



EDINBURGH FESTIVAL FRINGE 2005

James Seabright for Festival Highlights presents **The Black Sheep** in

# PROFESSOR BUMM'S STORY MACHINE

FESTIVAL FAVOURITES RETURN WITH NEW IMPROVISED FAMILY COMEDY

Acclaimed comedy theatre company The Black Sheep return to Edinburgh with two new shows, *Professor Bumm's Story Machine* and *Road To Pisa* following their 2004 sell out hits *The Joy of Wine* and *Fairly Tales*.

**“The buzzword is improvisation, and nowhere more so than in these interactive storytelling sessions. They gather words and ideas from children in the audience and weave them all together into an instant story, acted out hilariously.”** *Daily Mail Pick Of The Day for Fairly Tales*

Professor Bumm and his assistant Doctor Whee invite festival audiences to the unveiling of his latest invention in this crackpot comedy of made-up madness. This technological marvel will collect data from the audience and use it to create fantastic stories out of thin air. Unless, of course, the machine goes catastrophically wrong, forcing Bumm and Whee to make up the stories themselves in some sort of desperate cover-up... What are the chances of that?

**“Making things up as you go along was never so much fun as it is in the hands of these madcap storytellers. The stories are intriguing and funny, and parents are kept as amused as their children, who snort with delight. Fun for all ages!”** *The Scotsman on Fairly Tales \*\*\*\**

*Story Machine* is a high-octane upgrade of improvised family favourite *Fairly Tales*. The audience are cast as a panel of professors invited to the gala launch of Professor Bumm's latest brainchild. Bumm and Whee encourage the audience to come up with strange suggestions for stories. Professor Bumm carefully feeds the information into his story machine, whilst Doctor Whee demonstrates *his* new invention, the auto-rotary hyper-watering can. It's an accident waiting to happen...

Mayhem, mirth and mess are guaranteed as two eggheads race to avoid getting egg on their faces.

**“Sitting somewhere in the Venn diagram overlap of comedy, theatre and kids' entertainment, this show is a magical, entertaining and family-friendly way to start the day.”** *Chortle on Fairly Tales \*\*\*\**

*Professor Bumm's Story Machine* is not suitable for under 7's.

The Black Sheep was formed in 2000 by **Ciaran Murtagh** and **Andrew Jones**, after early collaborations at the Central School of Speech and Drama and later in sketch company Ubersausage. Their work has included sketch shows *The Black Sheep Show*, *Luxury Assortment* and *Year of the Sheep*, improvised shows *Fairly Tales*, *Story Pimp* and *Liberty Hall!*, biblical sit-com *Holy Days* at the Soho Theatre. They are also premiering *Road to Pisa* at this year's fringe (see separate release).

Read more about the company at [www.blacksheepcomedy.co.uk](http://www.blacksheepcomedy.co.uk)

## LISTINGS

### PROFESSOR BUMM'S STORY MACHINE

Devised and performed by Andrew Jones and Ciaran Murtagh,

**At Pleasance (Venue 33)** 60 the Pleasance Edinburgh EH8 9TJ (Sub-venue: Beside)

**4-29 August 2005** (except 10 & 17 August) at **12.15pm** (1hr)

Tickets £3.50 (previews) £6.50 (all non-preview performances)

Box Office: 0131 556 6550/ [www.pleasance.co.uk](http://www.pleasance.co.uk)

**For further information please contact Kat Portman on  
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