



EDINBURGH FESTIVAL FRINGE 2005
James Seabright for Festival Highlights presents

Squeeze Box

Written and performed by **Ann Randolph** Directed by **Alan Bailey**

EUROPEAN PREMIERE OF ONE-WOMAN COMEDY PRODUCED OFF-BROADWAY BY ANNE BANCROFT

American writer, performer and comedian Ann Randolph started her career with a live-in job at a women's shelter in Los Angeles, which allowed her to write and perform comedy with the residents. This led her to create *Squeeze Box*, a solo comedy weaving together stories about the people she met at the shelter with her experiences of searching for true love via the Web. Through the deliciously funny seventy-five minutes of this multi-character tour-de-force, Randolph reveals how she tried (and failed) to keep her relationship with the accordionist of her dreams at arm's length from the quite literally crazy world of her workplace.

Randolph's efforts were rewarded with the double crown of the **L.A. Weekly Theatre Award** and the **L.A. Times Ovation Award for Best Solo Performance**. Better still, one of her shows at the tiny Court Theatre in LA was seen by the late Anne Bancroft and her husband Mel Brooks. In a turn of events remarkably similar to the discovery of *My Big Fat Greek Wedding*, Bancroft and Brooks went backstage after the performance to ask Randolph if she would like to make the show into a movie. Unsurprisingly, the answer was yes, and they also agreed to stage the show off-Broadway at the Acorn Theatre, where it played a four-month season in 2004, marking Bancroft's first (and, sadly, only) theatre producing credit.

"When I first saw this production, I was deeply moved. Ann Randolph's amazing work, both as a writer and fellow performer, touched my heart and my mind so profoundly that I felt it belonged on the New York stage." *Anne Bancroft*

In a break from her busy touring schedule and preparations for the film version going into pre-production, Randolph now brings the show to the Edinburgh fringe for its European premiere. Whilst *Squeeze Box* features a dizzying array of characters and settings, Randolph will be travelling light, as these are all evoked without costume changes or props – although she does allow one of the shelter's residents, Irene, to pick up a guitar and sing a deliciously lewd song about her minister husband's extra-curricular activities.

"Now *Squeeze Box* has come to New York, and it's clear what Ms. Bancroft, now the show's producer, saw in it." *New York Times*

Ann Randolph is known across the USA for her outrageous physical comedy, inspired monologues, hilarious characters, and poignant storytelling. She was born and raised in Loveland, Ohio. After college, Randolph found herself living all over the country- Alaska, Boston, NYC, Santa Fe, and finally Los Angeles. She has appeared in countless shows, and has a Web site at www.annrandolph.com.

LISTINGS

Squeeze Box

Written & Performed by Ann Randolph; Directed by Alan Bailey

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

5-29 August 2005 (except 17 August) at **12.35pm** (1 hour 15 minutes)

Tickets £5 - £11, Box Office: 0131 226 2428

**For further information please contact James Seabright
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