



EDINBURGH FESTIVAL FRINGE 2008 - [MUSIC](#)

James Seabright for Festival Highlights presents

## David Benson Sings Noël Coward

Written and performed by David Benson.

Musical staging and piano accompaniment by Stewart Nicholls.

Assembly at George Street, 1 - 25 August (not 13 August) 3.40pm - 4.40 pm



Returning to the character he played in BBC series *Goodnight Sweetheart*, Fringe First award-winner Benson takes on Coward's masterful songbook. This brand new show promises Benson at his best as singer, impersonator, host and raconteur. With eight solo shows and over a decade's experience of the fringe, Benson has a proven ability to sensitively portray some of the most famous performers of our time whilst offering new insight, dark humour and plentiful entertainment.

*'There are actors, comedians, singers- and then there is Benson, a theatrical enigma who does it all, with a cheeky smile.'* [EdinburghGuide.com](#)

When David was twelve years old his grandfather gave him a 78rpm record of Coward singing his comic patter song *The Stately Homes of England*. He was immediately hooked. Now at last he is set to indulge his life-long passion for these songs with this sparkling tribute to The Master. Featured songs include *Mad Dogs and Englishmen*, *London Pride*, *Mad About the Boy*, *I'll See You Again*, *If Love Were All*, and *Mrs. Worthington*.

*'Masterful comic insight. And he can sing, the swine. Miss at your peril.'* [The Independent](#)

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, played a West End season and continues to tour nationally. Since then he has returned to the festival with shows including *Nothing But Pleasure* (1998); *To Be Frank* (2001); *Star Struck* (2003); *David Benson's Haunted Stage* (2004); *Conspiracy Cabaret* (2005); and *Why Pay More?* (2006) which won him a Stage nomination for Best Solo Performance. 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). He premiered his Christmas show *David Benson's Christmas Party* at Salisbury Playhouse in December 2006, which toured and played West End dates over Christmas 2007 - and will do so again this year.

Noël Coward was a writer, composer, performer and director. Born in Teddington, Middlesex in 1856, he began acting in the West-End at an early age and was famed on both sides of the Atlantic for his flamboyant lifestyle as well as his singing, acting, films, plays and music. During World War II, whilst seemingly living a luxurious and glamorous life, for which he was criticised, he was engaged for intelligence work by the Secret Service. Coward wrote and released some very popular songs during the war, the most famous of which are *London Pride* and *Don't Let's Be Beastly To The Germans*. He passed away in 1973 but his work continues to be seen and reimagined today, most notably recently with the West End production of *Brief Encounter* by Kneehigh Theatre.

LISTINGS INFORMATION - David Benson Sings Noel Coward

Assembly at George Street: Fringe Venue 3, Sub-venue: Supper Room

1 -25 August except 13 August, 3.40pm - 4.40pm

Tickets: £5 preview 1 August. Otherwise £10 - £11 (concessions £1 off).

Box office 0131 623 3030 [www.AssemblyFestival.com](http://www.AssemblyFestival.com)

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For all press enquiries and ticket requests, please contact Festival Highlights:

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For images please visit [www.FestivalHighlights.com](http://www.FestivalHighlights.com) / For more on David Benson see [www.DavidBenson.info](http://www.DavidBenson.info)