

Rapture 2019

The Red Lion - press reviews



REVIEWS:



[Reviewsphere](#)



[The Wee Review](#)



[The Skinny](#)



[The Scotsman](#)



[Broadway Baby](#)



[Sunday National](#)



TRAILER:

Click on the image opposite to watch *The Red Lion* Trailer.



“Back of the net!”

- [All Edinburgh Theatre](#)



“a triangle of need and greed... tinged with the poetry of veterans who once knew glory”

- [The Herald](#)



N.B. Click on links to read reviews in full.

**& Preview Articles,
Post-Show Talks
Audience Feedback**

“Spectacular! A theatre show for everyone. Important work being done by Rapture, making theatre universal and accessible!”

“Very well acted with a great script which made me think of what goes on behind the scenes of football. Excellent production from every aspect - great set, great acting and a 1st class piece of writing.”

ARTICLES:
Click on the images opposite to read The Red Lion preview articles in full.



or see highlights on pp6&7



“As a regular attender at matches at all levels, this certainly struck a chord in authenticity.”



Post-show Discussions & Events



90 minutes of sporting drama as football comes to the stage

Football fans can look forward to a stage drama that will strike a very familiar chord. The Red Lion is an award-winning drama packed with some big names.

And it's coming to the Adam Smith Theatre in June as part of a tour.

Written by Patrick Marber, it tells the story of the battle for the heart and soul of a small, non-league team run by a manager who sees pots of cash in his young star striker.

Standing in his way to keep the club true to its community roots is the veteran kit man, and so begins an epic battle.

It's funny, moving and will resonate deeply with all Raith Rovers' fans who worked so hard to save their club just over a decade ago.



John McArdle rehearsing for the show, The Red Lion.

CAPITAL BUZZ



GOAL: Brookside's John McArdle stars alongside Brendan Charleson and Harry MacMullen



These amateur football dramatics will have FTH crowd on edge of seats

The amateur side of football is coming to Falkirk. No, it's not Don Senesio's Albion visiting The Bairns - it's Patrick Marber's sensational soccer-themed drama The Red Lion.



Former Brookside actor John McArdle during rehearsal for The Red Lion

epers Brookside - the play is about more than football. He said: "There's a pull between Yates and Kidd. They have very different ideas of how this young man should progress. It's not simply a football story. It's a morality tale, it's about humanity. It's funny, sad - and heartening."

Director Michael Evans had been a huge fan of Patrick Marber for years and he admitted directing one of the great man's plays was a dream come true. He said: "When I first read The Red Lion in 2017, I knew that I had to direct it - the way Patrick used the millers of the local football club as a microscope of the wider world, to explore the themes of collective ethics versus individual ambition."

"And the way the play articulates the need and desire to both be heroic and to have heroes in your life, it found to be totally compelling."

You can see this totally compelling production at Falkirk Town Hall next month. Call local partner visit www.falkirkcommunitytrust.co.uk for more.

Award Winning Events At D&G Arts Festival

It's less than a month until the 40th Anniversary of D&G Arts Festival begins and new Director, Dani Rae has cherry-picked some of the best shows to bring to the region!

Award winning comedy, theatre, music, dance and spoken word will take to the stage in venues across the region for the ten-day packed programme of events.

The dramatic Festival Opener *Lost at Sea*, a new play written by Morna Young, will have audiences perched on the edge of their seats as this powerful and evocative tale of a Scottish fishing family community weaves and unfolds with a ten-strong Scottish cast including Tam Dean Burn (BBC series *The Victim*, *Fortitude* and *The Outlaw King*).

Award-winning writer Patrick Marber's hit play *Red Lion* unfolds like a Greek tragedy, transcending

"the beautiful game" in a tale of heroism, hubris and handballs and stars Emmerdale and Brookside star John McArdle, Brendan Charleson (Coronation Street) and rising young star Harry MacMullen.

Edinburgh Fringe favourite and multi-award winning gig theatre, *Electrolyte* is a fast-paced, blood pumping show about rave culture, grief and the pull of the big city taking place in three locations across the region

as is the hilarious true story, *Team Viking*, that shares a comic ode to a dying friend's last wish. A rising star from BBC's 'hot list' Catherine Bohart, recently on Channel 4's 8 out of 10 Cats and Lucy

Porter offer side-splitting comedy and Scottish Ensemble and Scottish Opera also perform in local venues as part of the anniversary programme to be found on www.dgartsfestival.org.uk



Tam Dean Burn stars in Lost at Sea



Electrolyte by Wildcard



Red Lion by Rapture Theatre



Soap star heads cast of 'beautiful game' play

THEY'RE going football crazy at The Brunton and Howden Park Centre next month where fans of both Brookside and Emmerdale will be sure to spot a familiar face on stage as Rapture Theatre tour their production of Patrick Marber's hit play *The Red Lion* to the Musselburgh and Livingston venues.

John McArdle, known and loved by millions as Billy Cockhill in Brookside and more recently as Ronnie Hale in Emmerdale, joins the cast as The Red Lion FC's 'legendary'

kit man Yates. The Red Lion FC is an English non-league side that has dreams of the big time. However, the club's manager, Kidd, will stop at nothing to realise his own ambitions of achieving money and fame. So, when young Jordan, who 'plays like a God', joins the club, Kidd sees his golden opportunity.

One man stands in his way, the kit-man Yates, a club legend and footballing 'hero', he has other ideas. A clash of the titans ensues

between Yates and Kidd over the future of Jordan and the football club. Award-winning writer Marber's play unfolds like a Greek tragedy, transcending the beautiful game, in a tale of heroism, hubris and handballs. Marber says, "I am thrilled Rapture Theatre are giving *The Red Lion* its Scottish premiere and very excited to see this terrific cast performing in a country that loves football with a passion."

Following his success with previous Rapture productions,

Michael Evans returns to direct the piece. He says, "When I first read *The Red Lion* in 2017, I knew that I had to direct it. "Like all the best tragedies it also very, very funny. "I hope that audiences, like me, can fall in love with this wonderful play."

The Red Lion, The Brunton, Musselburgh, 11 May, 7.30pm, £9-£14, www.thebrunton.co.uk / Howden Park Centre, Livingston, 16 May, 7.30pm, £14.50, www.howdenparkcentre.co.uk

'Football taught me all about politics and society'

NEIL COOPER

WHEN Patrick Marber got involved with his local non-league football team, he wasn't looking to write a play about it. As it is, when it was first seen in 2015, *The Red Lion* became one of Marber's biggest hits since his early plays such as *Closer* and *Dealer's Choice* caught the 1990s zeitgeist. *The Red Lion*, however, is a grown-up play of a different kind, as Rapture Theatre's revival should make clear when it goes out on tour next week.

