



EDINBURGH FRINGE 2009 - THEATRE

James Seabright for Festival Highlights presents

NUN THE WISER

Written and performed by Triona Adams
Directed by Owen Lewis

Gilded Balloon Teviot
5 - 31 August (not 12 or 19) 3.45 pm - 4.45 pm

The true story of a showbiz agent who swapped premieres for prayers, and spent a year in a convent trying to be holy. Sister Triona reveals what really goes on underneath the habit.

When she was 26, Triona Adams gave up a glitzy career as a theatrical agent in order to become a nun in an enclosed Benedictine convent. She spent a year there. This show recounts the bittersweet, comic story of a modern, emancipated woman trying to become a nun. It turned out she was not a natural.

Living with 13 strong-minded women, ages ranging from 54 to 100, Triona plunged into a way of life designed over a century ago and discovered, the hard way, how modern women's values, intellect and spirituality can both collide and harmonise with a more ancient way of female life - and how extraordinary relationships can be formed as a result. On a diet of Spam fritters and Dad's Army, cut off from the rest of the world, her story also has its funny side.

With reality TV probing into even our police cells and hospital operating theatres, *Nun The Wiser* offers a unique glimpse behind one of the very last of society's closed doors. With convents closing and vocations at an all-time low, does the 21st century convent have a place in our future? And what of the women who have dedicated their lives to the Christian faith as nuns?

BBC Radio 4 commissioned a play about Triona's time as a nun - *The Lemon Squeezer* - which aired on March 3 2009 as The Afternoon Play. She has since developed this theatrical version of her story for solo performance and premieres it at the fringe this August.

Director Owen Lewis' Edinburgh credits include Stewart Lee's Late But Live shows: *Johnson & Boswell* and *Elizabeth & Raleigh* (Traverse 2007, Underbelly 2009 respectively); and *Loaded* with Scott Capurro (Pleasance). He directed the recent national tour of *Grumpy Old Women 2* (UK tour 2009); and other credits include *Pete and Dud: Come Again* (West End & UK tour); and *The Lady Of Burma* (Riverside Studios and tour).

LISTINGS INFORMATION: Nun The Wiser by Triona Adams

Gilded Balloon Teviot. Fringe venue 14, Sub-venue: Balcony

5 - 31 August (not 12 & 19) 3.45pm - 4.45pm

£5 previews 5 - 7 August Otherwise £8.50 - £9.50 (concessions £1 off)

Box Office 0131 622 6552/www.gildedballoon.co.uk. Fringe Box Office 0131 226 0000/www.edfringe.com

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