

PRESS RELEASE:

David Babani and Danielle Tarento for Chocolate Factory Productions present

Breakfast With Jonny Wilkinson

Written by Chris England

Directed by Jonathan Lewis

Designed by Anthony Lamble

E4 UdderBELLY

7 – 28 August at 2pm

Preview 7 August

First press performance 8 August at 2pm

Following an enormously successful run at the Menier Chocolate Factory, London, Chris England's follow up to the huge Festival hit *An Evening With Gary Lineker* comes to Edinburgh for a run at the brand new venue from the Underbelly – E4 UdderBELLY.

This play has attracted an extraordinary ensemble cast including Justin Edwards (Perrier winner 2002 for The Consultants and Perrier nominee for Jeremy Lion), Norman Pace (one half of Hale and Pace), Beth Cordingley (from *The Bill*), Michael Beckley (*Home and Away*) and Abi Tucker (*Heartbreak High* and *The Secret Life of Us*), Kevin Wathen and Chris England, the show is packed with humour and heart.

Chris England's new play is inspired by another sporting legend – a man whose left boot virtually won the World Cup by itself, whose charm and clean cut image won over more than dedicated cauliflower-eared rugby fans. His strength, tenacity and devilish good looks have captured the hearts of the nation and even though he has hardly kicked a ball since, his reputation as one of England's greatest loved sporting heroes remains unchallenged.

'Entertainment that does exactly what it says on the tin!' Daily Express

At the Greyhawks Rugby Club, a small but dedicated group of fans has gathered to watch the Rugby World Cup Final on the big screen. Dave, the club chairman, is desperate to save the club from local land developers, while Australian Matt, the first team coach, is trying to get elected to replace him using all the dirty tricks he can think of. The captain of the First XV is ignoring calls from his heavily pregnant wife, the captain of the Ladies XV maybe the casting vote that holds the key to the election and the young fly half begins to believe there is a strange psychic link between himself and Jonny Wilkinson.

'Genuinely gripping as well as funny and unexpectedly affecting' Daily Telegraph

Chris England is a comedy writer who particularly enjoys writing about sport. He co-wrote the hit West End play and television football comedy *An Evening With Gary Lineker*, and went on to write the spoof "if you will, soccumentary" *Bostock's Cup* for ITV. He appeared in the Oscar-nominated Indian cricket film *Lagaan*, and wrote a best-selling book, *Balham to Bollywood*, about the experience. He now turns his attention to rugby union.

For further information please contact Ben Chamberlain/Jill Cotton at Chamberlain AMPR on 020 7240 5220/ 07838 144 992 or email admin@chamberlainampr.com. For press tickets please call the Underbelly Press Office on 0870 745 3078 or email press@underbelly.co.uk

Listings

Chocolate Factory Productions '*Breakfast with Jonny Wilkinson*'

E4 UdderBELLY, The Pasture, Bristo Square, Edinburgh

Performance time: 2pm

Preview: 7 August, first press performance 8 August

Run: 7- 28 August (not 15 August)

Tickets £11.50 - £13.50 (concs £10 - £12)

Box Office 08707453083 or book online: www.underbelly.co.uk