



at The Smirnoff Underbelly, Edinburgh Festival Fringe 2004

Fail Better Productions return to The Smirnoff Underbelly at the Edinburgh Festival Fringe with two unique productions for 2004, following their critically acclaimed sell-out success with Sarah Kane's *Crave* in 2002.

PHAEDRA'S LOVE by Sarah Kane

Fail Better continue where they left off in 2002, by bringing a new production of Sarah Kane's least performed play to the Fringe. First debuted at the Gate in 1996, *Phaedra's Love* is a brutal yet darkly comic adaptation of the classic myth of desperate love and obsession. In a royal palace, in an unknown time or place, Phaedra is secretly in love with her stepson Hippolytus, the obnoxious and amoral prince. When the truth about this forbidden desire comes crashing out, the family is ripped apart, with shocking consequences. Performed in the atmospheric vaults of the Underbelly, *Phaedra's Love* is a powerful play, given a new lease of life in this timely revival.

HEAD by Zoë Simon

Playing in the same space, Fail Better's second production is a brand new play by a talented new writer, which receives its world premiere at the festival. Set on a South London estate, *Head* follows the story of two young lovers, Head and Urchin. At times ferocious, at times delicate, this is a stunning piece about destructive love and the terrors of adolescence. Zoë Simon's previous plays include *After Dark* and *The Daughter of Frankenstein*. She collaborated with the company in 2003 on their devised piece *Echo and Narcissus* and has recently become Fail Better's Associate Artist. Her latest work is not to be missed.

Fail Better Productions is a growing collective of young theatre artists who strive for immediacy and intensity in textually rich and visually arresting performance. Previous work includes the Pinter Double Bill (Warwick Arts Centre; WCMD, Cardiff; the Play in English Festival, Bratislava, Slovakia; and the RSC Summerhouse; 2001), *Crave* (Edinburgh Festival Fringe; 2002); and *Echo and Narcissus* (White Bear Theatre, London; 2003).

Critical acclaim for Fail Better's work includes:

'gut-wrenchingly effective' **** The Scotsman (on *Crave*)

'a diamond of a show' **** The List (on *Crave*)

'challenging, gripping, creative ... the acting is assured.' The Stage (on *Echo and Narcissus*)

'a short visually arresting piece.' Time Out (on *Echo and Narcissus*)

Listings Information

SMIRNOFF UNDERBELLY (Big Belly)

5th – 29th August (not 16th)

HEAD 18.15 – 19.10

PHAEDRA'S LOVE 21.00 – 21.50

Box Office 0870 745 3083

For more information, photographs or to arrange interviews, please contact Publicity Officer Claire Hilton on 07017 413 813 or at failbetterproductions@hotmail.com. To arrange press tickets call The Smirnoff Underbelly press room on 0131 226 1240. For further information please visit www.failbetter.co.uk or www.theunderbelly.co.uk. NB. Both shows contain strong language and scenes that are unsuitable for children.