



EDINBURGH FESTIVAL FRINGE 2005  
James Seabright for Festival Highlights presents

# How To Build A Time Machine

DEBUT SOLO DRAMA FROM FRINGE REGULAR GREG McLAREN

Greg McLaren is fast developing a reputation for creating ambitiously original productions on the fringe. He was seen in Edinburgh last year at the helm of *Lost Pirates*, which he also directed, co-wrote and memorably publicised on the streets of the city with the aid of his trusty accordion.

**"A born ringleader who uses the reanimation of old junk to catalyse imaginative activity.  
It's all about that thrilling moment where the utterly private collides with the irreducibly public"**

Chris Goode writing in *The Guardian* about *Lost Pirates*

This year, McLaren returns with his first one-man show, in which he has created the character of eccentric scientist Doctor Patrick Beer, whose personal and professional worlds movingly collide. Throughout this surreal and comic hour, the doctor jumps between a lecture-style evangelisation of the science that makes time travel possible and flashbacks that unveil other motivations behind his passionate interest in the field.

**"A treat for even the most cynical observer"** *Edinburgh Evening News* on *Lost Pirates*

Doctor Beer evokes the spirit of a Royal Institution Christmas lecture, as he uses his spectators to demonstrate the workings of string theory. Adding to the show's quirky appeal, a collection of cardboard takes shape as a prototype time machine through the performance, as the doctor tries new ways to get his message across. In this fascinating exploration of time travel, the universe and the heart, each is used to explain the other, showing how they are all connected.

**"Diverting on all kinds of levels"** *Financial Times* on *Napoleon In Exile*

McLaren and director Steve Brownlie have developed the teasingly funny yet moving script through preview performances at Chelsea Theatre's LIVE:05 season. They have tirelessly researched the subject matter and taken advice from leading scientific authorities to create a believable expert in the youthfully genial shape of Doctor Patrick Beer. This Edinburgh fringe run marks the show's world premiere.

**"Strong performances... McLaren gets comic mileage from both his roles"** *The Stage* on *WeePie*

**Greg McLaren** is a writer and performer who has worked extensively on the London and Edinburgh fringes. Last year's *Lost Pirates* was an acclaimed ensemble comedy drama with music. For the 2003 festival he created the role of the doctor in *Napoleon in Exile* at the Traverse Theatre, prior to a London transfer. He also won plaudits for his performance in *WeePie* at Camden People's Theatre in 2004.

**Steve Brownlie** trained at Mountview and divides his time between performing, directing and teaching theatre. At last year's Edinburgh fringe he performed in *When It's Ajar* at C Venues. At a previous festival he shared a Fringe First for the production *See Base Of Can*. Steve also has numerous provincial and London theatre credits, including productions at The Gate and the Royal Court under the direction of Rufus Norris.

## LISTINGS

### How To Build A Time Machine

Written and Performed by **Greg McLaren**

Directed by **Steve Brownlie**

At **Pleasance Courtyard (Venue 33)** 60 The Pleasance, Edinburgh EH8 9TJ (Sub-venue: Below)

**3-29 August 2005** (except 10 & 17 August) at **2.05pm** (1 hour)

Tickets £4 - £8.50, Box Office: 0131 556 6550

**For further information please contact James Seabright on  
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To download images please visit the show's page at [www.FestivalHighlights.com](http://www.FestivalHighlights.com)**