



"A stroke of Genius is stimulating, dark,
very funny and simply unmissable"

FringeReview.com

A STROKE OF GENIUS

A Comedy inspired by the true story of the Nobel Prize
Sperm Bank

Edinburgh 2009

PIT

www.pit-online.co.uk



fringe (Edinburgh Festival)

ESCALATOR

SUPPORTING ARTISTS
IN THE EAST OF
ENGLAND
EAST TO EDINBURGH



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**ARTS COUNCIL
ENGLAND**

The Production

A Stroke of Genius.

Multi-award winning fringe company, **PIT**, take on the true story of the **Nobel Prize Sperm Bank** with a whirlwind of riotous dark comedy, ingenious projections, stunning animations, eerie puppetry, glorious music and lots and lots of boxes.

The Story

PIT's A STROKE OF GENIUS delves into the world of genetics, sperm, Darwinism and the future of Human Kind.

This darkly comic theatre production tells the curious true story of **Robert Klark Graham**: infamous American scientist who, in 1980, opened a Sperm Bank in his back garden, exclusively to collect and propagate the genes of **Nobel Prize Winners**.

Researching this project, over a hundred years later, a young librarian in rural England becomes desperate to have a gifted child of her own.

As the two stories interweave our audience is taken both into the past, to understand the history of the American Eugenics movement, and into the future, to see the incredible possibilities that are awaiting us ...

PIT

The Development

A Stroke of Genius.

PIT have been awarded the **Charlie Harthill Special Reserve** to perform their new production, **A Stroke of Genius**, at the **Edinburgh Fringe Festival** this August.

A STROKE OF GENIUS, because of support from the **Charlie Hartill Special Reserve**, will be premiering at the Pleasance Dome. The production is also receiving support from the Arts Council through the Escalator East to Edinburgh programme.

PIT have been developing **A STROKE OF GENIUS** over the past year and a half with space being donated by **Quicksilver Theatre**. An initial ten minute performance was shortlisted for the **Hightide Festival** and the full length piece has been developed with the help of the **Rosemary Branch**, **Scenepool** at **Camden People's Theatre** and **The Junction**, Cambridge.

PIT's rehearsal space has been kindly donated by **Quicksilver Theatre**.

The **Charlie Harthill Special Reserve** is a rolling fund that aims to financially support one production of comedy and theatre to the **Edinburgh Fringe** every year.

ScenePool gives professional theatre makers and writers the space and opportunity to try out work, experiment with a new idea, get feedback.

PIT took part in **JAM**: the Junction's experimental cabaret night offers artists the chance to present new ideas in Cambridge and invites the audience to share feedback. It is through the Junction that PIT are involved in the **Escalator East to Edinburgh** scheme.

PIT

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(Edinburgh Festival)
fringe

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The Company

About PIT.

PIT are a multi-award winning company that make fun and odd theatre and have done so since 2003.

Our first production, a strange musical about School inspections, won the **Writers' Guild** and **List Magazine Awards for Drama** at the **Edinburgh Festivals** and enjoyed a total sell-out run. Since then the company has continued to go from strength to strength.

PIT consists of multi-disciplined theatre makers. Our members regularly double as actors, writers, directors, puppeteers, film makers, composers, designers, costumiers, stage managers, producers and we've recently recruited an animator and prosthetics artist – get in!

The PIT Manifesto

PIT are a collective group of artists dedicated to creating original, fun, accessible Total Theatre that crosses the rickety bridge between the everyday and the theatrically dazzling.

PIT aim to create work audiences will enjoy. Our audience, a mix of regular and non theatre-goers, have one thing in common: a love of exciting, ingenious stories imaginatively told.

The logo for PIT, featuring the letters 'PIT' in a bold, black, serif font. The letter 'I' is highlighted in red.

The Company

Previous Productions.

This is the production work of PIT to date. If you want more information on any of these productions, including photographs etc, please visit our website on: www.pit-online.co.uk.

OFSTED! THE MUSICAL (2003/4)

PIT's first production together enjoyed a total sell-out run at the Edinburgh Festival, won the Writers' Guild and List Magazine Awards from Drama and was later broadcast on Sky Television.

REALITY: MADAME MILNER'S CIRCUS OF HUMAN ODDITIES (2005)

PIT's second outing, a circus comedy, won the Greenwich Theatre New Voices Award and was shortlisted for both the NSDF and Sunday Times Award and every seat was filled for the limited run.

EGBERT IN THE UNDERWORLD (2006)

A large scale fantasy love story based on the Orpheus myth. Shortlisted for the NSDF but was unstageable outside of the mammoth resources of the Donald Roy Theatre, Hull, for which the show was tailored made. The selector, Artistic Director of the Royal and Derngate, said it was one of the most stunning and ambitious productions he'd seen in his ten years.

THE CABARET OF HATE (2007 - Present)

The collective wanted to make a portable series of sketches that could be taken anywhere. Segments and skits from this theatrical revue have been performed by the PIT collective in various locations ranging from the World famous Adelphi Club at the premiere of the now regular Pavlov's Dogs event to the London Fringe.

THE HUMAN SELF-EXTINCTION JAMBOREE (WITH TOMBOLA) (2008)

PIT, while researching another show, came across VHEMT – a movement that believes the Earth's problems would be solved if the Human Race voluntarily decided to stop breeding and made ourselves extinct (as they put it in their slogan "Live Long and Die Out!). PIT devised a comic late-night theatrical revue – in the form of a slideshow presentation 'magazine-style' chat show– for the Camden Fringe.

The logo for PIT, consisting of the letters 'PIT' in a bold, black, serif font. The letter 'I' is colored red, while 'P' and 'T' are black.

Get In Touch...

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