



Press Release

Hull Truck Theatre presents...

Spoonface Steinberg

by Lee Hall

And

Krapp's Last Tape

by Samuel Beckett

Wednesday 11 – Saturday 28 April

This Spring, Hull Truck Theatre is creating a unique double-bill and uniting two celebrated writers to bring a worldwide first to its stage. Lee Hall's *Spoonface Steinberg* and Samuel Beckett's *Krapp's Last Tape* will be performed from Wednesday 11 – Saturday 28 April.

The production marks the first time plays by Lee Hall (*Billy Elliott*) and Samuel Beckett (*Waiting for Godot*) will have been performed together as a double-bill. Previously, the Beckett Estate has only allowed the work of Harold Pinter to be performed in this way.

Spoonface Steinberg tells the tale of an autistic girl suffering from cancer. The loveable character, aptly named after she was born with spoon-shaped face, details her often blunt yet charming observations on life. As her personal and family life gradually falls apart, you'll learn how simple things such as numbers, colours and music can provide comfort in testing times. The play was originally broadcast on BBC Radio 4 to critical acclaim before being adapted for the stage.

Rising star Pippa Duffy makes her Hull Truck debut in the title role. Best-known for her role as Faith in the BBC comedy *Mouth to Mouth*, she has recently been on our screens in the Channel 4 series *Pete vs Life*.

The other half of the double bill is *Krapp's Last Tape* which looks at the life of a man on his 69th birthday. Every year he makes a tape to look back on his memories. The play centres on a selection of recordings as he looks back over some of the milestones in his life and the love he lost one summer's day.

Krapp is played by Alan Williams, who was a founder member of Hull Truck in 1972 and returns to the theatre for the first time in 30 years. He joined Hull Truck as an 18-year old actor and starred in many of the early shows including *The Weekend after Next* and *Bridget's House*. Alan has written several shows including *The Cockroach That Ate Cincinnati*, a play about rock and roll, which was adapted for a film in 1996. Most recently, he has appeared in the BBC drama *Luther* and in the stage and film adaptations of Michael Morpurgo's *War Horse*.

The double-bill will be directed by Jonathan Humphreys, who recently headed an acclaimed production of

Beckett's play *Happy Days* at Sheffield Crucible. Jonathan believes the pairing of these plays is a powerful one: "There is a similarity and a resonance between the plays as they are both about two characters who are interested in documenting and communicating their experience. But at the same time they are completely different.

"The wonderful thing about working with great writers is that within the play is a very firm point of view about how they should be performed. Both have a very strong voice and a powerful, emotional resonance and as a director that's a great thing to have."

Andrew Smaje, Chief Executive at Hull Truck Theatre says: "These plays are beautiful depictions of great age and of great youth. Both Krapp and Spoonface are trying to find their place in their world – Krapp by replaying the events of his life, and Spoonface searching for her place in the world before her life is cut short. There are some wonderful contrasts and reflections between two very different plays."

To book tickets, call the box office on 01482 323638 or visit www.hulltruck.co.uk

Ends

For media enquiries please contact Richard Madden on 01482 325012 or richard.madden@hulltruck.co.uk

Press night for *Spoonface Steinberg* and *Krapp's Last Tape* will be held on Monday 16 April at 7.45pm at Hull Truck Theatre.

Cast:

- Pippa Duffy – *Spoonface Steinberg*
- Alan Williams – *Krapp's Last Tape*

Spoonface Steinberg and *Krapp's Last Tape* will be performed in the Main Auditorium, Hull Truck Theatre from Weds 11 – Sat 28 April. Matinee performances will be held on Weds 18, Sat 21 and Weds 25 April at 2pm.

Ticket prices range from £12 to £18.50. Matinees £15 and Concessions £3 off. Discounts are available for group bookings.

About Hull Truck Theatre

Hull Truck Theatre was first established in 1972, by legendary director Mike Bradwell, after he placed an advert in Time Out which read "Half formed theatre company seeks other half". The company lived and rehearsed in a 3-storey house, their office was the phone box on the street outside, and soon their work was regularly transferring from Hull to the Bush Theatre and the Royal Court.

Writers and directors such as John Godber, Alan Plater and Anthony Minghella have all helped Hull Truck Theatre to remain a national theatre company, touring the nation, based in Hull. Now with a new £16 million home in the heart of Hull, under the creative leadership of Andrew Smaje, the company retains a commitment to the work of living playwrights and new plays – and to discovering and developing the next generation of writers and theatre makers.

For more information visit: www.hulltruck.co.uk