

Edinburgh Festival Fringe 2009: Theatre

PIT(UK) /Escalator East to Edinburgh (UK)/The Pleasance present

A Stroke Of Genius

World Premier

A new comedy based on the true story of the Nobel Prize Sperm Bank

PIT return to the Edinburgh Fringe Festival for the first time since winning the Writers' Guild and List Magazine Awards for Drama in 2004 with their brand new show: A Stroke of Genius.

'Stimulating, dark, very funny and simply unmissable' **Fringe Review** (preview performance 09)

This new dark comedy coincides with Darwin Year and the publication of On The Origin of Species, it's both a journey into the dark and murky past of eugenics and sperm banks and a look at the future of DNA and genetics.

Using projected animation, puppetry, a newly composed score and about fifty cardboard boxes, **A Stroke of Genius** tells the story of rural librarian Dora Blake who, after stumbling on the curious incident of the Nobel Prize Sperm Bank, decides she wants to have a genius child of her own. With a world of sensitive information at her finger tips she plots to blackmail a famous National Hero on his upcoming book tour – but first she'll need to seduce a young scientist to help her with the finer points of sperm donation and genetic manipulation...

PIT will introduce audiences to the world of 'designer babies' and to give them a glimpse into how they, too, could run their own sperm bank...

'Hilarious...Rush to catch the sharp satire of this production' ★★★★★ **Scotsman** (Fringe 2004)

PIT are a multi award winning company, founded in 2003 that make fun and odd total theatre crossing the rickety bridge between the everyday and the theatrically dazzling. Their first Edinburgh Fringe production won the **Writers' Guild and List Magazine Awards for Drama** and enjoyed a total sell-out run. While **PIT** have been constantly staging productions to full houses across the country this is only their second time at the Edinburgh Festival Fringe.

A Stroke of Genius is the recipient of the **Pleasance's** highly prestigious **Charlie Hartill Special Reserve**: a rolling fund towards the costs of taking one play and a selection of comedians to the Edinburgh Festivals each year. The purpose of the Fund is to provide financial support in the form of an investment so that theatre-makers of the future might have an opportunity to hone their talents.

A Stroke of Genius has also been selected for **Escalator East To Edinburgh 2009**. Each year Escalator, East to Edinburgh helps artists and arts organisations to raise their profile and perform to new audiences as part of the Edinburgh Festival Fringe. High-resolution images are available to download at

www.easttoedinburgh.co.uk

www.pit-online.co.uk

Listings information

Venue: Pleasance Dome Joker Dome Venue 33

Dates: 5 - 31 Aug 2009 (not 17, 24)

Time: 14.40 (ends 15.40)

Tickets: £9.00 - £5

Venue Box Office: 0131 556 6550

Online: www.pleasance.co.uk/edinburgh

Press Contacts

Steve Forster @ sfp communications

Tel: 01603 661459 (0131 667 2480 28 3 – 31 Aug)

Mobile: 07939 221192

Email: steve@sfppr.co.uk

Pleasance Press Office:

Tel: 0131 556 6557

Email: press@pleasance.co.uk