

# PLEASANCE

## Application 2009

Company Name: Project Steve Productions	Company Contact: Alex Wilber
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Address: 8 Western Road Oxford OX1 4LG	PHONE (WORK): 07814 889 235 PHONE (MOBILE): 07814 889 235 FAX:
Title of show: An Improvised History of Absolutely Everything	EMAIL: alex.wilber@queens.ox.ac.uk WEBSITE: www.improvisedhistory.com

Type of show (please tick)	Theatre	Comedy X	Music	Dance	Kids	Other
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75 Word summary of the show (attach separate sheet if needed):

See separate sheets.

Running time: 1 hour	Preferred times: Early to mid afternoon	Performance dates (if not whole festival): Preferably Week 3
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Venue Choice

1<sup>st</sup> Choice: Baby Grand      2<sup>nd</sup> Choice: Beside      3<sup>rd</sup> Choice: Attic (or Below or Hut)

Technical requirements of the show (attach separate sheet if needed):

Minimal - ability to play music and sound effects, and ability to turn lights on/off.

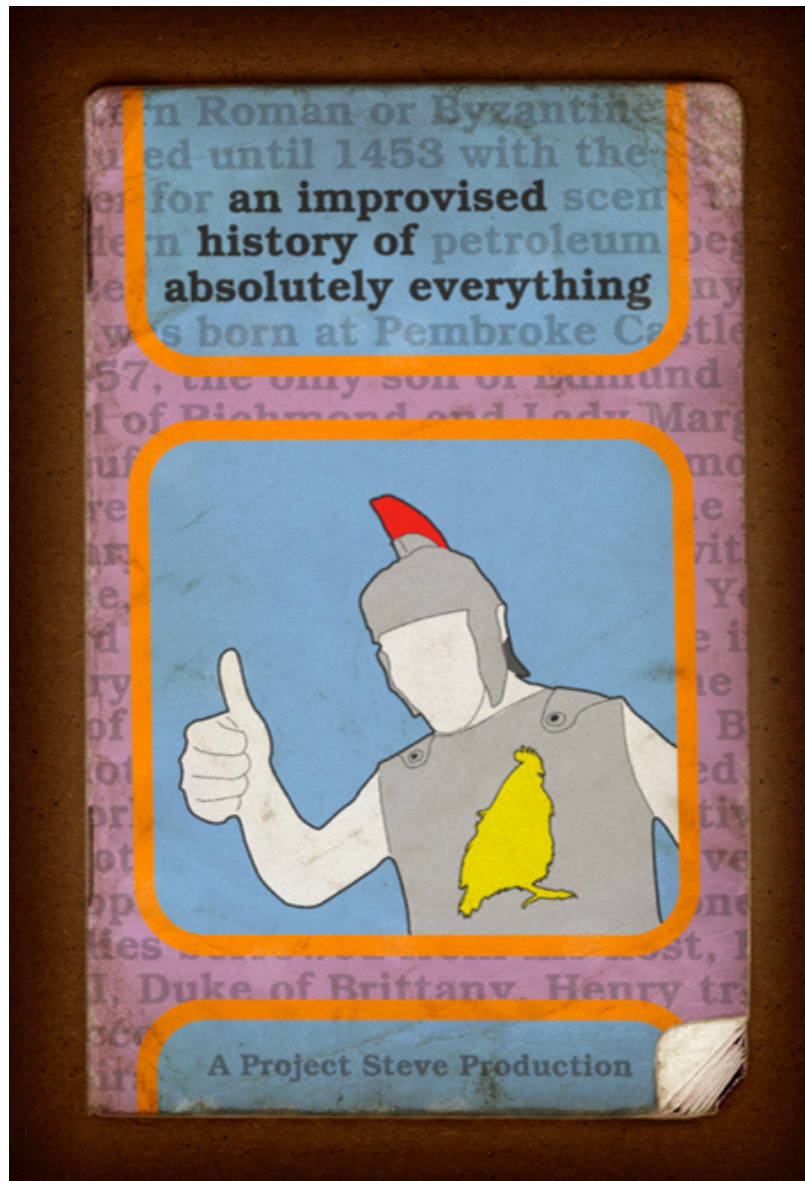
Marketing plan (attach separate sheet if needed):

See separate sheets.

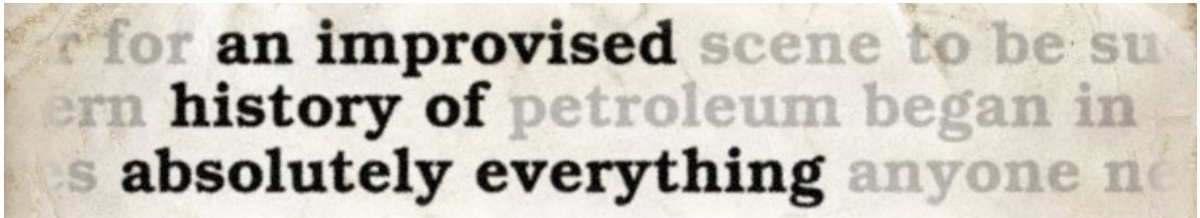
Performances we can come and see: None, sorry.	Enclosed (circle) Photos      DVD/Video CD      Script We can send things back if you include a SAE	For Pleasance use only App No: Date received: Programmer: Email sent    Yes      No
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Please return to: Pleasance Applications 2008 Pleasance Theatre, Carpenters Mews, North Road, London N7 9EF

