

10th November 2009
PRESS RELEASE



**The Crick Crack Club tours *Frankenstein*
by performance storyteller, Ben Haggarty, and
musician Sianed Jones
7.45pm, Thursday 10th December 2009**

Ben Haggarty and Sianed Jones perform *Frankenstein* at Aberystwyth Arts Centre on Thursday 10th December at 7.45pm.

Performance storytelling is making the news this year and this is a chance to hear one of the great pioneers and masters of this improvisatory art form at his inspired best, working with his long term musical collaborator, Sianed Jones.

Romantic interest in scientific discoveries in the late eighteenth and early nineteenth century produced *Frankenstein*, the first myth of the modern age. Ben Haggarty and Sianed Jones have reworked Mary Shelley's masterpiece, as a 'Monster's Lib' Steam Punk Extravaganza!'. Enter a world of feverish dreaming, as these two master improvisers explore the nature of the consciousness of a man made by man and the responsibility of the creator towards the created.

Drawing on the original story, Hollywood's cinematic retellings, Greek and Jewish legends, and pop culture, this powerful and startling performance combines spoken narrative, vocals, bass and electric violin to lure audiences into the imagined world of Dr Frankenstein and his monster.

Internationally renowned for his playful and dynamic performances, Ben Haggarty tells his stories with infectious charm and deceptive ease. Composer, multi-instrumentalist and singer, Sianed Jones, has been variously described as having a voice like that of a 'wailing Welsh banshee', a 'soft seducer', and a 'passionate revolutionary'.

He's huge, he's naked, and he'll be running amok in the minds of audiences this winter. Truly a story for our time, *Frankenstein* speaks of power unleashed and our fear of the unknown.

'This is real Storytelling'

The Guardian, Hay Festival

Frankenstein is unsuitable for children under 14 years. Tickets for this performance are £7.50 (£6) and can be booked by contacting the Arts Centre ticket office on 01970 62 32 32 or online at www.aber.ac.uk/artscentre

-ENDS-

Ben Haggarty

Having been trained in mime and theatre direction in the 1970s, and apprenticed as an image-maker with **Welfare State**, Ben Haggarty began telling stories professionally in 1981 - becoming a central figure in the re-visioning of storytelling as a contemporary performing art in the UK. He is honorary professor of storytelling at the **Arts University of Berlin** (UDK) and is the official storyteller with **Yo Yo Ma's Silk Road Ensemble**.

Sianed Jones

Sianed Jones is a Composer / Performer / Improviser / Teacher specialising in **Extended Vocal Techniques**, working in cross art form projects collaborating cross culturally with choreographers, writers, film makers and performance artists in site specific performances. She holds a B.A (Hon) Degree in Music from Dartington College of Arts 1980 and an M.Mus. Degree in Electro-acoustic Composition, University of East Anglia 1997. Her vocal research into has taken her to Egypt, Kenya, Tanzania, Madagascar, (1987) Mongolia (1994) Kazakhstan, and Kyrgistan (1999). She is currently a composer, singer, musician with the **RSC's Royal Shakespeare's History Company**

The Crick Crack Club

The Crick Crack Club is England's premier promoter and programmer of performance storytelling, currently funded by Arts Council England and the Paul Hamlyn Foundation. Founded in 1987, it has programmed work for, and in collaboration with, The Barbican, The South Bank Centre, The National Theatre, Shakespeare's Globe, Tristan Bates Theatre, Northern Stage, Cheltenham Literature Festival, The British Library, The Wellcome Trust, The Unicorn Theatre, and more. The club programmes regular sell out performances at the **Barbican Pit Theatre** and in the **Soho Theatre Studio**; programmes annual seasons with numerous other arts centres and theatres; tours work nationally; offers training, and mentors emerging artists.

Notes to editors:

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Further Aberystwyth Arts Centre press releases can be found at www.aberystwythartscentre.co.uk/press.shtml.