

























It's September 2007 and Judith Doherty and I are crossing Hudson St on a site visit in New York. Out of the White Horse Tavern, an old-style New York boozer, falls an elderly-looking woman. She spots us across the street and beckons us in. 'That's a real barfly' I say to Jude. We enter the pub and have a drink and she is clearly not merely a regular but the female equivalent of how Wanda describes Henry in the 1987 film *Barfly*: 'It's the way you walk across the room, the way you act. You're the damnedest barfly I've ever seen. You act like royalty, like some weird Blueblood.' By the end of that (somewhat drunken) night, and through remembering the film, we had decided to create a piece in our local bar based on Bukowski's writings.

'Writer' is a very tiresome word. Just think how much more pleasing it would be to hear you are the world's greatest pool player or the world's greatest horseplayer or the world's greatest fucker. Now that would make a man feel really good. Henry, Barflies

Our Barflies is based on three stories from *The Most Beautiful Woman In Town* collection and focuses on Henry Chinaski's relationships with women in the phase just before he was 'discovered'. It probes the relationship between sex, booze and creativity. In transplanting the stories to a Scottish setting we forge a balance between Bukowski's powerful demotic and a Scottish vernacular.

Drink is of course a major subject in Scottish culture – at times it seems almost as if it is our blood flow. But as well as the classic Bukowski scenes of heavy drinking I was delighted to discover a more magical realist vein in his writing as well as his signature tenderness, optimism, crudity and violence.

What I find most attractive about Bukowski's work is his seductive counter-cultural argument that one might have a more fulfilled and spiritual life sitting on a barstool, sleeping with as many people as possible and drinking Gargantuan amounts of booze. In this way he is the literary equivalent of the iconic rock star, Amy Winehouse (fitting name) being the most vivid recent example: living their lives that way so that others don't have too. You wouldn't want to live Henry Chinaski's life, you wouldn't want to have his liver or his penury or his appalling living conditions. But in a paradoxical way you are glad he is there, and if we don't let a little of Chinaski into ourselves maybe we are the poorer for it.

your life is your life don't let it be clubbed into dank submission. be on the watch. there are ways out. there is a light somewhere. it may not be much light but it beats the darkness. be on the watch... you can't beat death but you can beat death in life, sometimes. The Laughing Heart, Charles Bukowski

People have called Bukowski a misogynist, but actually most of his work is a glorious celebration of women, and what he called their 'insides'. What is inside is more important that what is outside and in fact the material we are creating from has to be seen in the context of 1980s Reaganomics with the celebration of money and physical 'perfection' in women and increasingly men (think Schwarzenegger and Calvin Klein ads). Bukowski's father, an American soldier and then businessman who lived to the work ethic and lectured his son on the American dream, is the antagonist against which he writes. If Grid Iron's work is nothing else, it is about the insides which are often forgotten in our headlong rush towards physical perfection and the consumerist nightmare.

I only ask that they leave us alone in the joy and horror and mystery of our work, and if they sell our work for millions of dollars after we are dead, after we are carried from our roach-filled, rat-filled, ghost-filled, bottle-filled rooms, that is their business. Charles Bukowski



Cast Keith Fleming Gail Watson David Paul Jones

Grid Iron Crew Director/Adaptor Assistant Director Producer Set/Costume Designer Composer/Sound Designer Lighting Designer Production Manager Technical Manager Stage Manager Deputy Stage Manager Design Assistant General Manager Finance Officer Print Design Photography Office Dogs

The Barony Bar Proprietor/Bar Manager Assistant Manager / Chargehand Bar staff

Traverse Front of House

Henry Cass, Vicki, Margy, Vivienne, Sarah Silent Dave

Ben Harrison Catrin Evans Judith Doherty Becky Minto David Paul Jones Paul Claydon Fiona Fraser Maria Bechaalani Mickey Graham Nichola Reilly Harriet Kirkwood Fiona Dougal Deborah Crewe Emma Quinn Douglas Jones Hector & Tigger

Malcolm Binnie Christopher Reid/Richard Arthur Amiel Clarke, John Corcoran Katriona Harding, Gemma Harper Alexandra Kocela, Karen Lourens Ema Murray, Lisa Thomas, Beata Zemanek

