



Birthmarked

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

Thursday 3rd – Sunday 27th August 2023 (not 9th, 14th, 20th), 19:15

A Jehovah's Witness comes to terms with his sexuality in the autobiographical new gig theatre show *Birthmarked*, presented as part of the Horizon showcase. Written, performed and composed by Brook Tate, and directed by Olivier Award winner Sally Cookson (*Jane Eyre*, *A Monster Calls*, National Theatre), *Birthmarked* follows a young Witness on his journey from door-knocking on the street to finding his feet (and high heels) on the stage.

Birthmarked tells the true story of Brook's experiences growing up as a Jehovah's Witness until he was disfellowshipped at the age of 23 because of his sexuality. In a faith that believes Armageddon is imminent, homosexuals will be destroyed, and everyone believes in 'The Truth', a young Witness experiences turmoil and pain before discovering his own truth. This funny and moving semi-improvised show follows Brook as he finds the strength to take a leap into the unknown, and shines a light on what it means to be marked... at birth.

Tate is supported live on stage by his five-person band, who multirole as characters in Tate's journey and incorporate original songs into this story of self-discovery and self-determination.

Brook Tate comments, *With a band of pals, a whale, a giraffe, and eventually a tap dancing zebra, I tell my story of being excommunicated from my family's religion, the Jehovah's Witnesses, and hope to spread awareness for those who have experienced similar circumstances. The reception from audiences in Bristol was way beyond what I could have expected, and we are thrilled to be able to bring the show back bigger and better as part of the Horizon showcase.*

Sometimes you see a show so moving that you don't know how to talk about it. Here, with this rare and extraordinary beast, I wept... it is an extraordinary show, and Brook Tate is an extraordinary man (Bristol 24/7).

Supported by Frances and Craig Wilson and the Stage One Bursary Scheme for New Producers. Commissioned by Bristol Old Vic and developed in association with MAYK. Originally commissioned by The Wardrobe Ensemble. *Birthmarked* is also supported and part of the Horizon – Performance Created in England showcase for Edinburgh Fringe Festival.

As well as taking *Birthmarked* to the Edinburgh Fringe, Hannah Smith is also producing The Wardrobe Ensemble's *Mog the Forgetful Cat* and Flawbored's *Its a Mother F**king Pleasure*.

Notes to Editors

Title	<i>Birthmarked</i>
Performance Dates	Wednesday 2 nd – Sunday 27 th August 2023 (not 9 th , 14 th , 20 th), 19:15 BSL interpreted: Wednesday 23 rd August Captioned: Thursday 24 th August Audio described: Friday 25 th August
Running Time	90 minutes
Location	Assembly Rooms (Ballroom), 54 George Street, Edinburgh, EH2 2LR
Box Office	Tickets are available from www.assemblyfestival.com Preview: £12 Midweek: £14 (£13) Weekend: £16 (£15)
Writer / Composer / Performer	Brook Tate
Electric Keyboard / Violin	Eddie Benfield
Electric Guitar / Banjo	Tom Bonson
Electric Bass / Upright Bass / Vocals	Samuel Fox
Trumpet / percussion	Junior Nascimento
Drums / Gayle the Whale	Eva Redman
Director	Sally Cookson
Designer	Max Johns
Lighting Designer	Jai Morjaria
Musical Director	John O'Hara
Puppetry Director	Chris Pirie
Dramaturg	Marietta Kirkbride

Costume Supervisor	Sophia Khan
Outside Eye	Travis Alabanza
Production Manager	Ed Borgnis
Stage Manager	Rachel Bell
Producer	Hannah Smith
Artist Wellbeing Practitioner	Nikki Disney, The Artist Wellbeing Company

Notes Ages 12+, contains distressing or potentially triggering themes, and strong language

Twitter	@BrookTateArts @Spincesmith
Instagram	@BrookTate
Facebook	/BrookTateArts
Website	www.brooktate.com

All enquiries, high res images and further information:

Chloé Nelkin Consulting

E: edinburgh@chloenelkinconsulting.com, M: 07764 273 219 (Chloé)

W: www.chloenelkinconsulting.com