

PRESS RELEASE – BABASWORD PRODUCTIONS

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NEWS & SPECIAL INTEREST

Rogue Chaucer Scholar Salutes **Rogue** Shakespeare Company

New Shakespeare and New Chaucer are Flat-mates at the Fringe

Baba Brinkman, the Canadian creator of “**The Rap Canterbury Tales**” (“truly awe-inspiring ...★★★★★” *Scotsman*), was surprised to meet his doppelganger at the Edinburgh Fringe in 2005. Brinkman, a medieval scholar turned rap artist, has drawn strong praise as “a genius with an incredible command of the English language” (*FringeReport.com*) and his show was called “the clearest re-telling of Chaucer I’ve ever been exposed to (and yes, that includes the BBC)” (*British Theatre Guide*). Little did Brinkman know that someone else at the Fringe was on a mission to resurrect another renaissance classic.

Ryan J-W Smith is the mastermind behind the Rogue Shakespeare Company, which produces original verse comedies in a Shakespearian mode. Like Brinkman, Smith has been hailed as “the Bard mark two” (*BBC*) and “Shakespeare for a modern audience...★★★★★” (*UK Theatre Network*), and like Brinkman, Smith had been called a genius by gushing critics and was pulling sizeable crowds. Both had followed in the footsteps of a master and created something entirely new and relevant to a modern audience.

The similarities were at first a little unsettling, and the two struck up an uneasy rivalry. Brinkman was quoted as saying, “Well, Shakespeare is know to have plagiarized extensively from Chaucer for his material, so Ryan’s success isn’t surprising.” The main difference in their approach is that Brinkman borrows his content from Chaucer, while inventing a totally new style, whereas Smith borrows his style from Shakespeare, while inventing completely new content.

Eventually the two set aside their scarce differences and became friends. This year they are flat-mates and co-conspirators, and can often be seen behaving roguishly with their entourage on the town. There has even been talk of a future collaboration...

The Rap Canterbury Tales
The Roman Eagle Lodge
3-26 Aug, 8:45 pm (1 hr)
www.romaneaglelodge.co.uk
Press: info@babasword.com

Love Labours Won
The Gilded Balloon Teviot
1-27 Aug, 4:30 pm (1 hr)
www.gildedballoon.co.uk
Press: info@inimitable.com