



WEST SIDE TORY: Ben Elton - The Musical

2nd – 28th August 2006 (not 15th)

6.30pm (7.30pm)

Gilded Balloon Teviot, Venue 14 Edinburgh Festival Fringe

Box Office: 0131 668 1633 / online www.gildedballoon.co.uk

Written by Dan Thomas

Directed by Toni Arthur-Hay

Music by Nick Byrne

Not written, endorsed by, or in any way featuring the real Ben Elton!

One of the greatest comedy writers in living memory. The class warrior who sent a shiver through the soul of every Daily Mail reader. The Man from Auntie who challenged Thatch. Saviour of the *Blackadder* series. A promising life turned horribly wrong. Can Ben be saved from turning into the 'farty' he once hated? Dan Thomas' first Edinburgh Festival show is an all-singing, part-dancing one-man spectacle-acular, spoofing classic musicals and 80's pop hits.

"Thomas delivers a cocktail of silly on the rocks, charming and devilishly cheeky, sellotaped together with a range of daft accents and the biggest smile west of Texas" *Sydney Morning Herald*

Not content with an MBA and a successful career in advertising, British comedian Dan Thomas did one of his first gigs on ITV's *Take the Mike* and just knew in his heart that a career in stand-up comedy, with its tens of pounds in potential earnings, beckoned. Five years later he is a popular fixture on the international comedy circuit, a published illustrator and a short film-maker who was picked for providing one of the most memorable comedy moments of 2005 by *Time Out* magazine:

"Dan Thomas stripped off to underpants, giving the rest of his clothes to a woman in the front row who'd complained of feeling cold. Then he performed an ABBA medley about the Arab/Israeli conflict." (*Time Out*, Dec 2005)

Dan is not a formally trained singer but he is quite good at karaoke.

Benjamin Charles Elton came to prominence in the 1980's as political alternative comedian, sparkly suit wearer and writer of classic sit-coms *The Young Ones* and *Blackadder*. In recent years he has embarked on a career in musical theatre, co-writing musicals with Queen, Rod Stewart & Andrew Lloyd-Webber. In 2001 Anne Robinson put Ben Elton into *Room 101* "for being a total and utter hypocrite and going back on everything he stood for in the 80s and 90s"

**For further information, to arrange interviews or for press images please contact:
Michelle Flower (07976 125 270) or Zena Barrie (07966 383 261) press@itsalrightforsome.com
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GILDED BALLOON PRESS OFFICE 0131 668 9483 / press@gildedballoon.co.uk**