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THEATRE TOURS INTERNATIONAL

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Edinburgh Fringe Festival News

WORLDWIDE PREMIÈRE

Theatre Tours International Ltd – GUY MASTERSON proudly presents:

Show Title: **LUDWIG: UNFINISHED BUSINESS**
Co-written & performed **by Mike Hatchard**
Co-written & directed by **Guy Masterson**

Venue: **Assembly George Street - Front Room**
Time: **12:35 (60mins)**
Dates: **6th – 30th August** (not 12th)

Pushed by his relentlessly ambitious father as *'Ze next Mozart!',* Beethoven reincarnates *'to put ze record straight!'* Combining virtuoso pianism with Teutonic stand-up, concert pianist, Mike Hatchard, gives Ludwig a voice as he vents about life, death, music, Mozart, Bach, Chuck Berry, and his wretched final sonata. Directed by Olivier winner for *'Morecambe'*, Guy Masterson (The Shark Is Broken)

'Ludwig: Unfinished Business' makes its worldwide première at this year's Edinburgh Fringe at the Assembly Front Room for the month of August. Written by Guy Masterson & Mike Hatchard and directed by Masterson and performed by Hatchard, this show is a comedic, virtuosic homage to the international legendary composer Beethoven!

Beethoven has unfinished business! Pushed by his relentlessly ambitious father as *"Ze next Mozart!"*, battling a broken heart, broken body, broken ears, and nearing his demise, Ludwig reincarnates to *"Put ze record straight!"*

Combining virtuoso pianism with Teutonic stand-up, concert pianist Mike Hatchard provides a hilarious insight into the 'Mad Pounder' as he tries to come to terms with life, music, Amadeus, Johann Sebastian, Chuck Berry, and his wretched final sonata.

Guy and Mike met working on a variety show at the BBC in 1991 and then discovered that their respective partners were working together on a West End show! Guy casually remarked: *"Crikey, you look like Beethoven!"* upon which, Mike Hatchard, a virtuoso concert pianist riffed off a medley of well-known Beethoven themes! Guy said... *"There's a show in that!"* Cut to 2026, out touch for over 30 years, Mike calls Guy; *"I'm ready!"*.

Masterson says: *"My father was a Julliard trained violinist with the NY Philharmonic. I've been around top musicians all my life. Mike is a natural comedian and a damned fine pianist. ... You just know when something is a good idea! He was born to play Beethoven... (Er... did you not know that Beethoven was a really funny guy?)"* And that's the story!

MIKE HATCHARD (CO-WRITER/PERFORMER) - showed early promise when he was a joint winner of the Bournemouth Music Festival Composer's Competition aged 11. By 14 he secured a residency on the Costa Dorada. He took a music degree in Colchester and a postgrad at the Royal College of Music where he studied composition under Philip Cannon and piano under Peter Wallfisch. He redeemed his performing career by joining the National Youth Jazz Orchestra. In his early twenties he toured America and Europe accompanying Cleo Laine on piano and became Matt Monro's youngest ever musical director. Subsequently he worked with artists as varied as Maxine Daniels, Johnny Van Derrick, Salena Jones, Tina May and David Essex. Touring with Freddy Starr and becoming musical director to Pamela Stephenson he took an interest in comedy and performed his own shows on the circuit as 'Marvin Hanglider' which led to co-writing songs with Frankie Howerd and Spike Milligan. He performed hundreds of concerts with Herbie Flowers including the Southbank and sell-out concerts at the Edinburgh Festival. Mike has written three musicals including the Mayor Of Casterbridge (Harry Secombe Centre, Sutton and George Square Theatre, Edinburgh), an adaptation of Thomas Hardy's novel which is being revived for inclusion in this year's Wordfest Festival in Shoreham this September. A helpless (but harmless) eccentric he celebrated his sixtieth birthday by cycling 1400 miles towing an electric piano from Land's End to John O'Groats raising money for Children in Need and last year appeared on the TV show playing the violin upside-down. In spite of all this compulsive versatility Mike is still obsessive about playing the piano, often practicing up to eight hours in a day on his beloved reconditioned century old Steinway Grand, and always setting new musical goals for himself.

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), *The Shark Is Broken* (2019) which transferred to the West End in 2021 and then Broadway in 2023. He 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 Ed Fringe 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 Justin Butcher's *Scaramouche Jones*, Rebecca Vaughan's A*usten's Women*, Pip Utton's *Adolf*, Owen O'Neill's *Absolution*, and Peter Tate's *Picasso: Le Monstre Sacré,* all of which continue to tour after many years. He is 27 years married to Brigitta, and father to Indigo and Tallulah.

This year Guy will also be directing & presenting:

THE TAO OF LLOYD
Assembly Rooms - Drawing Room
12:25 (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 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)

SCARAMOUCHE JONES: 25th Anniversary Edition
Assembly Rooms - Bijou Tent)
16:10 (90mins) Aug 6-30th (not 12th)

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