

ANNOUNCEMENT FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE
ELLA HICKSON'S 'EIGHT' at TRAFALGAR STUDIOS
JULY 6th – 25th 2009
www.eight-theatre.com

The Edinburgh and New York smash hit comes to the West End.

WINNER Fringe First 2008

WINNER The Carol Tambor 'BEST OF EDINBURGH' Award 2008

WINNER NSDF Emerging Artists Award

"Ella Hickson has already found her voice and it's a powerful one – a potent show indeed"
New York Times

"Stunningly well performed - a huge writing talent...a truly impressive and exciting hour of theatre, you're blown away."
The Scotsman ★★★★★

"One of the most self-assured, startlingly well-written and moving pieces of theatre around."
The Herald ★★★★★

"Intriguing writing, brilliant direction and excellent performances."
British Theatre Guide ★★★★★

Ella Hickson's 'Eight' swept the board at the Edinburgh Festival in 2008. An underground hit, propagated by sensational word-of-mouth, it went on to garner excellent reviews and win the three top awards at the world's largest arts festival.

This thumpingly British show went stateside in January 2009 where it **achieved huge critical acclaim and a sell-out run in New York's PS122 Theatre**. This summer, 'Eight' is coming home.

Hickson's eight endearing characters offer deliciously cynical yet touching snippets of life in contemporary Britain, questioning what it is to be 'normal' in a generation where everything has become acceptable. From 7/7 survivors ("**One of the finest pieces of writing I've yet heard about the aftermath of that terrible day**") Joyce McMillan, *The Scotsman*) to ex-squaddies making friends in morgues, 'Eight' looks at Britain's youth from a refreshingly offbeat angle.

Written and directed by 23 year old Londoner, Ella Hickson, 'Eight' is a precocious and impressive debut show; **Hickson is the youngest ever playwright to be published by Nick Hern, the UK's most respected performing arts publisher**. "I'm trying to tackle the negative reputation my generation have earned themselves. We do have something intelligent to offer and we're not afraid of asking tough questions."

The format of the show lets **the audience "choose their company"** and vote to determine which four of the eight monologues are performed each night, creating their own bespoke hour of theatre. Formed around the results of a survey that asked twenty-somethings what defined their generation, Hickson has tried to answer their almost unanimous response of 'apathy', with a show that works to find the glimmers of faith amidst wholesale cynicism. 'Eight' moves seamlessly from morbidity to hilarity as its characters search for meaning in a morally, spiritually and literally bankrupt Britain.

Notes for editors

- For high-resolution images, or any other information about the show, **contact Michael Whitham on 07985 420 684 or michael@tantrumsproductions.com**.
- 'Eight' has just been published by Original Works Publishing in the USA and is going to be released by Nick Hern Books – the UK's most respected theatre publisher - in May 2009.
- Hickson is **one of the youngest playwrights in recent memory to secure not only a West-End run but also US and UK publishing contracts** for her debut play, and the **youngest ever to be published** by Nick Hern Books.
- Writer/Director Ella Hickson is available for comment/interview.
- Press Night: **July 8th, 7pm, Trafalgar Studios. Contact Michael Whitham.**
- **Tickets are now on sale from www.ambassadortickets.com or on 0871 297 5454.**
- See www.eight-theatre.com for more information.