

**PRESS RELEASE: AENEAS FAVERSHAM RETURNS**, part of the Edinburgh Festival Fringe, 2-26th August, 6.10pm, Smirnoff Underbelly (Belly Button) Previews £5 (2nd, 3rd), Weekdays: £8/£7, Weekends: £9/£8. Box Office: 0870 745 3083, [www.underbelly.co.uk](http://www.underbelly.co.uk) **PRESS CONTACTS:** Idil Sukan (07984037417) [idil@pennydreadfuls.co.uk](mailto:idil@pennydreadfuls.co.uk) Steve Greer (07870165157) [steve@pennydreadfuls.co.uk](mailto:steve@pennydreadfuls.co.uk)

# AENEAS FAVERSHAM RETURNS

VICTORIAN SKETCH COMEDY AT THE SMIRNOFF UNDERBELLY

WRITTEN & PERFORMED BY THE PENNY DREADFULS



CHORTLE



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THE INDEPENDENT



THREE WEEKS

**The critically acclaimed Penny Dreadfuls return to the Edinburgh Fringe Festival with a brand new sketch comedy show set entirely in the Victorian era.**

Gentlemen, attend to your swooning ladies, for Aeneas Faversham Returns to the Smirnoff Underbelly!

It's an hour of sketches, slanders and happenstance set in the murky streets and smoky drawing rooms of the 19th century - reminding us that **when it comes to sex, revenge and embezzling orphans, the Victorians got there first.**

"It's the only show at the Fringe which travels with both an opium den and a steam-powered blimp," explains producer Idil Sukan, "And a cast that has fought in no less than six wars – often on the side of the British Empire."

Marvel at the cunning of devilish English spies, gasp at the skeletons in the cupboards of English cabinet ministers and relive your fond memories of the battle of Omdurman in '98: as Queen Victoria very nearly said, "Fuck me, that's amusing."

"Imagine Conan Doyle, Dickens and HG Wells' prose brought to life as Michael Palin and Terry Jones' Ripping Yarns, because Aeneas Faversham's is a world narrated with arched eyebrow. A candlelit realm of orphans, adventures, freaks, diabolical laughter and Machiavellian plots."

\*\*\*\* **The Scotsman (March 2007)**

"In your list of top ten best Fringe experiences ever. It was like watching a live-action book of Edward Gorey and Lemony Snickett. Perfect. Out of a scale of five stars, this show deserves seven."

\*\*\*\*\* **British Theatre Guide (August 2006)**

"Their timing was faultless and their material refreshingly original... they constantly had the audience in hysterics"

\*\*\*\*\* **Edinburgh Evening News (August 2006)**

"Wonderful... streets ahead of any competitors"

\*\*\*\*\* **Chortle (August 2006)**

## A HISTORY OF THE PENNY DREADFULS

**The Penny Dreadfuls formed in November 2005. They are Jamie Anderson, Humphrey Ker, David Reed & Thom Tuck.**

Veteran members of Edinburgh's improv comedy institution 'The Improverts', these four debonair humourists sat down together to conjure up a sketch show full of intrigue, melodrama and rip-roaring Victorian restraint.

Since formation, the Dreadfuls have performed all over the UK, including at the Leicester, Latitude, G66 & two Glasgow Comedy Festivals, the BBC Radio Theatre and the Shepherd's Bush Empire for the Children in Need comedy gala.

Their sketch 'The Curious Birth of Willoughby Faversham' was broadcast on BBC3 as part of Comedy Shuffle in March 2007, as lavish blue-screen special effects and customized facial hair took the Dreadfuls sword-fighting atop Big Ben.

They are currently in development on a 4-part series for BBC Radio to air in October.

Their sell-out Edinburgh Festival debut in 2006 at the Smirnoff Underbelly was a hit. Illuminated with dramatic lighting, punctuated by a sweeping epic soundtrack and brilliantly foiled by the murky atmosphere of the underground venue, it was met with universal acclaim.

And goodness - they're back. With a completely new show of Victorian comedy treats. And more manly than ever. Hurrah! Gentlemen! The Queen!

For more information, photos, reviews, please visit our steam-powered website [www.pennydreadfuls.co.uk](http://www.pennydreadfuls.co.uk)

The Penny Dreadfuls are managed in-house and are represented by Susan Williams, at The Richard Stone Partnership, [www.vivienneclore.com](http://www.vivienneclore.com)

For Smirnoff Underbelly press tickets & more info, please contact [press@underbelly.co.uk](mailto:press@underbelly.co.uk) or 0870 745 3078