

IRVING RAPPAPORT & PLAYBACK THEATRE
Present

HIT ME!

THE LIFE & RHYMES OF IAN DURY

by Jeff Merrifield

LEICESTER SQUARE THEATRE

5th January 2009 to 15th February 2008

REASONS TO BE CHEERFUL AS TRIBUTE TO PUNK HERO HITS THE WEST END

"Go and see this fantastic show" Bill Bailey

This January, the show about Mr Love Pants himself, everyone's favourite figure of the punk generation, *Hit Me! The Life And Rhymes of Ian Dury*, is blasting its way onto the West End stage

Telling the story of the crippled genius behind such hits as '*Hit Me With Your Rhythm Stick*' and '*Sex and Drugs and Rock and Roll*', the acclaimed show will open at Leicester Square Theatre on January 6 for a six-week season until February 17. Press night is Tuesday January 13.

In a tour de force starring performance, Adrian Schiller swaggers, sings and dazzles as the poet laureate of punk; a diamond geezer whose cocky image masked a troubled soul and who could at times be hard to get along with away from the public eye. The show features all the very favourite hits as well as the poetic tribute '*Sweet Gene Vincent*', the biting audacious '*Spasticus Autistics*' (which was banned by the BBC) and the fabulously obscene '*Plaistow Patricia*'

At the peak of his 1970s success Ian Dury, with his band The Blockheads, was at the vanguard of the punk and post punk movements. Part furious iconoclast, part music hall entertainer, Dury was one of the few true originals of the English music scene.

Starting in 1980, *Hit Me!* looks at three periods in Dury's life - the man at the top of his game, the man who nearly blew it and the man who gave his best to everything. In all these three periods his great lyrical dexterity was always to the forefront and never deserted him. By his side throughout too was his minder, tour manager and loyal friend, ex-con Fred 'Spider' Rowe (Josh Darcy) who knew him better than most. The show is a lighthearted but touching exploration of their friendship interspersed with Dury's hit songs that sheds light on the often turbulent life of one of British rock and roll's best-loved characters.

PRESS CONTACTS: DAVID BURNS - CLOUT COMMUNICATIONS

07789 754089 / 020 7751 8625 david@cloutcom.co.uk

79 Wardour Street London W1D 6QD tel: 020 7581 8625 email: info@cloutcom.co.uk
www.cloutcom.co.uk



PRESS NIGHT

Wednesday January 13th 7.30pm

LISTINGS INFO

Leicester Square Theatre
8 Leicester Place
London WC2H 7BX

DATES

January 6 – February 15
2009

TIMES

6 January - 1 February: Tuesday -
Sunday 7.30pm;
plus 9.30pm shows on Friday &
Saturday

3 - 15 February: Tuesday -
Saturday 9.30pm plus 11.30pm
shows on Friday and Saturday;
Sunday 7.30pm

TICKETS

£25.00 • Concs £20.00

BOX OFFICE

0844 847 2475

www.leicestersquaretheatre.com