

*Milk Presents in association with Derby Theatre*



Written and directed by Lucy J Skilbeck (BBC Legacy Award)

Performed by Lucy Jane Parkinson (Drag Idol Winner 2014)



The Scotsman\*\*\*\*

The Stage\*\*\*\*

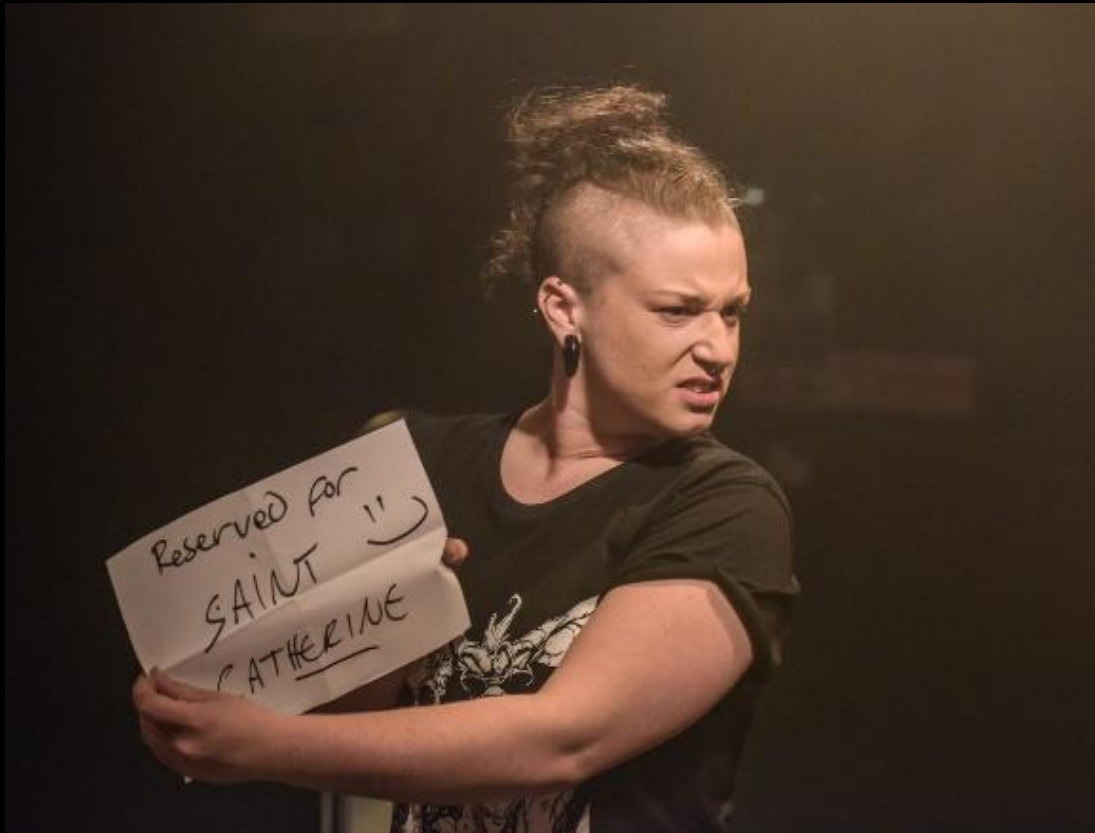
Grumpy Gay Critic\*\*\*\*\*



Broadway Baby\*\*\*\*

Fest Mag\*\*\*\*\*

British Theatre Guide\*\*\*\*



*"A bruising, brilliant show"* Fest Mag

Put your drinks down and your hands together, 600 years in the making and all the way from Domremy in France (with a bit of hard graft in the clubs of Soho) please welcome...JOAN!

Packed with guts, heart and some well-placed cous-cous, JOAN is the latest enterprising fusion of lyrical new writing and anarchic cabaret from the multi-award winning Milk Presents.

*"Theatre that flies in the face of convention"* The Stage

An earthy story of courage and conviction, hope and survival and a whole lot of love, this is Joan of Arc - possibly the world's first drag king.

A solo show performed by international Drag King Champion Lucy Jane Parkinson, JOAN combines their quick wit and cabaret prowess with Lucy J Skilbeck's inspired poetic text.