Peter Airlie, Heather Fulton, Nikki Hill, Kirsty McIntyre, Tim Primrose, Greg Sinclair, Jenna Watt, Katy Wilson

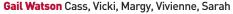






#### **Keith Fleming Henry**

Until recently, Keith was a permanent member of Dundee Rep Ensemble and he has recently rejoined them to appear in *Sunshine on Leith*. With Gerry Mulgrew, he won Best Actor at the Critics Awards for Theatre in Scotland for *Peer Gynt*. His film and television credits include *Split Second* (BBC Screen One) and *Kings of the Wild Frontier* (Newfoundland/Scottish Television.)





Gail was born and raised in Bonnyrigg near Edinburgh, and recently became a mum to a baby boy called Gregor. This is her first time working with Grid Iron and first ever production in the Edinburgh Festival Fringe. Gail is an associate member at Dundee Rep and has just toured with the musical Sunshine on Leith. She has appeared in productions at the Royal Lyceum, Traverse Theatre, King's Theatre, Byre, Perth and Pitlochry Festival Theatre. She has also worked for Borderline, Communicado, Tag, Nottingham Playhouse and Eden Court. Her television work includes 3 Taggarts, Still Game, Crowdie and Cream, Wedding Belles, The Near Room and she presents for BBC Radio Education Unit.

#### David Paul Jones Silent Dave & Composer/Sound Designer



David Paul Jones composed and performed live for Grid Iron productions *Those Eyes, That Mouth* and *The Devil's Larder*, both of which where nominated for Best Music at the Critics Awards for Theatre in Scotland. He has worked on several National Theatre of Scotland productions, including the Catherine Wheels co-production *Something Wicked This Way Comes*. He is also producer and performer for his own group, DPJ Ensemble, whose debut recording *Something There* is available on Linn Records.

#### Ben Harrison Director and Adaptor

Ben is the Co-Artistic Director of Grid Iron, and from 2004-2008 was also a Director of the Dutch theatre company MUZtheater. Since joining Grid Iron in 1996 the company has received 24 awards for its work. His productions for Grid Iron have included: Tryst; Yarn; Once Upon A Dragon; Roam (Grid Iron/NTS/BAA Edinburgh International Airport): The Devil's Larder: Those Eyes, That Mouth; Variety; Fermentation; Decky Does A Bronco (to be revived in 2010): Monumental: Gargantua: The Bloody Chamber and Clearance. Huxley's Lab, a co-production with Lung Ha's, will be performed in 2010. Other recent work includes You Tell Us What Was We Tell You What Is for NTS Learn. The Tailor of Inverness at Edinburgh Fringe 2008 for Dogstar which won 3 awards. Bint Jbeil for the NTS Workshop (work-in-progress). In 2001 he was made a Fellow of the National Endowment for Science, Technology and the Arts (NESTA) which supported his research, travel and development work for three years. From 2000-2002 he was Associate Director (Education) of the Almeida Theatre in London, His current production, Peter Pan in Kensington Gardens for 360 Entertainment, has already played this summer to more than 100,000 people and plays in London until 13th September prior to a global tour in 2010. Further information at www.benharrison.info

#### Catrin Evans Assistant Director

Catrin is a Glasgow-based director and writer. In 2007/08 she was one of the National Theatre of Scotland's Emerging Artists. In January 2009 she went with them to Alexandria, Egypt to create and direct Walls, a collaboration between Scottish and International artists. She is the Artistic Director of a moment's peace theatre company, whose shows include that's what we should all be mourning and petrified paradise. Their latest show, The Chronicles of Irania, a collaboration with Maryam Hamidi, is being presented at Pleasance Courtyard at this year's Edinburgh Fringe Festival.





Judith is the Producer, Chief Executive and Co-Artistic Director of Grid Iron. She founded the company in 1995. Since 2000 she has been a member of the Board of Directors of the Edinburgh Festival Fringe and since 2004, the Board of the Independent Theatre Council. She has also served as a Specialist Advisor to the Scottish Arts Council. Freelance work has included Edinburgh International Book Festival, Edinburgh International Festival and BBC Scotland.

