

Luke Pitman presents

THE HOUSE OF PITMAN



THEATRE (Clown, Physical Theatre)
Zoo Playground 2 | 24th - 30th August, 2026 | 20:35
(1hr)

Creator and Performer - Luke Pitman
Director - Oli Bates (*To Be Frank, Moonkid*)
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*"Ridiculously, utterly,
enjoyably stupid."*

The Reviews Hub

A one-man clown show about the worst stripper in a family-run strip club

The House of Pitman is an explosive physical comedy and clown show, where we bear witness to the fateful and chaotic stripping debut of Little Pitman, the youngest and least talented member of the renowned stripping family who run The House of Pitman. Little Pitman is the odd one out in his family - he's terrible at stripping. Unable to live up to the historic family reputation, Little Pitman has always been kept backstage: eager to please, desperate to belong and more comfortable being silly than sexy. But tonight, he's the only option: and the show must go on. House of Pitman is a playful, ridiculous and increasingly chaotic attempt as one man tries to win the love of the crowd, and his family. As the night goes on, the world around him begins to unravel into a fever dream of fantasy, family expectation and failure. While Little Pitman attempts to prove himself worthy of the Pitman name, the show explores his feelings of belonging, shame and inadequacy. Little Pitman has to decide - will he conform and be loved, or diverge and be happy?

Our star, Luke Pitman, is completely unable to read or write. His total and lifelong dyslexia has required him to devise this show verbally, assisted by friends, mentors and his committed team. The show's themes are deeply personal for Pitman, who has spent much of his life trying to survive and belong in a world where literacy is taken for granted, and where his disability has felt like a personal failing. But Luke found that his strength and joy lies not in what he cannot do, but in what he does better than anyone else - physical comedy. His ability to express himself physically, controlling and contorting his body and face with an inhuman animation and energy, has awed and astounded audiences in his 15 year career as a clown, actor and performer. In previous productions, his performance has achieved critical acclaim

"An explosion of bodily and facial contortions"

The Scotsman

"Pitman is extraordinary"

The Stage

The House of Pitman is Luke's first one man show, and the first performance he has devised himself. With this debut he wanted to create a show that's personal, showcasing the comedy and physicality that tells his story and captures the strengths that make him who he is. This is a show that embraces the darker, stranger and otherly worlds he has always been drawn to; a show that is hilarious and beautiful, chaotic and gentle, ridiculous and sincere all at once.

Creator and performer Luke Pitman said: “Little Pitman is an exaggerated version of me. There’s always one person in a family who doesn’t quite fit the mould, the odd one out, and that’s who I’m playing. He’s insecure and a constant people-pleaser, which is something I recognise in myself. Making the show has made me question that in myself too. I’ve had to keep asking: is this what I want to make, or what somebody else wants me to make? I feel like I’ve grown alongside Little Pitman. We’re both learning not to second-guess ourselves. It’s been the most fun thing to just trust an idea and go with it. Ultimately, I want the show to be fun and madness. It’s playful, it’s freeing and it’s a laugh a minute. I want the audience to feel like they’re the winners. It’s Little Pitman’s debut and it’s my debut too, so we’re doing it together.”

Director Oli Bates (*To Be Frank, Moonkid*) who trained at École Philippe Gaulier, said: “House of Pitman is about trying to live up to your family’s expectations and legacy and perhaps falling a little short. It’s completely absurd, very stupid and maybe a little bit sexy. Luke is a charming performer and it’s enormous fun to ride this rollercoaster of a show with him in the pilot’s seat.”

Luke Pitman is an actor, clown and theatre-maker, who has been working nationwide for the past 15 years. In the last 18 months he has developed his clown practice working directly with artists including Jon Davison and Elf Lyons. The House of Pitman is his first full-length solo work and marks his Edinburgh Fringe debut as a creator and performer.

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Company Information:

Created and Performed by: **Luke Pitman** (*Of the Kings Road*)

Directed By: **Oli Bates** (*To be Frank, Moonkid*)

Creative Producer: **Ro Clark** (*Women Havin’ a Wobbly, Lunar Circus*)

Marketing | Co-producer: **Josh McClure** (*Stamptown, Xhloe and Natasha*)

Creative Collaborators | Mentors: **Elf Lyons** (*Woman on the Edge*), **Jack Kelly** (*Of the Jackel*)

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IG: @lukepitmanactor