

fringe

PRESS RELEASE

Greene Shoots Theatre
King Ubu
by **Steph Gunary**, after **Alfred Jarry**



Greene Shoots Theatre return to the Fringe with the play that started a riot

Alfred Jarry's notorious classic, **King Ubu**, began as a marionette show about his physics teacher, but grew into a parody of *Macbeth* that started a riot as the curtains came down on its first and only performance. Attracting immediate notoriety for its anarchic attitude towards society and its vulgar brand of comedy, it has become a surprising classic in recognition of its status as a precursor to Theatre of the Absurd and the Surrealist movement, ushering in the 20th Century.

Steph Gunary's adaptation reworks the piece in a playful, storytelling format, bringing the grotesque, self-serving qualities of the central characters to the fore. Ubu's brutal exploits evoke Mr Punch in a Punch and Judy show, recreating a performance closer to Jarry's original puppet show concept. Borrowing much of the plot from *Macbeth*, the themes of political coups, war and greed still resonate today; it has lost none of its edginess and bite.

Greene Shoots Theatre return to the Fringe for their fifth year. Currently comprising 19 actors aged between 17 and 18 from Berkhamsted School, Hertfordshire, the company takes its name from one of its famous ex-pupils, Graham Greene. Following a sell-out run in Berkhamsted in December 2013, this innovative and lively production reinvents **King Ubu** using the company's trademark ensemble performance style, blending physical theatre, slick chorus work and energetic storytelling.

'A hit! Well timed, funny and incredibly acted: The Venetian Twins is a MUST SEE show' ★★★★★ TheNewCurrent, 2010

'Steph Gunary's adaptation of Carlo Goldoni's play is, quite simply, a knockout' ★★★★★ ThreeWeeks, 2010

C venues

vibrant vivacious variety

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Listings Information

Venue C, venue 34, Edinburgh Festival Fringe

Dates 10-16 Aug

Time 13:20 (1h00)

Ticket prices £7.50-£9.50 / concessions £5.50-£7.50 / children £3.50-£5.50

C venues box office 0845 260 1234 / www.CtheFestival.com

Fringe box office 0131 226 0000 / www.edfringe.com

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