



VENUE: BIG BELLY, UNDERBELLY,
COWGATE, VENUE 61
DATES: 4TH-28TH (NOT 15TH)
TIME: 20.05 (21.20 FINISH)
BOX OFFICE: 0844 545 8252
PRICES: PREVIEWS: 4TH-5TH (£6)
OFF-PEAK: (£9.50/£8.50)
PEAK: (£10.50/£9.50)
2FOR1: 8TH & 9TH

PRESS RELEASE

THE ZANNISKINHEADS AND THE QUEST FOR THE HOLY BALLS

16TH CENTURY MASKS GET 21ST CENTURY FACE LIFT



THE ZANNISKINHEADS AND THE QUEST FOR THE HOLY BALLS receives its UK premiere this summer in the Underbelly's Big Belly at the Edinburgh Fringe. An international collaboration led by Slingshot Theatre present this ballsy & unique modern take on the Renaissance comic form: the Commedia dell'Arte. Directed by world-renowned Commedia artist Antonio Fava, who is also responsible for the beautifully crafted bulbous white leather masks, Zanniskinheads is performed by comic duo Christopher Hawes and Jean-Luc Grandin in an intriguing cocktail of English and French (plus some Spanish & German!).



The show features Peenut and Ribbòn, two idiotic hooligans prone to bouts of shouting, smashing, and irreverent gesturing. Passionate members of the self-marginalised social group, the 'Zanniskinheads', the two comrades are charged with the mission of retrieving the recently stolen Zanniskinhead grail, the Holy Balls (sheathed in the Holy Ball Bag). A cataclysmic globetrotting pursuit unravels, leaving a wake of destruction and offense. With neither a brain cell nor common language between them, success seems unlikely at best.



After receiving it's World Premiere at the Theatrum Comicum Festival in Geneva last November, the show now tours the UK throughout 2011. Slingshot & Co have managed that rare feat of maintaining high production values on a shoestring budget, including an impressive backdrop painted by Lewis Campbell (aka Lost Monkey) and Peenut and Ribbon's fantastically crafted pet, 'Cimota' the atomic bomb.

Commedia is very old, but Zanniskinheads is something utterly new. Fully embracing a contemporary audience, the show combines slapstick, stand-up, storytelling and social commentary, whilst bravely maintaining Commedia's Renaissance traditions. The modern masks echo their ancestors - made using traditional methods, slapsticks still feature but looking more like riot weapons, comic violence remains throughout, and gaudy harlequin patterns give way to Dr. Martens and leather jackets. Loud, rude, joyous, irreverent, violent & triumphant: a must see of the festival in 2011.

HIGH RESOLUTIONS IMAGES AVAILABLE AT:
WWW.SLINGSHOT-THEATRE.COM

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