# LIAM RUDDEN – MUST SEE THEATRE

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

Lorem ipsum

Cast of Chemo Savvy

## Liam shares his pick of the Fringe - exciting new works, old favourites and the odd risk or two!

**IT'S AUGUST,** are you ready to immerse yourself in theatre, comedy and a plethora of other entertainments? The Fringe seems to come around faster and faster every year and once again, here we are, spoilt for choice. It can be overwhelming sifting through the thousands of shows on offer, so to help you decide here my annual must see hit list of recommendations. There are some sure fire hits and a few to take a punt on in these Top 5 'Must See' show lists, but then, what is a Fringe without taking the odd risk in order to discover a hidden gem.

### 5 MUST SEE THEATRE HIGHLIGHTS

**CHEMO SAVVY | GILDED BALLOON AT THE MUSEUM 15-24 August**
It's going to be emotional. Inspired by the experiences of late great Scottish comedy legend, Andy Gray, as he battled leukaemia. With the gallows humour permitted by those who have been on that journey, Chemo Savvy stars River City's Grant Stott, Jordan Young and Gail Watson

**TO WATCH A MAN EAT | GREENSIDE GEORGE STREET 2-10 August**
If you like your theatre challenging, thought provoking and darkly funny, don't miss this five-star piece by award-winning playwright Sadie Pearson. Join firefighter Micky, investment banker Andrew and Melissa as their contrasting desires fuel conflict in a tale of sex, power and… trifle.

**SHERLOCK HOLMES AND THE MAN WHO BELIEVED IN FAIRIES | C ARTS AQULIA 31 July-25 August (Not 13)**
Sherlock Holmes confronts his deadliest enemy yet, his creator Arthur Conan Doyle. When two girls claim to have photographed (what became known as) The Cottingley Fairies, Doyle believes them, but a disgusted Holmes sets out to refute the pictures, inadvertently unlocking a much deeper mystery.

**TRAINSPOTTING LIVE | PLEASANCE @ EICC 1-25 August (Not 7,14,19)**
If you have never seen this 'in your face' Fringe favourite, make sure this is the year that you do. This immersive adaptation of Irvine Welsh's classic novel is uncompromising and controversial theatre at its best.

**I'M ALMOST THERE | SUMMERHALL 1-26 August**
Todd Almond, best known as Gossip Girl's flamboyant theatre critic Gideon Wolfe, brings his 'homage to storytellers who have passed down the epic story of The Odyssey' to Edinburgh, it's a tale of an unhinged neighbour, a seductive cult, a self-obsessed vampire, and a cat intent on dragging his owner to hell?'

Camille

### 5 MUSICAL THEATRE MUST SEES

**SOLVE IT SQUAD | ASSEMBLY GEORGE SQUARE 1-26 August (Not 7-19)**
Jinkles! A group of former kid detectives return to the scene of their greatest unsolved case: the gruesome murder of their talking dog, Cluebert. Can an ambitious narcissist, a lovable doofus, a skittish sad-sap and a scheming brainiac save the day one last time? Scooby Doo was never like this… or was it?

**WILLY'S CANDY SPECTACULAR - A MUSICAL PARODY | PLEASANCE DOME 9-26 August**
Julie Dawn Cole (Veruca Salt in Gene Wilder's 1971 blockbuster) narrates the first half this run of shows, with Paris Themmen, who played Mike Teevee in the movie, stepping in for the second half. Inspired by the Glasgow Chocolate Experience disaster that went viral.

**THE SCOT AND THE SHOWGIRL | PLEASANCE DOME 31 July-26 August (Not 6,13,20)**
Broadway icon Frances Ruffelle and partner, West End leading man Norman Bowman, star in The Scot and The Showgirl, a true(ish) retelling of how they first met 28 years ago on a platform at Edinburgh's Waverley train station.

**POP OFF, MICHELANGELO | GILDED BALLOON PATTER HOOSE 31 July-26 August (Not 12)**
Imagine Da Vinci and Michelangelo as best friends who decide to become the greatest artists of all time so God forgives them for being gay... expect high camp, historically inaccuracies and much laughter and music.

**TRIAL BY JURY | PARADISE IN AUGUSTINES 19-25 August**
Chaos reigns in the courtroom when a jilted bride and her bridal party arrive to sue her husband to be for abandoning her at the altar as the Cat-Like Tread Company return to the Fringe to romp through Gilbert and Sullivan's popular light opera. w

### 5 FAMOUS FACES TO SEE ON THE FRINGE

**BOBBY DAVRO - EVERYTHING IS FUNNY IF YOU CAN LAUGH AT IT | FRANKENSTEIN PUB 2-25 AUGUST (Not 12,19)**
One of the UK's best-known celebrity entertainers and a master of his craft over the last four decades returns to Edinburgh for his first full Fringe run, with guaranteed belly laughs.

**MIRIAM MARGOYLES - DICKENS THE BEST BITS | PLEASANCE AT EICC 7-15 August**
An irascible 82-year-old, Margolyes returns to the Fringe to combine her infectious passion for Dickens with her phenomenal versatility, bringing to life the most colourful and iconic characters from his timeless novels. Guaranteed to offend and delight.

**MEGAN PRESCOTT - REALLY GOOD EXPOSURE | UNDERBELLY COWGATE 1-25 August (Not 7,13,20)**
Skins' actress Megan Prescott, aka Katie F*cking Fitch in the TV series, writes and stars in her debut solo show about a former child star giving mainstream success one last shot by becoming an adult entertainer.