#### **Becky Minto Set/Costume Designer**

Paul Claydon Lighting Designer



Previous productions for Grid Iron; *Tryst, Once Upon a Dragon, Fierce, The Houghmagandie Pack*. She has worked for numerous theatre companies including National Theatre of Scotland and Royal Lyceum, Edinburgh. She was nominated for Best Design at CATS Awards for the *Emperor's New Kilt*, Wee Stories/NTS 2008; *Lost Ones* (costume design), Vanishing Point 2005 and MEN Awards for *Drenched*, Boilerhouse, 2006.



Paul trained at Queen Margaret University College and has worked on a wide variety of theatre production and events throughout Scotland and internationally over the last ten years. He is currently Head of Lighting for The National Theatre of Scotland. Previous Lighting Designs: Tryst, Yarn, Once Upon a Dragon, Roam, The Devil's Larder, Those Eyes that Mouth and Fierce, (Grid Iron), Transform Fife, Bint Jbeil, Aalst, Elgin Macbeth, and Project Macbeth. (NTS).

#### Fiona Fraser Production Manager



Fi has worked with many theatre companies including: The Traverse, (Venue Manager Traverse 3), NTS (Black Watch 2006), Perth Rep. Scottish Dance Theatre, The Happy Gang, Mull Theatre, Pitlochry Festival Theatre, The Citizens, Giant Productions, The Byre Theatre, Unique Events, Stellar Quines, Suspect Culture, Licketyspit, Vox Motus and most recently with Vanishing Point on Interiors. Fi has been Production Manager for Grid Iron since 2002 heading up the Stage Management team who won the 2004 SMA Excellence in Stage Management Award. In 2004 she was part of the team who conducted workshops in Lebanon and Jordan, returning to Beirut in 2005 with Those Eves. that Mouth and creating a new show as part of the capacity building and skills transfer project developed by Grid Iron for the British Council.



#### Maria Bechaalani Technical Manager

Maria works in professional theatre, dance and events as a technician. lighting designer and event manager. This is her first production for Grid Iron.





For Grid Iron, Mickey has worked on: Tryst, Yarn, Once Upon a Dragon, Roam. Those Eyes That Mouth, The Houghmagandie Pack and Gargantua. He has worked with many Scottish based theatre organisations including: Vanishing Point. National Theatre of Scotland, Dundee Rep. The Gaelic Arts Agency, Stellar Quines, Mull Theatre Company, Catherine Wheels, Benchtours, Traverse, Wee Stories. The macrobert Arts Centre, Boilerhouse and Edinburgh International Festival, He has also worked with New Perspectives (Mansfield). The Bush Theatre (London) and The Lyric Theatre (Belfast).

#### Nichola Reilly Deputy Stage Manager

This is Nichola's first time working with Grid Iron and she is enjoying all six inches of it. Previous credits include Marat/Sade Theatre Workshop. Me + Cilla, A Proper Bash, (Live Theatre), Cinderella and Sleeping Beauty. Newcastle Pantomine Company). Seraglio (Scottish Opera) and Sky High and After That (Citizen's Theatre).



#### Harriet Kirkwood Design Assistant

After graduating with a first class honours in Performance Costume, Harriet was offered a full scholarship to study an MFA at the Edinburgh College of Art, which she will graduate from in 2010. With a passion for costumes, textiles, set and production design, Harriet works as a specialist designer and maker for theatre and television in Scotland. She has worked with companies such as The Arches and Puppet lab, but this is her first production for Grid Iron.



#### Fiona Dougal General Manager

Fiona trained at the RSAMD and has worked with various companies in Scotland including the Royal Lyceum, United Artists (Scotland) Ltd, Borderline and Hopscotch. More recently she worked in London as Operations Manager for an international research company. She was appointed General Manager three years ago and has just returned after a maternity leave break (one daughter - Lilah - utterly beautiful) Fiona is looking forward to Grid Iron's return to the Fringe.



#### **Deborah Crewe** Finance Officer

Deborah has been Finance Officer for Grid Iron for the past three years although she has been closely involved with the company since it began in 1995.