What happens when a disguise soon becomes something a lot more real and you have to fight for who you really are? Following an **award winning, critically acclaimed** run at the Edinburgh Fringe 2016, Milk Presents bring you a fearless new show about what it means to stand out, stand up and stand alone.

*"Powerful, dynamic and irreverent"* The Scotsman

A figure of both history and legend, the tale of Joan of Arc has spoken to a huge breadth of people for centuries. This is a timely and refreshing look at one of history's most famous heroines – exploring the salient themes of identity, courage and belief. JOAN is a drag King theatre show that aims to introduce new audiences to this ever-growing underground art form, placing it within theatre spaces and community settings. Drag Queens have long been at the forefront experimental performance and popular entertainment, but Kings (female to male performers) are quickly catching up. This show resonates with an ever-growing dialogue about gender and sexuality and the need to represent a wider demographic in our society.

Watch a short trailer for JOAN [here](#) Find out more about Lucy Jane Parkinson as a Drag King [here](#)

JOAN previewed at Derby Theatre and has toured the UK including Battersea Arts Centre, Brighton Fringe and a critically acclaimed Edinburgh Festival run. The original production and tour was generously supported by Arts Council England, Derby Theatre and BBC Performing Arts and Legacy fund and co-produced in Edinburgh by Derby Theatre and Underbelly Untapped.

*"Comic fizz, emotional ballast and cross-dressing that looks like sorcery"* The Guardian

#### Cast and Creative Team

Lucy Jane Parkinson	Joan
Lucy J Skilbeck	Writer / Director / Composer
Emma Bailey	Designer
Lu Kemp	Dramaturg
Joshua Pharo/	Lighting Designer
Sarah Readman/	
Al Orange	
David Lewington	Sound Designer and Musical Arrangement
Adam Robertson	Deviser / Production Manager
Al Orange	Tour Production Manager
Ruby Glaskin	Producer



*"Thoroughly entertaining, cleverly written and immaculately performed"* Broadway Baby

## Technical Requirements

Suitable for studio theatres, pubs, halls and smaller informal theatre spaces.

Fully self-sufficient for small venues and also able to fill larger scale spaces:

- Company tour with 24 high chairs for audience seating, venue required to provide additional audience seating
- Company tour with floor standing lighting rig. Additional Lighting Plan available for theatre studios with lighting rigs
- Small set – 4x wooden crates, 4x mirrors, 4x tables
  - o For international touring, the show will not need freight, set to be sourced on site.

Same day get-in (6hour min)

Playing space 3.5m wide, staged in the round

Sound system/playback provided by venue but negotiable depending on venue circumstances.

70 mins duration (no interval)

## Target Audiences (14+)

We make playful, socially engaged work that aims to reach everybody, however in particular the show suits:

- o Those interested in Joan of Arc and contemporary takes on European history
- o LGBTQ+ communities and those interested in feminist politics and gender identity
- o FE & HE students in Contemporary Theatre, Performance and social studies
- o Other theatre and performance artists
- o Cabaret audiences



## Accessibility

Every show during the Edinburgh Festival was captioned using the Difference Engine, making it accessible for Deaf and hard of hearing audiences, as well as those who struggle with spoken English.

The Difference Engine is a pioneering access system, developed by Talking Birds Theatre Company, to provide accessible captioning for experimental, small scale and site-specific performance. It broadcasts captions (and potentially much more) to smart phones and tablets. If you would like to know more about the Difference Engine or would like to discuss this as an option when programming JOAN at your venue then we'd love to hear from you.

*"Beautiful and Lyrical...a rightly reclaimed Martyrdom"*

Exeunt Magazine

## The Company

Established in 2010 Milk Presents make performance that challenges gender, sexuality and social ideals in entertaining and accessible forms. *Bluebeard: A Fairytale for Adults* (2011) explored our western obsession with a 'happy ever after', *A Real Man's Guide to Sainthood* (2013) looked at modern masculinity and depression, and *Milk Presents: Self Service* (2014) playfully unpicked queer politics.

Please contact producer Ruby Glaskin for more information:

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