



EDINBURGH FESTIVAL FRINGE 2009

James Seabright for Festival Highlights presents

DAVID BENSON SINGS NOËL COWARD

Performed by David Benson. Piano by Stewart Nicholls.
Assembly Rooms, George Street (Fringe Venue 3)
6 - 21 August (not 12 August) 3.20 pm - 4.30 pm

In this limited-run revival of an extended version of his hit Edinburgh 2008 show, David Benson is at his best as singer, impersonator, host and raconteur.

Following an acclaimed international tour since the fringe premiere of the show last August, Benson returns to delight Edinburgh audiences in this fresh look at the Coward songbook. With ten solo shows in his repertoire 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.

Alongside Coward expert Stewart Nicholls on piano, Benson indulges his life-long passion for these songs with a sparkling tribute to The Master, featuring both old favourites and forgotten gems unearthed from the archives especially for the show. Featured numbers include *Mad Dogs and Englishmen*, *London Pride*, *Mad About the Boy*, *I'll See You Again*, *If Love Were All*, and *Mrs. Worthington*.

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 and UK touring production of *Brief Encounter* by Kneehigh Theatre.

'David Benson has struck gold again, this time raiding Noel Coward's songbook. He becomes the master as he sings.' Dominic Cavendish, Daily Telegraph

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. He has also performed in ensemble shows including *Latin!* (Kings Head) and *Loot* (Derby), as well as directing projects including *My Grandfather's Great War*. David also presents a brand new show at Assembly for the 2009 fringe: *Doctor Whom? My Search For Samuel Johnson*.

LISTINGS INFORMATION: David Benson Sings Noël Coward

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

6 - 21 August (except 12 August) 3.20pm - 4.30pm

£5 preview 6 August, Otherwise £11 - £12 (concessions £1 off)

Box Office 0131 623 3030/www.assemblyfestival.com.

Fringe Box Office 0131 226 0000/www.edfringe.com

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