LIAM RUDDEN – MUST SEE THEATRE

Edinburgh's Mr Entertainment picks his Hot Tickets to see in the Capital and beyond

&Juliet but no Romeo

November brings plonkers, Juliet without Romeo, dalmatians, a Treasure Island and the Ugly Sisters to the Capital's stages. It's nearly that time again, oh, yes it is! - but first...

Confession time! I never understood all the love for Only Fools and Horses when it was one of the highest rated sitcoms on the box. So I'm curious to see how well Only Fools And Horses The Musical (5-9 November) goes down at The Playhouse where fans will have a chance to meet the cast including Del Boy, Rodney, Grandad, Cassandra, Raquel, Boycie, Marlene, Trigger, Denzil and Mickey Pearce in the flesh.

Yes, it's time to stick a pony in your pocket as The Trotters come to Edinburgh. They arrive here on the back of a record-breaking four-year sold-out run-in London's West End. Based on John Sullivan's legendary television show.

The musical has a script and original score by John's son, Jim Sullivan, and finds Paul Whitehouse of The Fast Show fame reprising his role as Grandad. Love is in the air in Peckham and you can bet that with 20 songs, including some from Chas & Dave, the show will be a cushty, Cockney, 42 carat knees-up. As the publicity blurb says, "Only a plonker would miss it".

Running time 2 hours 20 minutes, including interval, tickets £25-£103 from **https://www.atgtickets.com/shows/only-fools-and-horses-the-musical/edinburgh-playhouse/**

Staying with The Playhouse, where they have three big titles programmed for November, &Juliet (12-16 November) begins where Shakespeare's Romeo & Juliet left off, revealing what might have happened had the young Juliet Capulet not ended her life over the loss of her Montague lover. For this Juliet, life after Romeo includes a score of pop anthems such as Britney Spears' Baby One More Time, Katy Perry's Roar, Backstreet Boys' Everybody and more. Created by David West Read, the Emmy-winning writer of Schitt's Creek, this comedy musical looks certain to flip the greatest love story ever told on its head.

Running time 2 hours 30 minutes, including interval, tickets available from £22-£76.50 from **https://www.atgtickets.com/shows/and-juliet/edinburgh-playhouse/**

Later in the month, take Steps to The Playhouse again as pop princess turned musical theatre favourite, Faye Tozer, returns to Edinburgh to play Cruella de Vil in Dodie Smith's much loved tale of 101 Dalmatians (19-23 November). When fashionista Cruella de Vil plots to swipe all the Dalmatian puppies to create her fabulous new fur coat, there's trouble ahead for Pongo and Perdi and their litter of young pups. Suitable for ages 5+. Fans of Steps should note that Tozer will not perform on 19 November.

Running time 2 hours 20 minutes, including interval, tickets £13-£65 from **https://www.atgtickets.com/shows/101-dalmatians/edinburgh-playhouse/**

If you're planning a theatre break this month, my Must See recommendation stars one of the finest actors of his generation, and was the reason I popped aboard Lumo's Edinburgh to London service to check it out. Big shout to Lumo for sponsoring my trip, with a journey time of just four hours 23 minutes, you could technically nip down to London for a matinee and be back the same day. Times and prices can be found at **www.Lumo.co.uk**

