

Hoipolloi and Theatre Royal Plymouth, in association with English Touring Theatre present:

## ***THE DOUBTFUL GUEST***

inspired by the book by Edward Gorey, written and directed by Shôn Dale-Jones  
at Traverse One, 18-30 August

*It came seventeen years ago – and to this day  
It has shown no intention of going away.*

Following a critically acclaimed UK tour, Hoipolloi's deliciously dark and vividly theatrical adaption of cult US author/illustrator Edward Gorey's fantastical book *The Doubtful Guest* arrives at the Edinburgh Festival Fringe.

*"Enormous fun \*\*\*\*\*" The Guardian*

*When a curious creature scuttles into the Bishop family's house, they have no idea how to get rid of it. Eating plates, trapping them in their drawing room for weeks and throwing their favourite possessions in the pond, it holds them prisoners in their own home. This creepily comic tale of mischief and disruption delights children and adults alike.*

*"A playful, accomplished piece of nonsense \*\*\*\*\*" The Times*

Born in 1925 (d. 2000), **Edward Gorey** was a self-confessed misfit, famous for his dark, sneakily sinister books and intricately drawn accompanying illustrations. A cult icon, he has influenced a wealth of acclaimed, contemporary artists from award-winning director Tim Burton to gothic band the Tiger Lillies.

*The Doubtful Guest* (published in 1957) is one of Gorey's most popular tales in the USA. The book's macabre subject matter, creepy drawings and humorous rhymes are ideal for a Hoipolloi production. Using their visually dynamic, accessible approach to theatre, Hoipolloi explore the book's themes of individual identity and the family unit and play with audiences' sense of reality.

Celebrating its 15<sup>th</sup> birthday this year, **Hoipolloi** was established in 1994 by Artistic Director Shôn Dale-Jones and Associate Director Stefanie Müller. *The Doubtful Guest* is Hoipolloi's first ensemble piece since their incredible success with comic character Hugh Hughes (Fringe First Award Winners '07; Total Theatre Award Winners '06; *The Stage* Award for Acting Excellence Nominee '06). The company also presents ***Hugh Hughes in... 360*** at the Pleasance Courtyard during the Edinburgh Festival Fringe this year.

*The Doubtful Guest* has been selected for **Escalator East to Edinburgh 2009**. Each year Escalator East to Edinburgh helps artists and arts organisations to raise their profile and perform to new audiences as part of the Edinburgh Festival Fringe. For information about Escalator East To Edinburgh contact Steve Forster, sfp communications 01603 661459, 07939 221192 [steve@sfppr.co.uk](mailto:steve@sfppr.co.uk)

*www.hoipolloi.org.uk*

(listings details overleaf)

### **LISTINGS DETAILS**

**Venue** Traverse Theatre, Cambridge Street, Edinburgh, EH1 2ED  
**Dates** 18 – 30 August (not 24<sup>th</sup>)  
**Times** 18, 22 & 27 August: 10am / 19, 23 & 28 August: 1pm  
20, 25 & 29 August: 4.30pm / 21, 26 & 30 August: 7.45pm  
**Ticket prices** Preview (18 Aug): £11 (£5 concession)  
Sun – Thu: £16 (£11 concession/£5 unemployed)  
Fri – Sat: £18 (£12 concession)  
**Box office** 0131 228 1404 / [www.traverse.co.uk](http://www.traverse.co.uk) (no booking fees)

### **NOTES TO EDITORS**

#### **Cast and Creative Team**

Written and directed by **Shôn Dale-Jones**

Designed by **Stefanie Müller**

Assistant Director **Jill Norman**

Composer/Sound Designer: **Alex Rudd**

Lighting Designer: **Peter Harrison**

Performers: **Ben Frimston, Stefanie Müller, Cassie Friend, Andrew Pembroke, Trond-Erik Vassdal**

*The Doubtful Guest* is produced by arrangement with The Edward Gorey Charitable Trust. Supported by Arts Council England with thanks to the Meridian Theatre Awards in association with Interact.

