



BREAKING CYCLES

presents

'THE DEVIL HAS QUENTIN'S HEART'

a one-man play in 80 minutes...a journey from hopelessness to redemption

BENJI REID, Artistic Director of Manchester based theatre company **Breaking Cycles**, returns to the stage in a one-man tour de force titled '**The Devil Has Quentin's Heart**' which premieres at Manchester's Contact Theatre on October 30th before touring throughout November.

The Devil Has Quentin's Heart was inspired by the 1993 novel *Iced* by Ray Shell, from which the company has created a modern day fable of temptation and transcendence. Benji himself plays the central character, Quentin Forest, the play takes the audience on a heart stopping rollercoaster ride as it follows Forest's spectacular fall from the giddy heights of success to the desperate lows of failure and loss. It's a story of redemption in an atmosphere riddled with guilt and fear as Forest explores the stark reality of his desperate life, his compromises and his future...if there is one...

TOUR DATES:

October 30-31 st	MANCHESTER, Contact Theatre	0161 274 0600	www.contact-theatre.org
November 4 th	LONDON, Jackson's Lane	020 8341 4421	www.jacksonslane.org.uk
November 17-18 th	READING, South Street	0118 960 6060	www.readingarts.com/southstreet
November 19 th	LONDON, The Albany	020 8692 4446	www.thealbany.org.uk
November 24 th	HEMEL HEMPSTEAD, Old Town Hall	0144 222 8091	www.oldtownhall.co.uk
November 26 th	LINCOLN, LPAC Tel:	0844 888 4414	www.lpac.co.uk
November 27 – 28 th	BIRMINGHAM, THE REP	0121 236 4455	www.birmingham-rep.co.uk

Further info:

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Benji Reid: *"I waited years to approach Ray Shell about adapting his novel and eventually caught up with him last year...In 'The Devil Has Quentin's Heart' the audience is introduced to Quentin Forest, a successful Wall Street trader who's made a pact with the devil and traded his heart in return for financial success. Somewhere along the line he gets betrayed and framed for fraud; he soon loses his job, then his home and ultimately finds himself living on the streets of New York, penniless, alcoholic and plagued by his inner demons. This is the story told on Quentin's last day, in his last hour, just before Satan comes banging on the door..."*

"It was also a dream to work with master DJ Andrew Wong (Master Wong aka Chengy) - this is truly the first time I have felt the freedom to working with pre-recorded music. Andrew has found the soul of Quentin and presented this in a sonic landscape. I was overjoyed when the piece started to turn into a musical, well not so much a musical but a play where music plays a significant part of the world and story."

The Devil Has Quentin's Heart is a twisted, funky and perverse modern day tragedy that explodes the nature of performance, storytelling and dance.

Devised and Written By Benji Reid, Peader Kirk and Ray Shell
Based on characters from the novel 'Iced' by Ray Shell
Directed By Peader Kirk
Performed By Benji Reid
Musical Composition and Performance By Andrew Wong
Lighting Design By Paul Colley

BREAKING CYCLES

Formed by **Benji Reid**, **BREAKING CYCLES** is a Manchester based, artist led company dedicated to the creation and production of inclusive, highly energised, emotionally conflicting physical theatre - crossing and challenging the boundaries of multi disciplined art forms. Breaking Cycles is internationally recognised as a highly respected advocate for Hip Hop Theatre, playing a key role in its development as an art form, challenging, engaging and creating new audiences for theatre. The company has successfully toured work in the UK and internationally to venues such as The Sydney Opera House, Toronto World Stage Festival, New York and Washington DC Hip Hop Theater Festivals, Sadler's Wells and the National Theatre.

COMPANY BIOGRAPHIES

BENJI REID: PERFORMER / DEVISOR. In 2005 Benji received the NESTA Dreamtime Fellowship, awarded to prestigious artists for their outstanding achievements and continuing development and was nominated for the ART05 award for his work in the North West of England. Benji trained as a dancer with the Northern School of Contemporary Dance and as an actor with the internationally renowned Philippe Gaullier and Double Edge Theatre. Benji's dance background includes; 1985 GLC Break-Dance Champions with Broken Glass Street Crew, European Body-Popping Champion and 2nd in the 1986 World Dance Championships. In 1989 Benji worked with the legendary Soul II Soul as the main dancer and co-choreographer for their world tour, appearing on the Arsino Hall show and playing at the Soul Train Awards.

In theatre Benji has worked with such highly regarded companies as the David Glass Ensemble, Trestle Theatre, Theatr Clwyd and Black Mime Theatre. It was with Black Mime Theatre that Benji first became interested in directing; he has been creating physical and hip hop theatre for over ten years.

PEADER KIRK: DIRECTOR / DEVISER. Peader works internationally in the field of cutting edge performance. His work ranges from large-scale pieces taking over entire city blocks to intimate one on one interactive performances to 24 hour no-stop marathons. Peader's work explores what theatre can be now and how it might speak to diverse audiences. In the past ten years Peader has created over 20 performances works in the UK, Greece and Italy. Peader trained as a Director with Robert Lepage and Eugenio Barba before receiving the first Young Vic Theatre Award in 1998 along with Ruth Ben Tovim. Alongside his Directing work Peader has also lectured at Central School of Speech and Drama, Rose Bruford College, University of Wales Aberystwyth and Turin Academy of Fine Arts. Since 2000 Peader has been Artistic Director of Mkultra Performance – www.mkultra.org.uk

ANDREW WONG aka MASTER WONG: MUSICAL DIRECTOR. Andrew is a lecturer at the Technics DJ Academy in Manchester and a specialist DJ for clubs, bands and theatre companies. Andrew became involved with music and DJing in 1991. He turned his hand to producing in 1997 working with 'The Dust Junkys', 'Compound' and 'Parrish'. In 1999 Andrew founded 'Sample This', a fortnightly Jam Night with a difference at the Roadhouse in Manchester. The difference was a house band with a pair of turntables. Already an experienced DJ, the jam nights taught Andrew how to use the decks in working with live musicians. Boosting his reputation, 'Sample This' opened doors to do a lot of other local projects including undertaking the role as Musical Director for a Contact Theatre production.

RAY SHELL is author of the critically acclaimed best selling novel, *Iced*. Ray's short stories have been published by Serpents Tale and Penguin; he has written the plays *Fredrick Avery Visits*, *White Folks*, *Street Angles*, *Black Thoughts in an Early Moon*, and *Iced*. He has also published articles in the New York Times, The Voice and The Guardian; Ray is CEO for www.angel22.tv an internet TV company and is working on a new novel *An Eye...A Tooth*.

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