

COFFIN UP

DIRECTED BY AMANDA WILSHER
WRITTEN AND PERFORMED BY THE VILLAGE IDIOTS

Press release issued: 16 June 2011 for immediate release.
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Venue: Pleasance 10 Dome
Dates: 3rd August to 29th August
(not 10th & 17th)
Time: 1.30pm (2.30pm)

THE SHOW

Coffin Up is a black comedy set in the sleepy village of Langsley Abbot, the 'UK's Healthiest Village 2011.' This fast-paced, farcical comedy tells the story of a dastardly undertaker and his quest to make money by whatever means. With mounting bills and a lack of customers can the Undertaker get enough money to keep his business afloat and fulfil his life-long fantasy? However, Doug the undertaker's apprentice has his suspicions.

Will he put a stop to the undertakers scheming and will he get the girl of his dreams? A fantastical spinning, foldout set creates the backdrop for this tale of greed, deceit, pilfering, insanity, love, flamenco, theft and Morris dancers.

NOTES TO EDITORS

The Village Idiots are an inspired company of mask actors and theatre makers, who met and trained in a small village in Hertfordshire. Formed in 2005 and inspired by Buster Keaton, Jacques Tati and CSI Miami (note the forensic attention to detail) they create entirely non-verbal, highly visual theatre. They possess an innate ability to communicate heart-rending stories exploiting the frailty of the human condition with great pathos and sublime comedy.

Having taken 5 successful shows to the Edinburgh fringe, Coffin Up will be their first at the Pleasance, where they hope to build on their **3 sell-out years**.

"...very good comic performers, their timing is flawless..." SCOTSMAN

"A farcical frenzy of masked theatre brilliance..." ★★ ★★ THREEWEEKS - Edinburgh

"...terrific!" MARK RADCLIFFE BBC RADIO 2

"You'd have to have a heart of stone not to be won over by this madcap mask comedy." SCOTSMAN

Amanda Wilsher is one of the country's foremost mask practitioners and is also co-founder of comedy duo 'Plested and Brown.' Directorial credits include the national tour of *Island* for Trestle Theatre Company and assistant director for 'The Stoneheads' at The National Theatre.

Every member of the small cast has been in the **Harry Potter** series of films. Most notably, Jack Read (co-founder) who has recently wrapped filming on *Harry Potter and the Deathly Hallows Part I & II*, in which he played the part of Michael Corner.

Jack and fellow 'village idiot' Michelle Baxter, are also performing in another mask show in Edinburgh; '**Devil in the Detail**,' with MetaMorpho Theatre Company, directed by **Toby Wilsher** (co-founder of Trestle and Amanda's Brother!) Even though the brother and sister directors have different mask companies & share two cast members they insist there is no rivalry....

To book review tickets for this show please contact Pleasance Press Office:
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