

Press Release: 25 May 2010

Edinburgh Festival Fringe 2010



The Not-So-Fatal Death of Grandpa Fredo

a co-production with Arts and Theatres Trust Fife

Sunday 8 – Sunday 29 August

Previews: Monday 2 and Saturday 7 August

I don't want to achieve immortality through my work. I want to achieve it through not dying. Woody Allen

Inspired by an incredible true story, Fringe First winners **Vox Motus**, open their new production at the **Edinburgh Festival Fringe** on **Sunday 8 August** at the **Traverse Theatre**, Edinburgh.

Their new production *The Not-So-Fatal Death of Grandpa Fredo* is a pitch-dark comedy featuring a host of eccentric characters, original live music and stunning design.

A frozen body found in a woodshed wreaks havoc in the local community, forcing them to confront questions of science, faith and immortality

The Not-So-Fatal Death of Grandpa Fredo is a production where science, humanity and humour meet. Is there home for faith in the dry, factual world of science; can science itself be the deity in which we place our faith?

While it is easy to dismiss the Immortality movement as extreme and outrageous we aim for the audience to leave the theatre questioning their own response to 'conquering the blight of involuntary death' (the stated mission of the Immortality Institute) and the parallels this draws with world faiths.

The play questions what is sacred in today's media-saturated, Big-Brother-embracing, science-as-religion society. As well as delving into the dark, macabre and comically perverse it is also a quest for emotional truths, a sense of wonder and, ultimately, hope.

Written, directed and designed by Candice Edmunds and Jamie Harrison. The cast includes **Ewan Donald** (Walden, Magnetic North) (**Simon Donaldson** (*Jason and the Argonauts*, Visible Fictions), **Imogen Toner** (*The Moon Sails Out*, Cumbernauld Theatre) and **Harry Ward** (*Island Nights*, Mull Little Theatre.)

The live music has been composed by Glasgow-based musician **Michael John McCarthy** (*Bright Black*, Zoey Van Goey). Video Design is by **Tim Reid**, Lighting Design by **Simon Wilkinson** and Sound Design by **Graham Sutherland**.

Supported by Scottish Arts Council, Made in Scotland, Glasgow City Council

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Listings Information

Venue: Traverse Theatre, Cambridge Street, Edinburgh [Venue 15]

Previews: Monday 2 August Preview 7.00pm
Saturday 7 August Preview 3.00pm

Dates: Sunday 8 until Sunday 29 August
Tues 10 12.45pm, Wed 11 4.15pm, Thurs 12 6.30pm, Fri 13 9.45pm, Sat 14 2.45pm,
Sun 14.15pm, Tues 17 6.30pm, Wed 18 9.30pm, Thurs 19 12.45pm, Fri 20 4.15pm,
Sat 21 6.30pm, Sun 22 9.45pm, Tues 24 12.45pm, Wed 25 4pm, Thurs 26 6.30pm, Fri 27
9.15pm, Sat 28 12.45pm, Sun 29.45pm

Box Office: 0131 228 1404 (no booking fee) online www.traverse.co.uk

Press Night: Sunday 8 August at 9.30pm. Press tickets: Sarah Dee
Tel: 0131 659 7111 Email: sarah.dee@traverse.co.uk

Notes to Editors

Award winning Vox Motus is a Glasgow based Theatre Company, started in 2003 by Artistic Directors Jamie Harrison and Candice Edmunds. *The Not-So-Fatal Death of Grandpa Fredo* is a co-production with Arts and Theatres Trust Fife and supported by Platform, the Scottish Arts Council, Glasgow City Council and Made in Scotland.

Made in Scotland is a curated showcase of high quality performance from Scotland at the world's biggest arts festival, made possible by support from the Scottish Government's Edinburgh Festivals Expo Fund. It is a partnership between the Festival Fringe Society, the Federation of Scottish Theatre (FST) and the Scottish Arts Council.



Company Information

The company's work particularly appeals to a target audience of 18-35 years and aims to dispel the myth prevalent among this age group that 'theatre is boring'. Artistic Directors Jamie Harrison and Candice Edmund love telling intriguing unbelievable-yet-true stories using comedy, magic, music and physical performance combined with multi-media and digital technologies to create stimulating visual theatre.