#### **Hector and Tigger Office Dogs**

Hector joined Grid Iron in 2002 and his son, Tigger, joined in 2005. They look after security for the company with special responsibility for barking at the postman and monitoring lunch breaks.



# **Barfles**

### BASED ON THE SHORT STORIES AND POEMS OF CHARLES BUKOWSKI

With kind permission from Linda Bukowski and the Estate of Charles Bukowski

#### The short stories:

From the collection
'The Most Beautiful Woman in Town':

The Most Beautiful Woman in Town 3 Chickens 6 Inches

#### The poems:

THE LAUGHING HEART BY CHARLES BUKOWSKI

'The Laughing Heart' appears in 'Prairie Schooner', 'Betting on the Muse' and 'The Laughing Heart'.

'Bumming with Jane' from the collection 'You Get So Alone At Times It Just Makes Sense'

#### Other short extracts from:

'Long-Distance Drunk' from the collection 'Hot Water Music' (short story)

'my non-ambitious ambition' from the collection 'You Get So Alone At Times It Just Makes Sense' (poem)

'You Can't Write A Love Story' from the collection South of No North (short story)

'Scream when you Burn' from the collection 'Hot Water Music' (short story)

'The Lost Generation' from the collection 'You Get So Alone At Times It Just Makes Sense' (poem)

'Artistic Selfishness' from the collection 'What Matters Most Is How Well You Walk Through The Fire' (poem)

'some suggestions' from the collection 'You Get So Alone At Times It Just Makes Sense' (poem)

and two sentences from 'Barfly' (screenplay)

#### Song arrangements:

The Piano Has Been Drinking with kind permission from Carlin Music

Lilac Wine with kind permission from Warner/Chappell Music Limited.

# the G.I. Bukowski



Specially designed for Grid Iron by Christopher Reid and Ema Murray of The Barony, the G.I. Bukowski blends spirits from Scotland and the U.S. in a thirst-quenching low ball cocktail which, like most of the Grid Iron team, is best served over crushed ice!

1 measure of Drambuie 1 measure of Jim Beam 1 squirt of soda water Drizzle of Crabbies Green Ginger Wine 2 wedges of lime Serve over crushed ice Enjoy!



Vintage 2008 Name of production Tryst

Performed on Engoyholmen, an island in Stavanger harbour. Norway, home to a team of extremely talented boat-builders. A commission from Stavanger 2008 European Capital of Culture.

"At their best, as here, Grid Iron's use of real settings turns the theatrical mainstay of suspension of disbelief on its head. Surrounded by piles of chandlery and half-finished boats. the resiny tang of fresh-cut timber in your nostrils and the lapping of water around the rocky foreshore in your ears, you can hardly help believe" The Times

"Tryst is a thrilling visual and sensual experience, from the moment the boat pulls up to the magically lit island jetty. Becky Minto's design and Paul Claydon's lighting are often breathtaking, transforming the tiny island into a magical landscape of marine and domestic imagery - four great white sails soaring into the darkness here, a lit window there - and making brilliant use both of the gleaming shapes of the boats under construction, and of the beams, ladders and long attics of the workshop building." The Scotsman

Vintage 2008 Name of production **Yarn** 

Performed in The Verdant Works Museum of Textiles, Dundee. A co-production between Dundee Rep Ensemble and Grid Iron.

"This is an outstanding production, delivered by a brilliant cast... The audience is led seamlessly through with little dilution in emotional intensity, an ongoing fascination holding the pieces together generating a truly unforgettable theatrical experience" Evening Telegraph and Post

"Rich in ideas, vivid in execution, this Yarn forms a delightful fabric that takes time to unravel." The Guardian





Vintage 2007 Name of production Once Upon a Dragon

Performed in Cammo Estate, Edinburgh, as part of the Bank of Scotland Children's International Theatre Festival

"a real theatrical tour-de-force...every scene contains moments that catch the breath with the same visual and aural magic... The Scotsman

Vintage 2006 Name of production Roam

Awards Critics Awards for Theatre in Scotland - Best Production, Best Technical Presentation and Best Ensemble, Arts and Business (UK) Community Award & Ogilly Arts and Business Award, Arts and Business (Scotland) New or Returning Sponsor Award

Performed in BAA Edinburgh International Airport, in co-production with the National Theatre of Scotland, this was the first time anywhere in the world a full-scale promenade theatre production was allowed to take place in both the landside and airside passenger areas of a working airport.

