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PRESS RELEASE – 25th September 2009

Belt Up Theatre presents

The Trial

by Franz Kafka

adapted by Dominic J Allen

Directed by Alexander Wright; Lighting Design by Jethro Compton

10th to 28th November 2009

PRESS NIGHT: THURSDAY 12TH NOVEMBER 2009 AT 9.30PM

Following a critically acclaimed sell-out run at the Edinburgh Festival Fringe, EIF award winners, Belt Up Theatre bring their nightmarish and disorientating vision of Kafka's classic to the Southwark Playhouse.

A haunting theatrical incarnation lifts Kafka's words from the page and inhabits them in the labyrinthine world under London Bridge. Get lost alongside Josef K as he struggles to make sense of the nonsensical bureaucratic monster that preys on him.

It's half past eight and Josef K normally has his breakfast at half past eight. Yet today his world is twisted and deformed when he is arrested and dragged into the uncertain purgatory of the justice system. In a warped wonderland, K must make his way through this tentative world seeking help amongst a sinisterly peculiar freak show of characters. From the spider-like helping hand of Huld to the giddily incomprehensible Titorelli, K must attempt to weave a narrative through his vague destiny. Easier said than done in a world of absolute order without logic, punishment without crime, people without humanity.

An unsettling and disorientating journey through the eccentric, macabre and truly petrifying world of Kafka's novella, this production will leave you troubled by the lingering images that you catch glances of amongst this fast, furious and frightening representation of the red-tape nightmare. Set to an original score of blues piano and drum and bass, *The Trial* will plunge you into a claustrophobic atmosphere and leave you at its mercy as Josef K hurtles towards his inexplicable fate.

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. This adaptation of *The Trial* premiered this summer as part of Belt Up's Edinburgh season in 'The Squat' – a custom built immersive environment - alongside its sister show, *The Tartuffe*. 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 Tartuffe* which opens the same night at 7.30pm). Production shots available on request; there will be a photo call on Wednesday 11th November at 1.00pm.

Listings Information

Producer

Belt Up Theatre

Production

THE TRIAL

by Franz Kafka

adapted by Dominic J Allen

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 9.30pm 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

Please Note

The show is an indoor promenade performance. Due to the nature of the piece, audience members should be prepared to walk, stand and/or kneel on uneven surfaces, often in dim lighting. There are not many opportunities for sitting down.

The performance space is cold so please dress warmly.

There is no storage for bags and large bags will not be allowed into the performance.

Access

Please inform Southwark Playhouse of your access requirements at least 48 hours before you attend the performance by phoning 020 7407 0234.