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PRESS RELEASE – 25th September 2009

Belt Up Theatre presents

The Tartuffe

by James Wilkes after Molière

Directed by James Wilkes; Lighting Design by Jethro Compton

10th to 28th November 2009

PRESS NIGHT: THURSDAY 12TH NOVEMBER 2009 AT 7.30PM

Following a critically acclaimed sell-out run at the Edinburgh Festival Fringe, EIF award winners, Belt Up Theatre bring their interactive and immersive re-working of Molière's classic to the Southwark Playhouse.

Blending clowning, farce, satire, mime and egotistical actors into a bizarre cocktail of meta-theatrical choreographed chaos – Molière purists should leave all reservations at the door. Those that don't like to be interacted with? Drop your guard because the haphazard troupe will grab you if they need you. By the end, they'll have to shout at you to sit back down.

An indefinite number of years after a career destroying scandal, lost luvvie, Orgon Poquelin presents a theatrical representation of his fall from grace at the hands of the sinister conman – Tartuffe. Assisted by his troupe of faded French variety act vagabonds, Orgon attempts a performance to truly exorcise the demons of his past.

A dizzying spectacle of theatrical pandemonium, *The Tartuffe* is a production that will leave you exhausted from watching the troupe travelling at a break-neck speed through this madcap bedlam of a performance. Before you know it, you'll be dragged up to understudy a missing troupe member or deliver a forgotten prop. Whether from itching to get onstage or from terror at being picked on, *The Tartuffe* will leave you on the edge of your seat; this adaptation shatters the fourth wall and happily chucks the broken fragments in the face of convention. A hilarious celebration of the very concept of theatrical performance.

Belt Up Theatre, an emerging company from the north of England have enjoyed a vast amount of success over the past few years including winning the Edinburgh International Festival award 2008. Belt Up's *The Tartuffe* premiered as part of their ambitious 2008 season in Edinburgh with *The Red Room* - an acclaimed custom built immersive environment. For the 2009 Edinburgh festival, *The Tartuffe* was revived as part of their second immersive season in 'The Squat' alongside its sister show, *The Trial*. Over the past two years, Belt Up have clocked up no less than 14 individual immersive productions ranging from epic clown pieces to multi-time, multi-space performances of Shakespeare.

For press information and reviewing tickets please contact Chris Smyrnios on 020 7407 0234 or e-mail chris.smyrnios@southwarkplayhouse.co.uk (NB you can watch this show in conjunction with Belt Up's *The Trial* which opens the same night at 9.30pm). Production shots available on request; there will be a photo call on Wednesday 11th November at 12.30pm.

Listings Information

Producer

Belt Up Theatre

Production

THE TARTUFFE

By James Wilkes after Moliere

Venue

Southwark Playhouse

Shipwright Yard

(Corner of Bermondsey Street and Tooley Street)

London SE1 2TF

Nearest Tube: London Bridge

Performances

10th to 28th November 2009

Monday to Saturday

Evening performances start at 7.30pm sharp

Saturday Matinees at 3pm

Box Office

Online

www.southwarkplayhouse.co.uk

24 HOURS/NO BOOKING FEES

By Telephone (New No.)

020 7407 0234

NO BOOKING FEES

In Person

The Ticket Office at Southwark Playhouse is open from 6.30pm Monday to Saturday

Ticket Prices

£8, £13, £20

'Airline Style' Pricing

The earlier you book the cheaper the tickets!

Concessions

Disabled people can bring one companion free of charge.

There are no other concessions