

The critically-acclaimed company Kandinsky (Enola - 2005, Radio - 2006, On Wonderland - 2007) return for their fourth year to present two powerful new plays from two award-winning young writers



# The Bird

by Al Smith, directed by James Yeatman

Smirnoff Underbelly Big Belly, 17:40 (18:40), 31st July - 24th August (not 13th). Previews: 31st & 1st (£6.00) then prices vary between £9.00 (£8.00) and £10.50 (£9.50)

# The Bee

by Matt Hartley, directed by Will Mortimer

Smirnoff Underbelly Iron Belly, 14:15 (15:15), 31st July - 24th August (not 13th). Previews: 31st & 1st (£6.00) then prices vary between £9.00 (£8.00) and £10.00 (£9.00)

## THE PLAYS

Chloe and Jacob are beautifully in love. The first time they meet, they end their lives.

Al Smith and Matt Hartley have collaborated together to write two bold, individual and risky plays that examine the cause and consequence of teenage suicide. The concept is simple - at the end of each journey, two teenage lovers will meet for the first time and end their lives together. Hartley follows Chloe's journey, Smith Jacob's.

What have emerged are two starkly individual plays. Hartley's "Bee" is an intensely focused exploration of the value of grief. In the aftermath of a tragic road accident in which her brother is killed, it dawns on Chloe that his value is death is greater than anything he could have hoped for during life. Through an examination of the circles in which she moves, Hartley has constructed a wryly vibrant, challenging analysis of teen life.

Smith's "Bird" follows Jacob's trajectory, from his grandfather's shoe-factory in Southern Russia to the cleaning of floors in the basement of a ministry in Whitehall. Through a coming of age story about a character intent on exorcising the ghosts of his past, Smith has developed a beautifully poetic study of a young man's struggle against displacement and dislocation in modern Britain.

Two independent lives, for two individual plays. Written to exist alone, but seeing both stories over the course of the festival presents a more resonating whole.

## THE WRITERS

Al and Matt met whilst they were both on attachment to Paines Plough as part of the Channel 4 / Future Perfect Writers Scheme in 2007. Al has won the Sunday Times Playwriting Award twice (Enola - 2006 and Radio - 2007), and Matt won the Under 26 Royal Exchange Bruntwood Award in 2007 for his play Sixty Five Miles.

## THE PERFORMERS

Both plays will be performed by the same company of actors: Tom Ferguson (winner of the 2007 Spotlight Award for Radio), James Yeatman (Enola), Rebecca Whitehead (Astronaut Wives Club, Soho) and Sarah Sweeney (Masque of the Red Death, Punchdrunk, BAC).

## THE COMPANY

Kandinsky has established itself as a Fringe favourite, returning every year with new powerful and touching plays. Enola was awarded the Three Weeks Editor Award in 2006. It has also toured Radio to New York City as part of the prestigious Brits off Broadway season in 2007.

Kandinsky Press Contact: 07773 808 213 / al@kandinsky-online.com  
Underbelly Press Contact: 0844 545 8242 / press@underbelly.co.uk  
www.kandinsky-online.com / www.underbelly.co.uk

Reviews for previous  
Kandinsky productions

## Radio

"Outstanding. A chance to say you saw the early work of a writer on the verge of great things"



The Independent

"A dark exploration of the impossible dreams we sell ourselves"



The Scotsman

## Enola

"Why write 120 words when you can write just three; this is unmissable"



Three Weeks

"You'd be hard-put to find a more powerful and affecting piece of Fringe theatre"



The Herald

