

# The Stage Company

## Press Release

### **Brighton Fringe Play: *Silver Age Adieu***

### **Hitler's Birthday Present Still Causes Controversy**

**This acclaimed production by The Stage Company can be seen at the Brighton Fringe before it moves to the Edinburgh Fringe in the summer.**

Seventy years to the day (20<sup>th</sup> April) Hitler's birthday present still causes controversy.

A 50<sup>th</sup> birthday gift to the leader of the Third Reich (who was born on 20<sup>th</sup> April 1889), an erotic masterpiece by Lucas Cranach the Elder, *Cupid Complaining to Venus*, is the subject of a play shortly to open on the Brighton Fringe.

Set against the background of the G Summit riots, Keith Wait's new play excited much controversy when it premiered at the Orange Tree Theatre in Richmond, by probing the ownership question marks that stand over the history of the famous old master painting, Cranach's *Cupid Complaining to Venus*, which hangs in the National Gallery in London.

Having disappeared before the First World War and glimpsed tantalisingly in Switzerland and Germany, later it gradually found its way up through the Nazi hierarchy to Hitler himself by a series of coercions and bribes. Looted by American troops, it was given as a love token to the commander's mistress. Zionist activists, Nazi sympathisers, New York criminals, all have the painting in their sights.

When it vanishes again, who will remind us of "the fearless girl reporter", who burnt Nazi flags as she posed in the nude with Cranach's erotic masterpiece.

Brighton's historic Marlborough Theatre, a venue which in itself has attracted its fair share of scandal since its opening in 1791, hosts this controversial play, which has early evening performances for Bank Holiday Monday 4<sup>th</sup> May to Sunday 10<sup>th</sup> May. It then transfers to the Edinburgh Fringe in early August.

Tickets at £9 (£7.50 concessions) are available from the Brighton Fringe box office at The Dome, by phone 01273 709 709, or online at <http://www.brightonfestivalfringe.org.uk/> ; or from the theatre box office at The Marlborough Little Theatre, 4 Princes St, BN1 1RD (01273 570 028)

Further details:

about the production at <http://www.brightonfestivalfringe.org.uk/ticketing/webextra.aspx?ev=536>

about Hitler's 50<sup>th</sup> Birthday at

<http://www.dailymail.co.uk/news/article-1171630/How-Hitlers-50th-birthday-party-sparked-World-War-II.html>

Press tickets and information from

The producer, Lion's Mane Theatre Arts on 020 8894 5885 or

Press office, Aspects Productions on 020 8973 3605

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*The Stage Company*  
is a trading name of

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