms (Music Hall), 54 George Street, Edinburgh, EH2 2LR

Wednesday 3rd – Sunday 28th August 2022 (not 10th or 23rd), 12:55

Much-loved TV star Robert Bathurst (*Cold Feet*, ITV; *Downton Abbey*, ITV; *Dad's Army: The Lost Episodes*, BBC; *Toast of London*, Channel 4) returns to the Edinburgh Fringe with *Love, Loss & Chianti*, an exciting double-bill intertwined with glorious animations from celebrated cartoonist Charles Peattie (*Alex* comic strip).

A staged adaptation of two parts by award-winning British poet Christopher Reid, *Love, Loss & Chianti* opened to critical acclaim at London's Riverside Studios in 2020 and sees Bathurst star alongside Rebecca Johnson (*The Trip*, BBC; *Paper, Scissors Stone*, VAULT Festival). They reprise their roles in the hilarious verse comedy *The Song of Lunch* (seen in Edinburgh in 2018), as well as the Scottish premiere production of Reid's Costa Book Award winning verse, *A Scattering*.

A Scattering, written during the three years surrounding the death of his wife, is Reid's autobiographical and deeply affecting verse poem; an unmaawkish depiction of loss, articulating emotions most of us find hard to express. Celebrating love and the inevitable loss that always follows, *The Song of Lunch* is a hilarious and poignant drama set in a Soho Italian restaurant, presenting a reckless attempt to rekindle lost love between two former lovers.

A Scattering and *The Song of Lunch* explore the extremes of the human condition – love and loss which will always remain at the heart of our lives. On the day Reid finished writing *A Scattering*, he began *The Song of Lunch* – a fictional, farcical diversion from the mood of his past three years.

Robert Bathurst comments, *I stage these books in sequence because that is the order in which Christopher Reid wrote them: A Scattering instantly followed by The Song Of Lunch. The first is*

autobiographical, taking three years to write; the second is a comic fiction, an attempt by the author to lighten the mood by deflecting his grief. But can he? With Reid's sublime language and Charles Peattie's exquisite and startling animation we portray the turbulent mind of the poet, of relationships won and lost, in two of Reid's most celebrated works to date.

It's almost unbearably good; real, down to earth, the grief unstated but etched in every line... both acts are enriched by Charles Peattie's mesmerising animations. A superb evening of wit, wisdom and wine (Daily Mail ★★★★★).

Notes to Editors

Title	<i>Love, Loss & Chianti</i>
Performance Dates	Wednesday 3 rd – Sunday 28 th August 2022 (not 10 th or 23 rd), 12:55
Running Time	95 minutes
Location	Assembly Rooms (Music Hall), 54 George Street, Edinburgh, EH2 2LR
Author	Christopher Reid
Director	Jason Morell
Animation Designs & Drawing	Charles Peattie
Scenic Designer	Isobel Power Smith
Original Scenic Designer	Timothy Bird
Lighting Design	Colin Grenfell
Sound Design	Gregory Clarke
Video Facilitation	Matthew Brown for PixelLux
Performers	Robert Bathurst and Rebecca Johnson
Box Office	Tickets are available from www.assemblyfestival.com Previews: £12 Midweek: £18 (£16) Weekend: £20 (£18)
Social media	@RobertBathurst, @beccyljohnson, @LoveLossChianti, @SFTWshows, @AssemblyFest

All enquiries, high res images and further information:

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