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NEW YORK SENSATION **TAYLOR MAC** MAKES HIS EDINBURGH DEBUT AT SMIRNOFF UNDERBELLY FROM AUGUST 3 - 27, 2006

8 June 2006 (New York, NY) – Legendary New York City performance artist, actor, and playwright, **Taylor Mac**, screams into Edinburgh this summer on (and in) the heels of rave reviews and sold-out houses throughout NYC. **Appearing nightly at 20.55 (55 mins) from August 3 – 27 at Smirnoff Underbelly's Baby Belly I, Mac promises to astound audiences with his unique and unforgettable musical reactions to popular culture and modern politics.**

A flamboyant chameleon of words, music, and sociopolitical tirades, visual and vocal phenomenon Mac employs gender-bending surrealism to explore the human condition and challenge society's adoration of conformity -- oh, and he plays the ukulele. Obie Award-winner **David Drake** (*The Night Larry Kramer Kissed Me*) directs.

The *New York Post* called Mac "One of the best things on the stage in New York." *Next* magazine raves that Mac is "By turns (and sometimes all at once) filthy, hilarious, heartfelt, sentimental, raw, and genuinely moving...attacking it all with smarts, style, and a stark-raving fabulousness."

Taylor Mac's broad experience as a performer has brought him to venues ranging from The San Francisco Opera House to the legendary New York music venue CBGB's, and he has shared bills with artists ranging from **Tommy Tune** to punk music icon **Nina Hagen**. As an actor Taylor has worked opposite **C. Thomas Howell** in the Sci-Fi Channel's original feature *Crimson Force* and has originated over a dozen roles in premieres of plays and musicals, most recently at The Flea in **Elizabeth Swados's JABU**.

Mac's myriad awards include PS 122's **Ethyl Eichelberger Award** for artistic excellence, an **Edward Albee Foundation Residency**, a **Peter S. Reed Grant**, **The Ensemble Studio Theater's New Voices Fellowship in Playwriting**, a commission from **Dixon Place**, and both a **HERE Arts Center Supported Artist's Residency** and a **HERE Arts Resident Program Development Fellowship**, making him one of the most-celebrated performance artists of the 21st century.

Mac's original musical, *Red Tide Blooming*, recently premiered at New York's PS 122, where Martin Denton of nytheatre.com raved: "*Red Tide Blooming* is the show you've been waiting for. This terrific new work —by turns sexy, hilarious, subversive, scary, and Ridiculous (with a capital "R")—is thrilling... Best of all, it's never dumb, never ironic, never campy, and never recursively meta-theatrically self-aware. I loved it." For information about Taylor's other shows, visit www.taylormac.net.

Taylor Mac

Directed by **David Drake**

At the **Smirnoff Baby Belly (Venue 61)** Niddry Street off Cowgate, Edinburgh (sub-venue: 1)

3 – 27 August 2006 (except 15/8) at 20.55 (55 mins)

Tickets **£9.00 (£8 concs)** Mondays thru Wednesdays, **£10.00 (£9 concs)** Thursdays thru Sundays.

Preview performances 2-for-1. For tickets, call the Underbelly Box Office at 0870 745 3083.

For more information, e-mail press@paullucasproductions.com, or telephone 1.646.286.3625 (through July 27) or 07756 050 061 (from July 27), or visit www.paullucasproductions.com. For Press Tickets, call the Underbelly Press Office at 0870 745 3078.