



EDINBURGH FESTIVAL FRINGE 2006 - MUSIC

Graffiti Classics

THE 'STAND-UP STRING QUARTET' PLAY
THEIR FIRST FULL FESTIVAL SEASON

Pleasance Dome (Venue 23)

6 - 28 August 2006 (not 16 August) 16.55 (18.00)



This internationally acclaimed 'stand-up string quartet' have been defying all preconceptions of how a classical group should behave since forming in 1997 from a group of young musicians who met whilst busking in London's Covent Garden. A brilliant command of their instruments is combined with an all-singing, all-dancing attack on an incredibly broad musical programme, ranging from renditions of Gershwin and McCartney to the more expected classical territory of Strauss and Ravel. Under the leadership of **Cathal O'Duill**, who plays double bass rather than the traditional quartet lynchpin of the cello, the group engage audiences of all ages with infectious comedy and playful interactions.

"A dazzling foursome with a quick fire concoction of dancing, singing and clowning, all done while they also get their virtuosic fingers around a repertoire running from madrigals and Mozart to tango and even a can-can. This show is a wonderful antidote for those who think that classical music is as staid as stained-glass." The Times, on Graffiti's last Edinburgh appearance in 2005

The group's extensive international touring work has so far included concerts for the Irish President, performances on board the QE2, and participation in Yehudi Menuin's *Live Music Now* scheme. Marking the start of more extensive work in theatre venues, Graffiti's first Edinburgh fringe appearance was in 2004. They played just four shows, yet word soon spread, resulting in sell-out audiences. This success story was repeated with a two week fringe season in 2005, which led to a sell-out tour of UK arts centres in the first half of 2006. This year marks their first visit for the duration of the festival, and their daily performances at Pleasance will be complemented by free High Street shows on most days.

"The most sensational string quartet on the Fringe. They combine superb classical music skills with inventive comedy and relentless dance energy." Daily Mail, on Graffiti's 2005 Edinburgh show

This year, the group have developed new material with acclaimed theatre director **Dominic Knutton**, founder of the Cornish Theatre Collective. His recent theatre credits include adapting the cult Paulo Coelho novel *The Alchemist*, featuring extensive use of original music played live. His enthusiasm for creating compelling, comedic performances make him an ideal collaborator for Graffiti Classics.

Graffiti Classics shows are devised and performed by **Cathal O'Duill** (double bass), **Bertie Anderson** (viola), **Alice Pratley** (violin), and **Bogdan Vacarescu** (violin) with direction by **Dominic Knutton**.

LISTINGS INFORMATION

Graffiti Classics at Pleasance Dome, Bristo Square. Sub-venue: QueenDome. Fringe Venue 23.

6 - 28 August 2006 (except 16 August) at 16.55 (18.00) £8.50/£7 (Monday-Thursday) £9.50/£8 (Friday-Sunday)

Box Office 0131 556 6550 www.pleasance.co.uk Fringe Box Office 0131 226 0000 www.edfringe.com

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For images please visit www.FestivalHighlights.com, for video samples www.GraffitiClassics.com