"The sharpness with which this show identifies the airport as one of the key points of postmodern issues of identity, entitlement and belonging are played out - matched by Grid Iron's sheer practical genius in weaving its drama through the structures and spaces of an airport - make this vital and important 21st-century theatre" The Scotsman

Vintage 2005 Name of production The Devil's Larder

Awards Scotsman Fringe First, Herald Archangel, Total Theatre, Carol Tambor Best of Edinburgh

Performed in the old City Morque, Cork and Debenham's department store, Edinburgh, Commissioned by Cork 2005 European Capital of Culture.

"Harrison's astonishing command of the whole language of 21st-century theatre - text, music, movement, image and the breathing presence of the audience – never wavers" The Scotsman

"A dark, luscious treat of a show" The List





Vintage 2005

## Name of production **Those Eyes, That Mouth** and **The Story of the Death of Nagib Brax**

Performed in The former General Security building, Beirut, Lebanon, Supported by the British Council

Following on from a three week workshop programme that core Grid Iron production team members led for the British Council in the Middle East in 2004 (in Lebanon and Jordan), Grid Iron created a Capacity Building and Skills Transfer project during which the company trained 22 theatre practitioners from Lebanon, Syria, Tunisia and Egypt. The result was a restaging of Those Eyes, That Mouth and the creation of a brand new show, The Story of the Death of Nagib Brax, co-directed by emergent Beirut theatre director Hisham Jaber.

Vintage 2004 Name of production fierce: an urban myth

Awards Stage Award for Acting Excellence, Critics Awards for Theatre in Scotland – Best Music, Herald Devil, TMA Awards – nominated Best Musical

Performed on stage for Scottish tour

"a brilliantly realised affair that's both tragedy and the getting of wisdom... in a ideal world could easily grace the West End"



Vintage 2004

Name of production Naw Nader Men al Houb (A Rare Kind of Love)

Performed in The King Hussein Cancer Centre, Amman, Jordan.
Supported by the British Council

A co-production, in Arabic, with Takween Arts & Theatre Workshop, Amman, Jordan. This was the first ever site-specific production to be created in Jordan. Performed in promenade in the King Hussein Cancer Centre

Vintage 2003

Name of production **Those Eves. That Mouth** 

Awards Scotsman Fringe First, Stage Award Acting Excellence – Best Actress, Herald Angel – Best Actress, Herald Devil, Stage Management Assoc. Team Award, Critics Awards for Theatre in Scotland – Best Actress Daily Mail Soirit of the Fringe

Performed in 32 Abercromby Place, Edinburgh, then on stage for Scottish tour.

"...as rich, beautiful and completely satisfying an 80 minutes as you are ever likely to experience." The Scotsman

"this is contemporary theatre at its very best" Scotland on Sunday



Vintage 2003 Name of production The Houghmagandie Pack

Performed in promenade around the village of Alloway in various locations including Burns Cottage, the Old Kirkyard and Brig O'Doon. Commissioned by the Burns an a' That Festival

"This special combination of conventional drama and outdoor setting finally acquires an almost magical force" The Scotsman

Vintage 2002 Name of production Variety

Performed on stage in the King's Theatre Edinburgh – a co-production with Edinburgh International Festival

"...one of the most heart-breaking elegies to emanate from Scotland for some time. Ben Harrison's production is ambitiously and exquisitely realised" The Herald







Vintage 2002 Name of production **Fermentation**Performed in The Briggait Market, Glasgow and The Underbelly. Edinburgh

"In another thrillingly intelligent production the company has crafted an astonishing piece of theatre. Every detail is perfect, each performance is extraordinary" The Guardian

Fermentation was one of the Sunday Herald's 5 theatre highlights of 2002

Vintage 2000-2002

Name of production Decky Does a Bronco

Awards Scotsman Fringe First, Stage Award Acting Excellence – Best Ensemble, Barclays Stage Awards – nominated Best Touring Production

Performed in parks, gardens and playgrounds around Scotland in 2000. Subsequently co-produced by The Almeida Theatre, London for English tour in 2001 before going to Belfast Festival and, in 2002, Cork Fringe Festival.

