



EDINBURGH FESTIVAL FRINGE 2005  
James Seabright for Festival Highlights presents

# David Benson's Conspiracy Cabaret

Written and Performed by **David Benson**

Directed by **Gavin Marshall** (*Linda Marlowe's No Fear!*) Composed by **Alex Silverman** (*Hamlet! The Musical*)  
Designed by **Mike Lees** (*Gone by Glyn Cannon*) Magic Consultancy by **Derren Litten** (*The Catherine Tate Show*)

## 70 MINUTES OF SONGS, STORIES, AND CONSPIRACY THEORIES: RENOWNED FRINGE PERFORMER PREMIERES HIS SIXTH SOLO SHOW

After taking on the ghouls for last year's *David Benson's Haunted Stage*, the award-winning performer confronts the murky world of conspiracy theories in his new frank and funny solo show.

**"Benson is a natural entertainer and master storyteller... as proved in previous award-winning solo shows, he is a highly accomplished actor, singer, mimic and raconteur"** *Edinburgh Guide*

Blending music old and new with original comic monologues and his uniquely intimate brand of audience banter, the Fringe First winner will sing in a lovely baritone, treating weighty issues with a light touch and trivial matters with the utmost seriousness. Benson addresses our ambiguous relationship to the official version of events, and stops to consider whether alternative explanations make any more sense, as well as what fascinates us about them.

**"Unforgettable and inspirational theatre that has the audience cheering"**  
*Independent on Sunday on Think No Evil Of Us: My Life With Kenneth Williams*

Benson will be joined on stage by composer Alex Silverman playing the piano, with songs providing light relief between considering the truth and fiction behind everything from JFK to 9/11, and lots more in between. This is the first time Benson has used live piano since David Paul Jones tinkled his ivories during *Nothing But Pleasure* in 1998, Benson's show about Diana's funeral which went on to sell out Sydney Opera House. Benson picks up where he left off, addressing issues that concern us all today.

**"Sensitive, liberating and dangerously funny"** *The Times on Mourning Glory*

**David Benson** made his solo performance debut at the Edinburgh fringe 1996 with *Think No Evil Of Us: My Life With Kenneth Williams*, which won a Fringe First, toured nationally, and played a West End season. Since then he has return to the festival regularly to premiere new solo pieces: *Nothing But Pleasure* (1998), *To Be Frank* (2001), *Star Struck* (2003), and *David Benson's Haunted Stage* (2004). In 2003 Benson devised and directed Janet Street-Porter's 2003 solo fringe hit *All The Rage!*. He has also performed in ensemble shows including *Latin!* (Kings Head) and *Loot* (Derby). Last Christmas he made his pantomime debut in Newbury, where he returns this year to play the dame in *Cinderella*. This festival he can also be seen singing with Barb Jungr in her *Café Prague* nights as part of *The Watershed Cabaret*.

**Gavin Marshall** was most recently represented in Edinburgh by Linda Marlowe's *No Fear!*, which he co-devised and directed. He has an extensive range of credits including work with the RSC as an actor, aerial choreographer and assistant director. This year he directed *Tales of An Extravagant Stranger*, by Yasmin Alibhai Brown for the RSC New Works Festival in Stratford-upon-Avon and Soho Theatre, London.

### LISTINGS

#### David Benson's Conspiracy Cabaret

At **Assembly Rooms (Venue 3)** 54 George Street, Edinburgh (Sub-venue: Drawing Room)

**5-29 August 2005** (except 17 August) at **3.05pm** (1 hour 10 minutes) Tickets £5 - £11, Box Office: 0131 226 2428

**For further information and interview requests, please contact James Seabright on 020 7439 1173 (June/July) or 07803 044008 (August) or [james@FestivalHighlights.com](mailto:james@FestivalHighlights.com)**

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