

Press Release
July 2009

PLE25ANCE
TWENTY-FIFTH YEAR ON THE FRINGE

menagerie
ESCALATOR
SUPPORTING ARTISTS
IN THE EAST OF
ENGLAND
EAST TO EDINBURGH LOTTERY FUNDED

Stand By Your Van

Competition culture hits the Fringe with an energetic new production

Pleasance Grand, 7.40pm
5 – 31 August



Stand By Your Van

There's a van parked centre stage at the **Pleasance Grand**, and 12 intrepid contestants are holding on to it, refusing to let go. Whoever holds on the longest, wins the van. Welcome to the play that is sure to get the Fringe crowd revved up this August- ***Stand By Your Van***.

Inspired by a true story, watch as the dynamic competitors battle their wits to try to win the car, fighting each other as well as their own resolve. Suspense meets comedy in this intense competition, and with 4 possible winners the audience will never know exactly what's coming next.

In a world obsessed with television competition and easy fame, and with a public willing to do pretty much anything to get something for nothing, ***Stand By Your Van*** offers a brilliant critique of reality TV culture through this brilliant piece of innovative drama. One of the most anticipated shows to head to the Fringe this year, ***Stand By Your Van*** will have the audience on tenterhooks as the suspense rises and the stakes get ever higher for these twelve fanatical competition contestants.

The idea is simple - the contestants place one hand on the brand new car, and with only limited breaks they must keep a hold of it until they are literally the last one standing. Now a popular competition around the world, this idea was sparked by a real event in America, where a Texan car dealership offered a free car to the person who could stay holding on to one of their vehicles for the longest, leading to a brutal three day long competition with dire consequences.

Stand By Your Van re-imagines the action of a volatile 80 hour competition in a thrilling 80 minute play, offering 4 different alternative endings throughout the festival and giving the audience the chance to get involved and root for their favourite character.

With characters ranging from a ditzzy glamour model, a woman who believes "God won't let her lose" and an anarchistic student who lives exclusively on energy drinks, ***Stand By Your Van*** cannot fail to get the audience animated as they watch the trials and tribulations of these bizarre competitors.

Written by the award- winning **Anna Reynolds** and directed by popular Fringe director **Paul Bourne**, ***Stand By Your Van*** is presented by Menagerie Theatre Company in co- production with ***Pleasance Theatre***, and supported by the **Escalator East to Edinburgh** scheme offered by **Arts Council England, East**.

Stand By Your Van promises to be a fun-fuelled theatre extravaganza, and one of the most original plays heading to the Fringe this August.



Stand By Your Van features at the Pleasance Courtyard this August for the Edinburgh Fringe 2009

Address:	Pleasance Courtyard 60 Pleasance, Edinburgh, Midlothian, EH8 9TJ	Venue:	Pleasance Grand
Showing:	August 5 th – August 31 st 2009 <i>Excluding 18th & 25th August</i>	Time:	7.40pm
Price:	£5 / £10	To Book:	0131 556 6550 / www.pleasance.co.uk/edinburgh

Editor's Notes

Pleasance Theatre

Celebrating its 25th year as a venue for the Edinburgh Fringe Festival, the Pleasance is one of the largest and most successful Edinburgh venues, gaining international respect for its impressive and hugely popular programme of elite theatrical and comedy performances.

The Pleasance Theatre Islington was opened in 1995, offering London a highly regarded selection of performances throughout the year, as well as a platform for new talent in both theatre and comedy.

Menagerie Theatre Company

Menagerie Theatre Company is the leading independent new writing company in the East of England. They seek out and support talented writers in order to develop and produce innovative new theatre.

As well as touring widely, Menagerie curates and produces Hotbed Festival every year at The Junction, Cambridge.

Escalator East to Edinburgh

Stand By Your Van has been selected for Escalator East To Edinburgh 2009.

Arts Council England, East launched Escalator East to Edinburgh in 2003 to identify, nurture and develop the artistic talent in the East of England that could benefit from wider exposure at festivals such as the Edinburgh Fringe. Since then, the wider Escalator talent programme has grown to support artists and organisations in the region across all art forms.

Escalator East to Edinburgh continues to build critical acclaim, giving artists assistance to source venues and liaise with promoters, as well as practical PR and marketing support and a range of invaluable networking opportunities.

This year, the programme offers structured support to 21 shows, establishing a creative community and raising the profile of creative talent from the East of England.

Contacts

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For Press Tickets:

Pleasance Press Office: 0131 556 6557 or email press@pleasance.co.uk

Ends

Websites



www.ideageneration.co.uk

For:

- Online Press Office
- Client list
- Company contact detail



www.pleasance.co.uk

For:

- Information on the Pleasance Theatre
- Their 2009 Programme
- Venue Details



www.menagerietheatre.co.uk/

For:

- Information on Menagerie Theatre Company
- Hotbed Festival Details



www.easttoedinburgh.co.uk

For:

- Information on Edinburgh shows
- Information on funding