"Utterly convincing and utterly brilliant – I'd run away and join Grid Iron tomorrow" Irish Times

"Theatre that effortlessly breathes straight from the heart"
The Times

One of the Observer's top 10 theatre events of 2002. Decky will tour Scotland and England again in 2010, celebrating its 10th birthday.





Vintage 1998 Name of production **Gargantua**Awards Scotsman Fringe First, Stage Award Acting Excellence
– nominated Best Ensemble

Performed in The Underbelly, Edinburgh (which Grid Iron discovered and named)

"a rich, fruitily, gorgeous, uninhibited celebration of the senses, greedily gastronomic, pungently scatological and filthily or lusciously sexual, depending on your taste"

The Scotsman

"a banquet of theatrical delights. What one remembers is relentless invention, raucous humour and quirky melancholy..." The List

Vintage 1997 – 1998 Name of production **The Bloody Chamber** 

Awards Herald Angel for Outstanding Achievement in Theatre

One of The Scotsman's Top 20 Scottish Theatre Events of all time.

Performed in Mary King's Close, Edinburgh in 1997 and in the London Dungeon and the Lagan Weir, Belfast in 1998.

"Grid Iron has led hundreds of people into thrilling close proximity with theatre of a very physical, poetic and immediate kind" The Herald

Other Productions

#### Monumental 1999

Performed in promenade in and around The Citizens' Glasgow

#### Clearance 1996

Performed on stage for Scottish tour

# Would you like to tell us what you thought of the show? Please visit our website www.gridiron.org.uk and follow the

link to Barflies Audience Feedback.

If you don't have access to the internet please ask one of the Front of House staff for a paper version.

We'd be delighted to hear from you!

## Grid Iron are trying to be environmentally responsible.

The cover of this programme is (appropriately!) printed on Bier paper from GF Smith which is fully recycled paper made from hops, malt and yeast from Bavarian brewers and also old beer labels from recycled bottles.

The inner paper comes from sustainable sources. This programme is printed using Soya based inks.

Our printers have achieved FSC and PEFC accreditation.

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Product group from well-manage
forests and other controlled sourc

Cert no. TT-COC-0025 www.fsc.org

# with thanks

Special thanks to LINDA BUKOWSKI and the ESTATE OF CHARLES BUKOWSKI.

Special thanks to PAUL YAMAMOTO, representative and custodian of the ESTATE OF CHARLES BUKOWSKI.

The management, staff and patrons of The Barony Bar for allowing us to perform (as well as drink!) in their establishment. All at The Traverse Theatre, especially, but not exclusively, the Box Office and Front of House teams and Mike Griffiths for some very sound advice.

Francisco Javier Fernandez; Euan McLaren; National Theatre of Scotland; LEDs supplied by Pixel Range (www.pixelrange.co.uk); Frank at Capital Embroidery; Peter at Sportscrest; Chris and Nick Hunn; Jim Davidson at Mobius Jewellery; The Blue Moon Café.

Special thanks to Big House Events for their continuing collaborative support

And, as ever, Emma, Andy, Oliver and Amy Quinn – for once again going above and beyond the call of duty.

Grid Iron would like to further express their gratitude to Linda for the invaluable time she has spent talking with us about the production and her husband's work, and for her interest in the company. Also, Paul Yamamoto, for his role in making the production possible (and for being an 'Affinity Scot'!)

# EDINBURGH

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www.gridiron.org.uk

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Patrons: Christopher Cazenove, Jim Haynes, Emma Quinn

Board: Deborah Crewe, Judith Doherty, Ben Harrison, Chris Hunn, Kath Mainland and Neil Weir (Chair).

# BAR

**ENJOY GRID IRON RESPONSIBLY**