



EDINBURGH FESTIVAL FRINGE 2006 - [COMEDY](#)

# David Benson - Why Pay More?

FRINGE FAVOURITE CELEBRATES TEN YEARS  
OF SOLO SHOWS BY LOSING THE PLOT

Pleasance Courtyard (Venue 33)

2 - 28 August 2006 (not 9, 16 August) 14.00 (15.00)



With six solo shows and ten years as “the Fringe’s Golden Boy” (*The Scotsman*) under his belt, David Benson needs a change. This year, as he celebrates the tenth anniversary of his renowned Fringe First award-winner *Think No Evil of Us - My Life With Kenneth Williams*, David has dumped the Big Subjects of his past shows. There’ll be no ghost stories, celebrity hero-worship, reconstructions of Diana’s funeral, or conspiracy theories in *Why Pay More?* Instead, as he’s always been praised for the auto-biographical elements of his shows, this is a chance to see David doing what he’s loved for: talking about himself.

“Around the fringe there are actors, script-writers, comedians, stand up comics, impersonators, singers - and there is Benson, a theatrical enigma who does it all, with a broad, cheeky smile.” *Edinburgh Guide*

So, released from thematic constraints, what is David going to talk about on-stage? The answer? Whatever he wants; from his Edinburgh experiences since 1983, the world today as he sees it and maybe even the correct way to eat Maltesers. An intimate and funny hour imbued with the uncompromising honesty and unique audience rapport that has characterised his work from the beginning. An irresistible blend of chat, characters, impersonations and sketches with a few songs throw in for good measure.

“Sensitive, liberating, and dangerously funny.” *The Times*

David Benson first appeared at the Edinburgh Fringe in 1983 in a student production of the Biblical rock opera *The Prodigal Son*. Sarcastically dismissed by *The Scotsman*’s reviewer as ‘a classic of its kind,’ the show was a miserable failure. But for Benson it was the beginning of a love affair with Edinburgh. Two years later, he hitched a ride to Scotland’s capital with nothing more than a rucksack - and stayed for thirteen years. For five of these, he worked with the Fringe First-collecting Grassmarket Project under the supervision of maverick director Jeremy Weller. This was the training ground for creating the seven solo shows that have premiered in Edinburgh since 1996. Yes, he’s got a lot to talk about!

“Masterful comic insight. And he can sing, the swine. Miss him at your peril.” *The Independent*

#### LISTINGS INFORMATION

David Benson - *Why Pay More?* at Pleasance Courtyard. Sub-venue: BabyGrand. Fringe Venue 33.

NB: *BabyGrand* is most easily accessed via the entrance from the street next to the pedestrian crossing.

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Tickets £4 (previews 2-5 August) £7.50 (£6) (Monday-Thursday) £8.50 (£7) (Friday-Sunday)

Box Office 0131 556 6550 [www.pleasance.co.uk](http://www.pleasance.co.uk) Fringe Box Office 0131 226 0000 [www.edfringe.com](http://www.edfringe.com)

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