THEATRE TOURS INTERNATIONAL

TOURING THEATRE THROUGHOUT THE UK, EUROPE AND THE WORLD

Edinburgh Fringe Festival News

25th ANNIVERSARY!

Theatre Tours International Ltd – GUY MASTERSON in association with Passion Pit Theatre and J Productions (Milan) proudly presents:

Show Title: **SCARAMOUCHE JONES**
Co-written & performed **by Mike Hatchard**
Co-written & directed by **Guy Masterson**

Venue: **Assembly George Street – Bijou Tent**
Time: **16:10 (90mins)**
Dates: **6th – 30th August** (not 12th)

Celebrating its 25th Anniversary, Centenarian clown Scaramouche, once again, odysseys through crumbling empires, comic misadventures, the 20th century's darkest episodes, the ecstasies and tragedies beneath his seven white masks.
'Masterpiece of solo magic realism' (British Theatre Guide)
Writer/performer Justin Butcher – winner of the 2022 Offie Best Actor award, is directed by Guy Masterson, Olivier winner for *'Morecambe'* who also directed the 2019 EdFringe/West End/Broadway hit, *'The Shark Is Broken'*.

Scaramouche Jones was originally conceived by Justin Butcher in 1999 as a solo vehicle - an epic tale of an Albino Trinidadian born on the cusp of the 20th Century, who embarks on a non-voluntary voyage for 50 years witnessing some of the early century's most significant moments... only to resolve to live his final 50 years as a silent clown.

The play was first broadcast in 2000 on the BBC read by Warren Mitchell, and was then first produced by the Bristol Old Vic with the late Pete Postlethwaite, directed by Rupert Goold. After Pete became ill in 2008, Justin finally approached Guy Masterson to co-produce and direct himself in the role.

Masterson says: *"The moment Justin opened his mouth in the first rehearsal, I knew exactly why he wrote it... Not only did the words sing, he knew them perfectly and his actor's body was fully in tune with them. He was a director's dream!"*

The show was a huge hit at Edfringe 2008, and they returned for a single gala performance in the Assembly Music Hall the following year. Since then, they have taken the show to the USA, Malta Italy, Australia and all over Mexico, and have further collaborated on *The Devil's Passion* – which played in EdFringe 2023.

This year Guy will also be presenting:

THE TAO OF LLOYD
Assembly Rooms - Drawing Room
12:25 (60mins) Aug 6-30th (not 12th)

LUDWIG: **Unfinished Business**
Assembly Rooms: Front Room
Time: 12:35 (60mins)
Aug 6-30th (not 12th)

11½ ANGRY MEN
Pleasance EICC - Pentland Theatre
14:30 (80 mins) Aug 5-22nd (not 9th)

CALL ME ELIZABETH
Assembly George Square Studios: Studio 2
15.30 (60mins) Aug 5-30th (not 12th)
NB: plays alternate days in two halves:
Part 1 **From Lassie to Cleopatra** (on odd numbered days)
Part 2 **From Burton to Humanitarian** (on even numbered days)