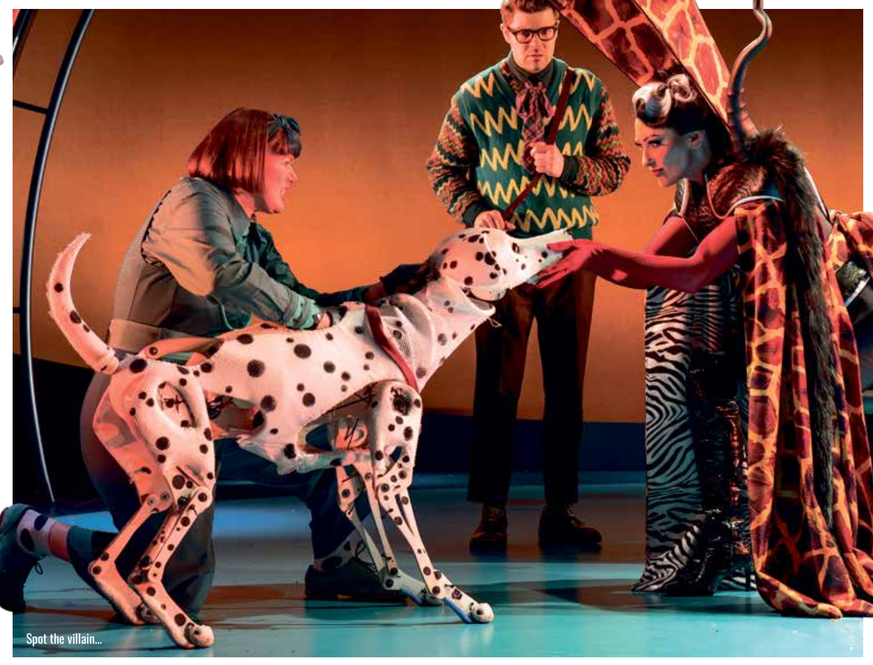
Waiting For Godot, at London's Theatre Royal Haymarket, finds Ben Whishaw, star of stage and screen, and the voice of Paddington, teamed up with Lucian Msamati, best known as Game of Thrones' Sallhad Saan, as the famed couple in this production of Samuel Beckett's masterpiece from award-winning director, James Macdonald. In the play, Didi and Gogo wait by a tree for a man named Godot. They don't know who he is, why they are meeting or what time he is coming, only that something incredible could happen when he does. Witty and absurd, poignant and profound, Beckett's timeless take on what it means to be human is regarded as a defining work of the 20th century by many. This production plays for a strictly limited run, ending 21 December. You can read my review on **mustseetheatre.com**

Godot stars Lucian Msamati and Ben Whishaw

Running Time 2 hours and 45 minutes, including a 20 minute interval, tickets £15-£150 from **https://trh.co.uk/whatson/waiting-for-godot/**

It almost seems too early to use the C word but before the month is out at least two Edinburgh theatres will have opened their Christmas shows. For December's column in The Edinburgh Reporter I'll be pulling together a Must See Christmas Show list but for those eager to get in the festive spirit earlier, the Festival Theatre once again hosts The King's panto during the Old Lady of Leven Street's redevelopment. This year, returning favourites Allan Stewart, Grant Stott and Jordan Young tackle the most magical panto of them all once more, Cinderella (23 November 2024-31 December 2025). Featuring the usual mix of gags, word plays, stunning scenery, fab costumes, boos and hisses, and perhaps a few surprises along the way as Cinders, as always, goes from rags to riches as she outwits her wicked stepmother and ugly sisters. Oh, yes she does!

Land ahoy!



Spot the villain...

Running time to be confirmed, tickets £20.75-£40.75 from **https://www.capitaltheatres.com/whats-on/all-shows/panto-2024-cinderella/2282**

Over at the Royal Lyceum they're set to transport audiences to Treasure Island (28 November - 4 January) later this month. It's Christmas Eve and young Jim Hawkins works at North Edinburgh's finest accommodation for reformed pirates and past-it privateers. It's a place where talk of cutlasses, ships and gold can be dangerous, still it's not long before Jim, Ben Gunn and Lean Jean Silver are reliving their time hunting for treasure on the Hispaniola. Sea shanties and heartfelt fun enliven Jim's adventure as Billy Bones' treasure map leads him to the isles of Orkney in search of Captain Flint's hidden fortune... but will he be able to beat the pirates to the gold and get back home to Edinburgh safe and sound? Adventure awaits in this playful new adaption by Orkney playwright Duncan McLean but keep your eyes peeled for the Jolly Roger.

Running time 2 hours, including interval, tickets £18-£38 **https://lyceum.org.uk/events/treasure-island#dates-and-times**

Until next time, please do check out **www.mustseetheatre.com** for your theatre news, views and reviews.

Liam