

Caligula on Ice

Caligula on Ice, the show, is a unique theatrical experience that blends sublimely crafted poetry, caustic comedy, a ghost story, a skewed take on the folk song, a raucous music hall turn, parody, pastiche and biting accurate satire. All this is accompanied by a sound track that takes in Radio 4, urban grime and modern electronica and switches to a vaudevillian pit orchestra for the second act.

"And lo, it occurred to God that he hadn't had a minute's respite since that Sunday
and all this omniscience
was doing his head in (knowing everything about everything, all the time, totally,
it's worse than blue cheese
or chocolate for migraine)"

from **God has a Day Off**

The first act finds the melancholy poet-hero contemplating the mysterious workings of the divine by the seaside. He travels in an eventful rail journey, observing the absurdities and rituals of modern marital ritual, to a stand up gig and finally home to his down at heel flat to be lulled to sleep by the bass from passing hatchbacks and generous helpings of vodka.

In the second half the mood and setting changes as the stage is taken by the poet's alter ego, Warwick, a strutting, dandyish Edwardian song and dance man. He ups the ante moving the tone of the poems from gentle observation on the quotidian to savage lampoons on politics, religion, sexual peccadilloes and human frailty. Seductive and conspiratorial he coaxes and cajoles before revealing, in a glorious climax of light and pounding rhythm, his own diabolic nature.

"The forces of evil are coupling and breeding
in Hampstead and every sink council estate.
*They mean to destroy us, to stop us from speeding,
killing foxes or burglars. the pair remonstrate,
In the gutter lies Liberty, battered and bleeding.
God send us a Junta before it's too late!"*

from **Apocalypse**

Next Wednesday

Press and quotes

About Tim Turnbull:

"Tim Turnbull is shaping up to be one of the most unique and important poetic voices of the decade." – **The Slab**

“Turnbull balances the comic and lyrical along his deftly rhymed verse with great verve.”
– **Magma**

“Tim Turnbull, the future poet laureate” – **The Guardian**

“Funnier than most of the stand-ups on the Fringe.” – **The Scotsman**

“Ne’er-do-well who makes exceedingly good verse” – **The Independent**

“Smart humour and a knack for mixing the vernacular with the academic” –
Wordwrights (US)

“Tim Turnbull is a truly cutting-edge poetic talent.” – **Poetry Review**

“He has something in common with Tony Harrison and Simon Armitage but he’s not *school of* anyone. His laconic relish for the world stands out. As a performer, he’s original, strange and very funny.” – Sean O’Brien, **Poetry News**

About *Stranded in Sub-Atomica*:

“Every poem in this collection is packed with life; surveying Blair's Britain with flair, flamboyance and finesse - and always with a weather eye (and ear) for something glamorously decadent, off kilter or left behind in the outcrop of an estate or concrete precinct. Like listening to *The Streets* or watching *The Office*, Turnbull returns his readers to the half life of our daily surroundings and reminds us of who we are, what we are amongst, and what our lives are like.

Immediately recognisable as "now" and realised in poems which have narrative thrust, social coherence and what one might call the politics of recognition, there isn't a dud in the book; every poem has been crafted, every line, crafted, to deliver a simply knock-out book. Buy it.” – **Chris Hamilton-Emery**

“Tim Turnbull’s *Stranded in Sub-Atomica* is a high-octane collection that reverberates with acerbic wit and a sense that this poet takes no prisoners.” “But Turnbull is not just about satire and slick vernacular; he is capable of subtle formal technique.” – Nigel McLoughlin, **Poetry Review**

Biographies

Tim Turnbull and John Williamson have worked together for five years on literary, musical and stage-based projects. In late 2005 they began work on creating a stage show that would go hand in hand with performance poet Turnbull’s next collection.

Combining their individual talents and experience as performers, writers, musicians and composers this is their first full theatre collaboration offering an hours performance showcasing the meeting of their poetic, comedic, theatrical and musical ideas, talents and energy.

Tim Turnbull

is an award winning writer and performer. In 2006 he won the Contenders, the Arts Foundation's £10,000 prize for performance poetry (as featured on BBC2's Culture Show), and his book, Stranded in Sub-Atomica, was nominated for the Forward Prize for best first collection. Starting out in punk bands Turnbull developed an engaging stage presence and has delighted audiences across the UK, the USA, Ireland and Germany. A collected poems will be published in German later this year followed by the second English collection of Caligula on Ice and other poems.

The show, Caligula on Ice, draws together threads from his performance and literary work to create an extraordinary theatrical experience.

For more details visit the website: <http://www.timturnbull.co.uk>
<<http://www.timturnbull.co.uk/>>

John Williamson

has worked for the past 12 years as a composer/musical director for theatre and film and as a record producer both in the UK and abroad.

His composition credits include works for The Romanian National Youth Theatre, Edinburgh Theatre Workshop, Hunter Puppet Theatre Co. and for Muckle Hen Productions. As a producer and recordist he has recently worked with The Aliens - EMI Records, and with Lone Pigeon amongst many other national and local acts. John's also worked as a bicycle mechanic, a cook, a youth and community worker and in a short spell as an antiques shop manager.

To find out more about John and his work please visit: <http://johnwilliamson.net>
<<http://www.johnwilliamson.net/>>