Sam Carlin AKA Cherry West

**WAYNE SLEEP - AWAKE IN THE AFTERNOON | PLEASANCE COURTYARD CABARET BAR 19-25 August**
Prepare for an hour filled with laughter, song and dance, as the irrepressible 75-year-old (right) takes centre stage. With his boundless energy and infectious spirit, Wayne promises to captivate and entertain like never before.

**SARA CROWE & THE VOICE OF PRUNELLA SCALES - QUEEN | ASSEMBLY ROOMS 1-25 August (Not 12)**
The fabulous Sara Crowe, with the assistance of the voice of Prunella Scales, stars in a revival of Katrina Hendrey's acclaimed one-woman show An Evening With Queen Victoria, which the Fawlty Towers legend originally performed for 28 years.

### 5 LOCAL EDINBURGH COMPANIES AT THE FRINGE

**EVERYBODY'S TALKING ABOUT JAMIE (TEEN EDITION) | BROUGHTON HIGH SCHOOL 3-10 August (Not 5)**
Award-winning Forth Children's Theatre return to the Fringe with their production of the smash hit musical telling the story of 16-year-old Jamie New, a boy with a dream.

**NE'ER THE TWAIN | MAYFIELD SALISBURY CHURCH HALL 2-17 August (Not 4,11)**
77 years after they debuted at the Fringe, Edinburgh People's Theatre tell a tale of the McIvor family, living in a tenement on Leith Walk at the exact spot of the boundary between Edinburgh and Leith... most of the flat is in Leith, but the toilet is in Edinburgh.

**AN AMERICAN LOVE LETTER TO EDINBURGH | SCOTTISH STORYTELLING CENTRE 1-25 August (Alternative Days)**
Benjamin Franklin loved Edinburgh. He visited in 1759 and 1771, making pals with all the luminaries including David Hume and Adam Smith and enjoying lively debates in the Old Town's famous Oyster Club late into the night. In this funny and informative show, Rick Conte tells the tale of his countryman's Scottish enlightenment.

**LES MISERABLES SCHOOLS EDITION | EDINBURGH ACADEMY 8-17 August**
Performed by local students, Captivate's production of Les Miserables has already been seen by an estimated 22,000 people. A tale of love, compassion, and redemption, featuring hit songs I Dreamed A Dream, Bring Him Home and many more. Go see it.

**AROUND THE WORLD IN 80 DAYS | THE ROYAL SCOTS CLUB 12-17 august**
Ankle Theatre Company presents this classic Victorian adventure for all the family, which finds the fabulously wealthy Phileas Fogg encounter a cascade of eccentric characters as he visits the world's most exotic places, all because of a wager. Can he make it, or will he lose everything?

### 5 LIVE MUSIC MUST SEES

**CAMILLE O'SULLIVAN - LOVELETTER | ASSEMBLY ROXY 31 July-17 August (Not 7,12)**
For her 20th Edinburgh, Queen of the Fringe Camille O'Sullivan sings personal love letters to those gone but still loved and missed. Celebrating friends such as Shane McGowan and Sinead O'Connor and legends such as Leonard Cohen and David Bowie as well as a bit of Radiohead, O'Sullivan gives their works her own mesmeric treatment.

**007 VOICES OF BOND | THE SPACE SYMPOSIUM HALL 2-25 August**
Immerse yourself in the world of 007 and the legendary voices that have accompanied Bond as Goldfinger, Skyfall, Diamonds Are Forever and more, brought to life by Ella McCready, Alex Beharrell and the Night Owl band.

**LINDISFARNE | THE QUEEN'S HALL 10 August**
For one night only, legendary 70's Tyneside folk-rock pioneers Lindisfarne present a classic five-piece line-up of long-time members fronted by founder-member Rod Clements. Expect unforgettable songs like Meet Me On The Corner, Fog On The Tyne, Lady Eleanor and Run For Home.

**ONE NIGHT, TWO VOICES - KERRY ELLIS & JOHN OWEN-JONES | THE FRINGE @ PRESTONFIELD 16 August**
Musical theatre legends Kerry Ellis and John Owen-Jones perform a much-loved selection of classic songs from Les Misérables, Phantom of the Opera, Wicked, We Will Rock You and more with a few surprises along the way.

**ABBA GOLD THE CONCERT | LIQUID ROOM 16-18 August**
No explanation required really, just dust down your platforms, put on your flares and sing along with all of your favourite ABBA hits including Waterloo, Mamma Mia, Thank You For The Music, Take A Chance On Me, Dancing Queen, Winner Takes It All, Gimme, Gimme, Gimme... and more.

Tickets for all show are available from **www.edfringe.com**

Finally, and with full disclosure, my own production I Ran With The Gang: A Tribute To Original Bay City Roller Alan Longmuir returns to the Fringe after five sell out seasons on 23 and 24 August at The Fringe at Prestonfield House, it would be great to see you there. Tickets from **fringeatprestonfield.co.uk**. Also, Second Splinter Theatre Company, another local Edinburgh theatre company, invited me to direct their production of Repression, a dark, physiological thriller, at the Liquid Room Annexe as part of the Free Fringe, on 13 and 25 August. It features two fantastic local actors, Ben Igoe and James Cumming... just turn up and watch.

Until next time, when normal service will be resumed...

Have a great Fringe!

Liam