

THE MAN WHO WAS HAMLET

George Dillon's one man show

Who really wrote Hamlet? Award-winning performer **George Dillon** returns to **Edinburgh** after six years with his new play, *The Man Who Was Hamlet*, which tells the comical, tragical, romantic and utterly scandalous history of Edward de Vere, 17th Earl of Oxford, the leading alternative candidate for the authorship of the works of "William Shakespeare".

"An exciting piece of writing, witty and sharp, ironic, comedic and sometimes philosophical... and, as usual, a masterclass in delivery and individual performance."

FringeReview

The fairy-tale story of "the man from Stratford" - an unschooled glove-maker's son who left his wife to find wealth and fame as a playwright in London - is widely believed... but there is actually very little evidence for any of it.

So who was Edward de Vere? A brilliant but disgraceful aristocrat whose life and character strikingly echo Shakespeare's most famous character, Edward de Vere was a courtier, swordsman, adventurer and poet, who was hailed as the best of the secret court writers, especially for his comedies. But no plays have survived bearing de Vere's name and his poetry suddenly stopped after the first invention of... 'William Shake-speare'.

So was de Vere the inspiration and role model for Hamlet... or was he really the author? In George Dillon's seventh solo show, directed by Denise Evans with music by Charlotte Glasson, the dying Dane's last words summon the ghost of Edward de Vere to tell his own story, restore his wounded name and triumph over time.

"It's easy to see why Dillon's performances have made

him the toast of Edinburgh... The journey through Oxford's life was a virtuoso display of dramatic range."

BritishTheatreGuide

Since *Stunning the Punters* in 1990, George Dillon has created several compelling one man shows which have toured extensively in the UK and abroad. This year will be George's fourteenth on the Fringe. He won a **Herald "Angel" Award** in 2000 for his performance in Steven Berkoff's *Graft - Tales of an Actor*, and his last two Edinburgh shows were each nominated for **The Stage's "Best Actor" Award** (*Graft* in 2000 and *The Gospel of Matthew* in 2003). This year he has also directed newcomer **Jade Blue** in a one woman show, *Against the Odds*, inspired by a Paul Auster novel and co-written by Dillon and Blue. Both shows are at Hill Street Theatre, 5th-30th August.

WEB LINKS

www.georgedillon.com

LISTINGS:

THE MAN WHO WAS HAMLET

written and performed by **George Dillon**.

The story of Edward de Vere, 17th Earl of Oxford, leading alternative candidate for the authorship of Shakespeare.