

Press Release

Out of the Blue in August

Radical Sci-Fi Big Top 'Lands' In Leith Walk

The Big Top @ The Out of the Blue Tramworks
Venue 171 Shrub Place, Leith Walk, Edinburgh
Box Office: 0870 126 1771

Out of The Blue's exciting new venture is set to transform the former tram and bus depot on Shrub Place, into a cutting edge venue for the Edinburgh International Festival Fringe.

Located minutes away from The Playhouse and Gateway Theatre, **The Out of the Blue Tramworks** is set to create an artistic artery between Leith and the centre of town.

The UK contemporary circus pioneers **No Fit State**, have had a radical rethink of the traditional circus big top. The giant, silver flying saucer-style design, pink walls and stunning blue lighting effects will transform the Walk into a sci-fi spectacular ensuring its status as a festival hotspot. The 300-seater Big Top will feature the critically acclaimed shows **ImMortal²** from Wales and **Transposition**, thrilling physical theatre from India, plus a host of other exciting festival happenings, cementing the venue as a major new focus for the festival.

Transposition by Ishara Theatre

Aug 13-14,20-21,27-28 12:00 (50mins) £9.00(£7.00)
Aug 15-16,18-19,22-23,25-26 17:00 (50mins) £9.00(£7.00)

A visually striking Dance/Physical Theatre production from India, presented by renowned Fringe regulars **Teamwork Productions**. This beautiful show explores transcendental questions of life, love, loss & purpose using dance, puppetry & martial arts. With energetic performance, spectacular stagecraft & exquisite soundtrack, this internationally acclaimed show is a complete sensory experience!

ImMortal² by No Fit State Circus:

8pm : Aug 7, 9-14, 16-21, 23-28

3pm: Aug 10, 13-14, 17, 20-21, 24, 27-29

Tickets: £12, Students and concessions £8

ImMortal 2 is a landmark spectacle by an award-winning company at the forefront of the renaissance in contemporary circus. The show follows hot on the heels of the critically applauded ImMortal 1, again directed by Firenza Guidi but this time with specialist circus direction from Frenchman Samuel Jornot, formerly of Cirque Du Soleil.

ImMortal2 is audacious, anarchic, surreal, magical and funny; a spectacular meditation on one of the biggest questions of the human race: are we immortal?

Enter the extraordinary big top and find yourself immersed in a heart-stopping theatrical event

New Out Of The Blue Headquarters Gets Edinburgh International Festival Call Up

New OOTB headquarters at **The Drill Hall** in Leith is this year confirmed as a major new Edinburgh International Festival venue.

The Drill Hall is set to stage one of the hottest tickets at this August's Festival. The shows mark the English-language debut of star Catalan director **Jordi Milan's** hit production **NutsCoconuts**. Box Office 473 2000

OOTB purchased the listed, former Army drill hall last year. Plans are underway to transform the landmark Victorian building in Leith's Dalmeny Street into a modern, multi-media creative hub. This move further underlines OOTB's central role in the area's ongoing cultural regeneration.

Bongo Plays Host to Star Stand-Up Rob Newman

OOTB sister organisation **The Bongo Club** steps up again as one of the Fringe's most happening spaces in 2005. Headlining The Bongo's jam packed line-up for the duration of the Festival is star comic **Rob Newman**. Following his split from former partner David Baddiel, Newman travelled extensively in Latin America. His experiences inspired him to write a book on globalisation and are a big influence on his highly politicized and hilarious new stand-up show.

This year also sees the triumphant return of **The Tapwater Awards** to The Bongo. Set up in 2001 as a socially conscious alternative to The Perrier Comedy awards - Perrier is owned by corporate black hats Nestle - they celebrate the skill and originality of all artists in the Fringe, not just comedians. Last year's awards unearthed a real range of talented and unusual performers that might not have had the recognition they deserved otherwise. This year's awards looks set to be even better and is a must see.

Cabaret is always a huge draw at The Bongo Club during the Festival and this year is no exception with regular shows from **Vaudeville**. Catch their exuberant brand of late night entertainment on Wednesday and Thursday in the first week of the Festival, Monday to Thursday in the second and third weeks, as well as special opening and closing night extravaganzas.

Other great acts slated for August include **Flamenco, Kasozi African Dance, Animal Farm** and Spanish/Scottish multi-media collaboration **Las Bestias** plus a program of Ceilidh dance workshops for kids.

On top of all that, there will be all the usual Bongo beats from regulars **Messenger, Headspin, Hobo** and **Solid Steel** among others. The café will be open daily throughout the Festival with free web access and hot food plus an exhibition of artworks by **Gerry Gapinski**.

Notes to editors: *For more information and pictures on The Big Top at The Out Of The Blue Tramworks and The Tapwater Awards please contact Dana MacLeod or Hugo Fluendy at Out Of The Blue on (0131) 555-7101 dana@outoftheblue.org.uk or check out the No Fit State website www.nofitstate.com*

For all enquiries regarding Jordi Milan's NutsCoconuts please contact Susie Burnet or Jackie Westbrook in the Edinburgh International Festival Press Office: 0131 473 2020 press@eif.co.uk

For more on Bongo Club shows please contact Barney Waygood at The Bongo Club (0131) 558-7604 barney@thebongoclub.co.uk