To date Vox Motus' staged work includes the critically acclaimed *Slick* (2007/2008) - winner of a Fringe First and a CATS Award; *How To Steal a Diamond* (2006); a trilogy of works in progress: *Gravel*, *Guts* and *Glamour* (2005) and *Interference* (2003). In each project, collaboration with other artists – DJs/composers, visual artists, digital editors – has been at the heart of the work. Vox Motus aim to continue investing in collaborations and cross-media work to enhance the theatrical experience.

Critical acclaim for Vox Motus

“,, a technical and emotional triumph...” The Stage (*Bright Black*)

“...the beautifully concentrated show reveals a real sensitivity to the phases of grief...”
The Scotsman (*Bright Black*)

"faultless, fast-paced, brilliant sense of style" **** The Scotsman (*Slick* Scotsman Fringe First 2008 winner)

"the technical virtuosity in *Slick* is breathtaking." ***** Irish Examiner

"Here's a show to gladden the hearts of those who admire the acting and writing of British theatre but hanker after the technical wizardry and punctilious attention to detail of companies with long pedigrees in Eastern Europe." **** The Times (*Slick*)

"...narrative theatre at its best..." The Herald (*Glamour*)

"Inspiring independent theatre company, Vox Motus...tightly written, inventively staged, well performed..." ****The List (*How To Steal a Diamond*)

Arts and Theatres Trust Fife

The Not-So-Fatal Death of Grandpa Fredo is a co-production with Arts and Theatres Trust Fife (AttFife). Hazel Wotherspoon, Head of Programming and Creative Development at Arts and Theatres Trust Fife (AttFife), said: "We are very excited to be working together with Vox Motus to create this brand new work. As an organisation, we're very keen to use our resources to co-produce new pieces of theatre, and it's great to work alongside as talented and innovative a company as Vox Motus. Everyone at AttFife is looking forward to working hard to see Grandpa Fredo come together for its Festival run at the Traverse and subsequent tour."

Tour Listings Information

Venue: Paisley Arts Centre, Paisley
Date/time: Thursday 2 September 7.30pm
Box Office: 0141 887 1010
www.renfrewshire.gov.uk

Venue: Rothes Halls, Glenrothes
Date/time: Saturday 4 September 7.30pm
Box Office: 01592 611 101
www.attfife.org.uk

Venue: Eastgate Theatre, Peebles
Date/time: Tuesday September 7.30pm
Box Office: 01721 775 727 & www.thebooth.co.uk
www.eastgatearts.com

Venue: Palace Theatre, Kilmarnock
Date/time: Thursday 9 September 7.30pm
Box Office: 01563 554 900
www.visiteastayrshire.com

Venue: Howden Park, Livingston
Date/time: Saturday 11 September 7.30pm
Box Office: 01507 777 666
www.howdenparkcentre.com

Venue: Eastwood Park Theatre, Giffnock
Date/time: Thursday 16 September 7.30pm
www.eastwoodparktheatre.co.uk
Box Office: 0141 577 4970

Venue: Macrobert, University of Stirling
Date/time: Saturday 18 September 8pm
Box Office: 01786 466 666
www.macrobert.org

Venue: Tron Theatre, Glasgow
Dates/time: Tuesday 21 – Saturday 25 September 7.30pm
Box Office: 0141 552 4267
www.tron.co.uk

Venue: Eden Court Theatre, Inverness
Dates/times: Tuesday 28 and Wednesday 29 September 7.30pm
www.eden-court.co.uk
Box office: 01463 234 234

Venue: Dundee Rep, Dundee
Date/time: Friday 1 October 7.30pm
Box office: 01382 223 530
www.dundeereptheatre.co.uk

Venue: Hamilton Town Hall, Hamilton
Date/time: Tuesday 12 October 7.30pm
Box Office: 01698 452 299
www.southlanarkshire.gov.uk

Venue: Brunton Theatre, Musselburgh
Date/time: Wednesday 13th October 7.30pm
Box Office: 0131 665 2240
www.bruntontheatre.co.uk

Venue: The Lowry, Manchester
Date/time: Saturday 16th and Sunday 17th October 8pm
Box Office: 0843 208 6000
www.thelowry.com