

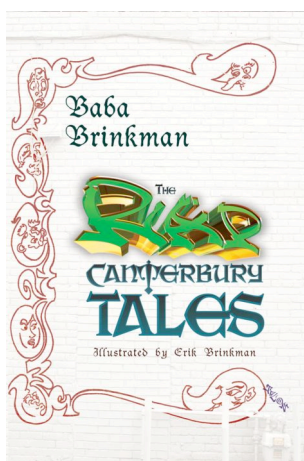
PRESS RELEASE – EDINBURGH FRINGE 2007

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE
JUNE 26 2007

VENUE 21 - ROMAN EAGLE LODGE
THEATRE PRODUCTION

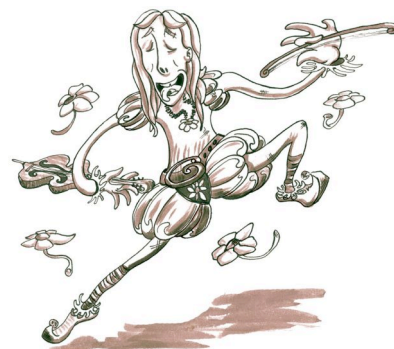
THE **RAP** CANTERBURY TALES

The Rap Canterbury Tales is a contemporary adaptation of Chaucer's 14th century masterpiece, a hip-hop "tour de force" (*San Francisco Weekly*), and at the same time "the clearest retelling of Chaucer's work...and that includes the BBC" (*British Theatre Guide*). The writer and performer of the show, **Baba Brinkman**, is an accomplished Canadian rap artist who also happens to have a Masters degree in medieval literature. This mash-up of high and low culture, of posh and chav, of literary and popular themes, is entirely in keeping with the spirit of the original "Canterbury Tales".



The Rap Canterbury Tales first toured Fringe Festivals around the world in 2004, including stops in Prague, Montreal, Edinburgh, and San Francisco. In Edinburgh the production sold out most of its performances and was nominated for a **Tap Water Award** for theatrical excellence. It even became something of a fringe icon. **Smithsonian Magazine's** Spring 2006 issue ran a "Best of Europe" travel feature including Edinburgh: "Events occur round-the-clock at the world's largest open arts festival... Expect Brecht, Bach, nude comedy and even a **rap version of The Canterbury Tales**" (*Smithsonian Magazine*). But this was false advertising, since Baba Brinkman was at home in Canada in 2006 recording his third album, which is now playing nation-wide on Canadian radio stations.

Since 2004, **The Rap Canterbury Tales** has been released as a studio-quality LP from Lit Fuse Records (available through the **iTunes Music Store**) and was recently published as an illustrated paperback from the literary press **Talon Books**. Now, at the 2007 Fringe, **The Rap Canterbury Tales** returns to Edinburgh to fulfill its promise. The production has been re-written and refined, and is now illuminated with original graffiti-inspired illustrations created by **Erik Brinkman**, Baba's younger brother.



The Rap Canterbury Tales
Babasword Productions
Dates: 3-26 Aug
Times: 8:45 pm (1 hr)
Tickets: Regular £7.50 (£6.50)
 Previews Aug 3-5 £5 (£4)

Venue 21 – Roman Eagle Lodge
2 Johnson Terrace
Box Office: 0131 226 7207
Press Office: 0131 226 4508
TheLodge.press@yahoo.co.uk
www.romaneaglelodge.co.uk

Web: www.babasword.com
Email: info@babasword.com

Phone: 07876 263 824

Praise for The Rap Canterbury Tales:

“Truly awe-inspiring... a sharp script and one charismatic and versatile actor... [The Rap Canterbury Tales] could hold it's own in both the rapping world and the theatre world”

THE SCOTSMAN, EDINBURGH

“Hilarious...by far the best performance I have ever been to!”

BBC WEST YORKSHIRE

“He preserves the kind of brilliance and surprise, the kind of linguistic pyrotechnics one finds in Chaucer”

DR. JAMES SIMPSON, HARVARD UNIVERSITY MEDIEVALIST

“A fun, crisp, non-literal translation that, at its very best, captures the verve and stylized rhymes of its inspiration”

BLOOMSBURY REVIEW OF BOOKS

“Baba Brinkman flaunts a prodigious memory and almost word perfect delivery – proving that a good story remains a good story, even after six hundred years”

THREE WEEKS, EDINBURGH

"Certainly the clearest retelling of Chaucer's work I've ever been exposed to (and yes, that includes the BBC dramas that graced our television screens last fall)."

BRITISH THEATRE GUIDE

“A genius with an astounding command of the English language, Baba Brinkman bamboozles with arcane words and startling alliteration. But he leaves no one behind: there's an indelible physically-descriptive performance with his delivery. Crisp diction and originality in creative expression are at the foundation of his performance. Surprises occur regularly, with changes in tone, acceleration in speed and variance in volume; even the pauses intrigue.”

FRINGE REPORT (www.fringereport.com)

“[A] tour de force...”

SAN FRANCISCO WEEKLY

Further information and comments from young people can be seen at:

www.myspace.com/bababrinkman