www.theatretoursinternational.com **www.instagram.com/theatretours**

www.instagram.com/guymasterson **www.facebook.com/TheatreToursInt**

www.edfringe.com

For more information, please call Assembly PR

JUSTIN BUTCHER (WRITER/PERFORMER/PRODUCER)
Justin read Classics at Oxford, trained subsequently at Drama Studio London, and has worked all over the world as playwright, actor, director, musician and producer in theatre, film, TV and radio, and as creative consultant to the business, government and voluntary sectors across the UK, Europe, Middle East and East Africa. Writing credits include the multi-award winning play *Scaramouche Jones*, originally starring Pete Postlethwaite and directed by Rupert Goold the 2003, reproduced in 2008 until the present with himself in the titular role, directed by Guy Masterson; West End hit satire *The Madness of George Dubya* and its sequels *A Weapons Inspector Calls* and *Guantanamo Baywatch*, the *acclaimed Go To Gaza, Drink The Sea* and six plays for BBC radio. His critically renowned satirical reworking of the Easter story, *The Devil's Passion,* performed by himself in 2015 and directed by Guy *Masterson* and was broadcast in 2017 on BBC Radio 3, with David Suchet in the title role. The play has been touring the UK, Europe and Australia since. His recent adaptation of Stanislav Stratiev's Cold War satire *The Roman Bath* for the Arcola Theatre was praised by Michael Billington in The Guardian and Michael Coveney in The Independent for introducing UK audiences to the work of a major Eastern European satirical writer. His music drama, *Freedom Song*, co-written with composer Harvey Brough, telling the amazing story of the Fisk Jubilee Singers and the birth of gospel music, premiered at the Hackney Empire in 2019. Other music collaborations with Harvey Brough include *Music on the Mind* (Shoreditch Town Hall) and *The Sun Does Shine* (premieres at Hackney Empire in 2024). His other plays for BBC Radio include *The Man on the Pillar*, *Chukwudebelu - Preserved of God* (co-written with Ben Okafor), *The Patience of Mr Job* and *Escape from Gaza* (co-written with Ahmed Masoud). As actor, he has worked all over the world in theatre, film, TV and radio, with credits including *Electric Dreams*: *Impossible Planet* (Channel 4/Amazon US, directed by David Farr), *Walking Back To Jerusalem* (film for Amos Trust with New Theatre, Dublin) *Let Me Go* (award-winning new feature film, starring Juliet Stevenson, directed by Polly Steele), *Mary Barton* (BBC Radio 4), *Fritters, Blinis & Bristin*: comedies by Chekhov & Dario Fo (Teatro Filodrammatici, Milan, & Theatro Technis, London) *Shakespeare in Italy* (Volterra International Festival Teatro Romano) *Dream School* (The Space, London), *Walking to Jerusalem* (Dublin Theatre Festival & UK tour), *Zindabad* (Yvonne Arnaud, Guildford), *The Taming of the Shrew* (Nottingham Playhouse), *The End of the Affair* (Salisbury Playhouse), *Buddy* (Victoria Palace & Strand Theatres) and his own ongoing touring productions of *Scaramouche Jones* and *The Devil's Passion*, both directed by Olivier Award winner, Guy Masterson, which have toured across the UK, Australia, Italy, Malta and Mexico since 2008. He won the 2022 OFFIE (Off West End) Best Actors' Award for his performance in *Scaramouche Jones* at the Wilton's Music Hall, London. He has collaborated with some of the UK's most celebrated creative practitioners, including Lucy Bailey, David Farr, Rupert Goold, Tamsin Grieg, Jeremy Hardy, Nigel Kennedy, Warren Mitchell, Pete Postlethwaite and David Suchet. In partnership with J.Productions, Milan, he produced and directed the acclaimed *Speaking Dante* performance in Florence, September 2021, a dramatised reading of the whole of *Dante's Divine Comedy* on the 700th anniversary of the poet's death, with an international cast led by Ralph Fiennes, Helen Mirren, Jessie Buckley and Adjoa Andoh, in support of Italian refugee charity, La Comunità di Sant'Egidio. His creative work in human rights advocacy includes producing and directing the Trade Justice Vigil at Westminster Abbey, for the 2005 Make Poverty History campaign, featuring Adjoa Andoh, Jools Holland & Beverley Knight, Ronan Keating, Damian Lewis, Pete Postlethwaite and Vanessa Redgrave, the hugely successful Bethlehem Unwrapped festival, built around a full-scale replica of the Separation Wall in central London at Christmas 2013, with a star line-up including Nigel Kennedy, the Tallis Scholars, Yotam Ottolenghi and Sami Tamimi, Jeremy Hardy, Mark Steel, Rafeef Ziadah and Dizraeli; his acclaimed book, *Walking To Jerusalem: Blisters, hope and other facts on the ground* telling the story of his 2017 walk from London to Jerusalem, in partnership with Amos Trust, calling for equal rights in the Holy Land
He has worked extensively as creative consultant in the business, government and voluntary sectors, across the UK and Europe, Russia, the Middle East and Africa. He is an Associate of leadership development consultancy Waverley Learning, with whom he's worked for over 20 years.
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GUY MASTERSON (CO-WRITER/DIRECTOR & PRODUCER) is a UCLA & LAMDA trained actor, director, writer and theatre producer of 40 years. A 32-year veteran of the Edinburgh Fringe, his company, Theatre Tours International has presented over 150 predominantly new works and associated with several of its biggest hits including *12 Angry Men* (2003); *One Flew Over The Cuckoo's Nest* (2004) with Christian Slater and *The Odd Couple* (2005) with Bill Bailey. He produced & directed the Olivier Award winning *Morecambe* (2009), and the Olivier nominated *The Shark Is Broken* (2019) which transferred to the West End in 2021 and then Broadway in 2023. He has also performed 11 solo works, most notably *Under Milk Wood, Animal Farm, Shylock* and *A Christmas Carol* in over 5000 performances globally since 1991. He received The Stage Best Actor Award at EdFringe 2001 for *Fern Hill & Other Dylan Thomas* and has received a further 4 nominations for his solo work. He has also directed many other award-winning solos including Rebecca Vaughan's A*usten's Women*, Pip Utton's *Adolf*, Owen O'Neill's *Absolution*, and Peter Tate's *Picasso: Le Monstre Sacré* (among many others) all of which continue to tour after many years. He is 27 years married to Brigitta and father to Indigo and Tallulah.