



Sound Clash: Death in the Arena

Pleasance Courtyard (Pleasance One), 60 Pleasance, Edinburgh, EH8 9TJ

Wednesday 2nd – Monday 28th August 2023 (not 8th), 16:10

Conceived by **Levi Roots**, the reggae musician, chef and entrepreneur, *Sound Clash: Death in the Arena* is a contemporary street musical about star-crossed lovers. This world premiere is written by the award-winning novelist and playwright, **Alex Wheatle MBE**, produced by **Adrian Grant** (*Thriller - Live*), choreographed by **Jade Hackett** (*Hex*, National Theatre; *Get Up, Stand Up*), and directed by renowned director and actor **Ray Shell** (the originator of Nomax in *Five Guys Named Moe* and Rusty in *Starlight Express*). It tells a story of young love, betrayal, and murder in the dancehall.

Enter Sound City; where music is everything, and two warring sound systems – The Eagles and The Thunders – fight for power. When young lovers, Ashley and Kazzandra, are torn apart by family politics and musical warfare, what follows are electric dance-offs and lyrical battles in the Sound Clash Arena.

Typically, a sound clash is a musical competition where crew members from opposing sound systems of DJs, engineers and MCs pit their skills against each other. The object is to beat or "kill" their competitors. *Sound Clash: Death in the Arena* brings dancehall culture into a dystopian world divided by music.

This dynamic production uses fan-favourite tunes alongside modern hits and drama to tell an iconic love story that has, at its heart, a clarion call for tolerance and equality. *Sound Clash: Death in the Arena* is a thrilling new event production, set to bring the pounding bass of battle to Edinburgh.

Levi Roots comments, *Jamaican sound system culture plays one of the most important roles in the evolution of Reggae, Ska, Dancehall, Hip Hop, Grime, Jungle, Drum & Bass, Afrobeats and*

many more forms of music we enjoy today. I wanted to shine a light on this unsung phenomena by putting it on stage for the first time and to bring it to a new audience in the theatres.

Notes to Editors

Title	<i>Sound Clash: Death in the Arena</i>
Performance Dates	Wednesday 2 nd – Monday 28 th August 2023 (not 8 th), 16:10
Running Time	70 minutes
Location	Pleasance Courtyard (Pleasance One), 60 Pleasance, Edinburgh, EH8 9TJ
Box Office	Tickets are available from www.pleasance.co.uk Previews: £10 Weekday: £18 (£16) Weekend: £20 (£18)
Created by	Levi Roots
Writer	Alex Wheatle MBE
Producer	Adrian Grant
Director	Ray Shell
Choreographer	Jade Hackett
Notes	Ages 12+, contains scenes of violence
Social Media	@SoundClashShow

All enquiries, high res images and further information:

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