



# SHOWGIRLS & SPIES

## *Showgirls and Spies*

Pleasance Dome (King Dome), Potterow, Edinburgh, EH8 9AL

Thursday 3<sup>rd</sup> – Sunday 13<sup>th</sup> August 2023, 15:00

The highly acclaimed Young Pleasance ensemble will bring to life the thrilling true story of Florence Warren, an intrepid Jewish resistance fighter and dazzling showgirl leading a perilous double-life in World War II. *Showgirls and Spies* is written and directed by Young Pleasance alumnus, and relative of Florence, **Rebecca Wilson**. Joining her will be **Marc Benga** (*Boys, The PappyShow; OTHELLO, Frantic Assembly*), co-directing the company's large-scale production and iconic physical sequences.

Working fearlessly for the French resistance by day, every night at the infamous Bal Tabarin, Florence takes to the stage alongside the icons Edith Piaf and Josephine Baker. Young Pleasance present their modern take on the glitz, glamour and glare of wartime Paris as the ensemble jump cuts between worlds bursting with bravery, family and feather boas. This world premiere will challenge ideas of freedom leaving its audience, asking, what do we do if history repeats itself.

With soaring ambition and a wellspring of youthful energy, Young Pleasance is truly incubating the stars of the future, with alumni going on to work with the RSC, the Barbican, Curtis Brown, Trafalgar Studios and the Globe as well as in TV and film. Young Pleasance are dedicated in offering dynamic and professional theatre opportunities for young people aged 16-21 through workshops and large-scale productions delivered by the Pleasance's ambitious creative team. Since its inception in 1995 this prolific producing arm has trained hundreds of performers, musicians and technicians.

Rebecca Wilson comments, *Having based the show around a true family story I should be filled with nerves, but instead I am full of excitement! The Young Pleasance is a company full of talent and support both on and off stage. Young Pleasance initially supported my creativity when I was seventeen; returning now, as an alumnus, writing and directing a show with them, I hope demonstrates just how important opportunities like these can be for young creatives.*

*The themes of resistance, bravery, hiding your identity, women working undercover and showbusiness being used as a political tool are all from our World War II Parisian storyline, but I am interested in the correlations to our modern storyline. Those necessary and everyday moments of resistance are vital to remember and take inspiration from.*

## Notes to Editors

Title	<i>Showgirls and Spies</i>
Performance Dates	Thursday 3 <sup>rd</sup> – Sunday 13 <sup>th</sup> August 2023, 15:00 Captioned: Saturday 12 <sup>th</sup> August
Running Time	60 minutes
Location	Pleasance Dome (King Dome), Potterow, Edinburgh, EH8 9AL
Box Office	Tickets are available from <a href="http://www.pleasance.co.uk">www.pleasance.co.uk</a> Preview: £7.50 Weekday: £12 (£12) Weekend: £14 (£13)
Writer	Rebecca Wilson
Directors	Rebecca Wilson and Marc Benga
Co-Director / Mentor	Joanna Billington
Sound Designer	Oscar Maguire
Costume Supervisor	Sophia Pardon
Choreographer	Catherine Ibbotson
Technical Supervisor	Ross Hayward
Lighting Design	Richard House
Company Manager	Rosemary Foster
Producer	Ellie Simpson, The Pleasance
Young Pleasance Artistic Directors	Kathryn Norton-Smith and Tim Norton
Cast	
Amaya Karia	Edie Behr
Kathleen Keaney	Lilyana Baird-Thomas
Tilly Herkanaidu	Amédée Le Gouellec De Schwarz
Aya Newton-Dunn	Elena Fleming
Esme Pitman	Ethan Bailey-Smith
Harriet Millard	Ines Aresti

Kimberly Johnson  
Leith Shaban  
Scarlett Field-Green  
Victoria Wasilewska

Laurence Davidson  
Lily Robinson  
Sonny Birrane  
Cooper Brown

Notes

Ages 12+

Social Media

@YoungPleasance @ThePleasance #Showgirls&Spies

All enquiries, high res images and further information:

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