

CAMBRIDGE FOOTLIGHTS PERFECT STRANGERS

PRESS RELEASE (CAMBRIDGE)

FOOTLIGHTS' 50th YEAR AT THE FRINGE

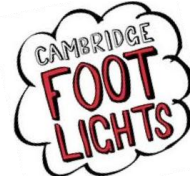
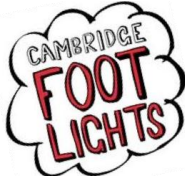
Following sell-out successes in 2010 and 2011, the Cambridge Footlights International Tour 2012 – *Perfect Strangers* – kicks off at the ADC Theatre this June with a fortnight of previews. Showcasing the Footlights' best writing and performing talent, the two-hour previews will be a chance for the cast to perfect their material and distil the show into a punchy and hilarious hour of comedy. Following the Cambridge run, a string of London performances will portend the tour's arrival at the Edinburgh Festival Fringe, after which the show will transfer to America, performing in **New York, Chicago, Boston and Philadelphia** at some of the most prestigious comedy venues in the world. By the time the tour returns to Cambridge in October, *Perfect Strangers* will have been seen by over 20,000 people.

This year's tour is of extra importance to the Footlights. In August 1962, four of the society – **John Cleese, Tim Brooke-Taylor, Graham Chapman, and Ian Lang** – were the first to perform under the Footlights name at the Edinburgh Fringe. Produced by **Sir Trevor Nunn**, *Double Take* was an instant hit and helped establish those involved as a comedy force to be reckoned with. Following its breakthrough success in 1962, the club has been a prominent element of the Fringe ever since. 2012 marks fifty years since that first Caledonian foray, and this year promises yet another exciting, original and hilarious Footlights production at Edinburgh and beyond.

Preparations for the tour began back in January, and with a cast and production team already making waves on the national comedy circuit, this year's company seems set to go far. Phil Wang – outgoing president of the Footlights, **Chortle Student Comedian of the Year 2010 and Comedy Central Funniest Student 2011** – tells us, “The Tour Show represents the culmination of three years of writing, directing and performing comedy in Cambridge and we are all keen to put all that experience into making the best show possible.”

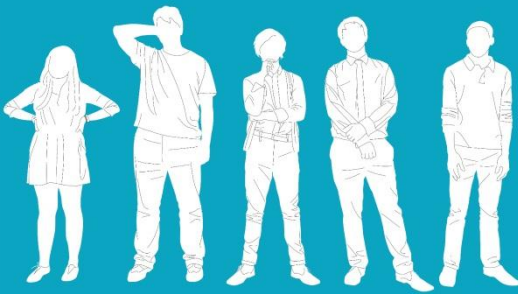
Director Abi Tedder continues: “The Footlights International Tour Show is the biggest production of the year from the most famous student comedy society





in the world. Since 1962 Footlights have had a reputation for bringing original, exciting and intelligent comedy to the Fringe and this year we aim to continue this tradition. The previews are an opportunity for the brightest stars of this year's Footlights to use their three years of comedy experience at Cambridge to perfect an hour of sketch comedy to present to a global audience. It is a chance for our cast to make the move from the world of student comedy into the slick, honed and competitive professional circuit. It's a chance for our audience to see some of comedy's brightest young stars before they make it big – it promises to be a real treat."

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PERFECT STRANGERS



"A SEEDBED FOR MIGHTY COMEDY TALENTS"
 TimeOut

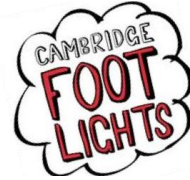
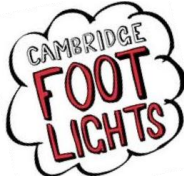
19.45 Tue 12 - Sat 23 June (not 17) 2012
 14.30 Sat 16 & 23
 Mon-Wed £8/£6, Thu-Sat £10/£8, Matinées: £8/£6

adc theatre
 Park Street • Cambridge
 box office: 01223 300085
 free online booking: adctheatre.com

FOOTLIGHTS 1962

DOUBLE TAKE





PERFORMANCE DATES

Tue 12th Jun – Sat 24th Jun 2011 at 7:45pm (no performance Sun 17th Jun)
Sat 16th and Sat 24th matinées at 2pm

ADC Theatre, Park Street, Cambridge CB5 8AS

PRESS ENQUIRIES

For further information please contact Emily Burns on
producer@footlightstour.co.uk

For press-quality images please visit www.adctheatre.com/press.php

For press tickets or other enquiries, please contact Richard Bates on
+44 (0)1223 359547 or marketing@adctheatre.com

NOTES TO EDITORS

The Cambridge Footlights are the celebrated comedy troupe responsible for launching – and continuing to launch – many of the greatest names in comedy, including John Cleese, Stephen Fry, Hugh Laurie and more recently Mitchell and Webb, Sasha Baron Cohen, and Simon Bird and Joe Thomas of *The Inbetweeners*.

The ADC Theatre, Cambridge is Britain's oldest University playhouse. Plays have been performed on the site of the theatre since 1855, when the Cambridge University Amateur Dramatic Club was founded, and the society met in the backroom of a hotel. Whilst every performer and technician is an unpaid volunteer, the impressive alumni list proves how many have gone on to great success in the theatre industry. The ADC presents two shows every evening during university term, as well as a range of other programming outside of term from touring and local drama groups.