**Over eighty-seven distinct things have happened since the Universe as we know it came into existence. This is clearly too much for any one team of talented improvisers to remember, so we haven't. Instead we'll rely on you, our informed and educated audience, to remind us of all the events which have happened in history.**



**An Improvised History of Absolutely Everything challenges our crack team of comedians to recreate famous events based entirely on audience suggestions. Waterloo won by the French? Mussolini addicted to custard? The choice is yours!**



**Included in this document:**

- **Summary (75 words)**
- **Artistic Approach**
- **Company History**
- **Marketing Plan**
- **Technical Requirements**
- **Website**
- **Review 'Murder Most Improvised'**
- **Company Biographies**
- **Pictures 'Murder Most Improvised'**

## **Summary (75 words)**

Audience and performers work together to tell an alternative history of the world. The audience suggests changes to historical events – Julius Caesar avoiding his death by hiding in a wooden horse, or the six wives of Henry VIII being the same person in disguise! Five improvisers weave a new version of events. Guided through history by Father Time and supported by improvised music and song, history is reinvented for a new show each day.

## **Artistic Approach**

Project Steve is a group of improvisers with years of experience in both comedy and dramatic productions. We like to focus on getting our audience to feel relaxed and have a great time, and producing slick and high-energy shows.

We've found from experience that the use of long-form narratives gives the audience an extra level of satisfaction, so we work on combining the best elements of long-form with fast-paced improv games.

## **Company History**

Project Steve Productions is an offshoot of Triple Point Comedy, Cambridge's leading improvised comedy society (known as "ICE" when at home), which has dominated the comedy scene in Cambridge over the last few years, performing a huge number of shows (perhaps a hundred or so). This year there are so many performers keen to come to Edinburgh that we've split into two groups, with the older and more experienced comedians forming Project Steve to make room for the young bloods.

Our cast are all veterans of the Fringe, having performed together for the previous two years. In 2007, 'Not the Crystal Maze' sold very well, including one sell-out, despite being well away from the Mile by Holyrood Palace. Last year's 'Murder Most Improvised' at Augustine's sold around 70 out of 107

tickets on average, again with one sell-out night (exact figures were unfortunately not at hand). The directors of both shows are on the cast, with Olaf Davis directing again this year. All the cast are experienced performers, with most having at least five years of improvised comedy and dozens of shows under their belts. We're an enthusiastic and well-organised cast, who are well aware of what it takes to make a successful Fringe show – even if that means hours of flyering in the rain!

## **Marketing Plan**

All the show's cast and crew have two years of experience publicising shows in Edinburgh, as well as many more shows elsewhere. We're well acquainted with the amount of work required, and are more than willing to put in the necessary hours of flyering, talking to people on the Mile, and performing on the Mile stages. We've found that the stages in particular are a great publicity opportunity for improv shows because it allows us to interact with potential audience members and engage their interest in the show. We have budgeted for the printing of 25,000 flyers and 100 posters, based on the number we were able to successfully distribute last year (flyer mock-up on first page).

## **Technical Requirements**

Props will be minimal: a few generic items which can be used in many scenes. For example a stick, a plastic sword, a bag and a box. Costumes will similarly consist mainly of generic items representative of certain periods in history: togas, hats, and jackets. Besides a few chairs and a small table, the only set necessary will be a canvas supported by stands at the back of the stage.

## **Website**

Information about our show will be available on  
[www.improvisedhistory.com](http://www.improvisedhistory.com)

## Review 'Murder Most Improvised'

### ThreeWeeks

#### **Murder Most Improvised** Triple Point Comedy

This entertaining show had the audience instantly in stitches. A complicated 'improvised' plot was effectively strung together by a Sherlock Holmes- style detective, and when the characters did falter under the inundation of audience suggestion, the situation was quickly resolved with wit and spontaneity. Consequently, the performance worked like a well oiled machine, displaying a fluidity, which, combined with the quirky British humour inherent in this kind of murder mystery, reminded me of a Monty Python sketch. It takes a lot of talent to pull off an improvised comedy, and these guys worked well at ensuring the plot flowed logically. And no two shows will ever be remotely similar, meaning that you can go again and again and never get bored!

tw rating: 4/5

published: Aug-2008

### **Company Biographies**

#### **Olaf Davis – Director / Actor**



Olaf has been writing and performing comedy for over a decade, and has been seriously involved in improv for the last four years. As an undergraduate he was president of Cambridge University's improvised comedy society, and between 2004 and 2008 performed in and directed numerous shows at venues in Cambridge including the Amateur Dramatics Club theatre and several college May Balls. He has also written and performed standup and sketch comedy, including the 2007 "Triple Point Review" at the ADC and Cambridge Union's 2006 Comedy Debate.

He first came to the Fringe in 2007 as a performer in Triple Point Comedy's improvised show "Not the Crystal Maze", and returned in 2008 to direct and act in "Murder Most Improvised".

## **Tom Ellis - Actor**



Tom has been involved in comedy in Cambridge for nearly four years, performing regularly with the university's first improvised comedy society, taking part in their debut tour to Edinburgh in 2007, and the follow-up in 2008 with "Not the Crystal Maze" and "Murder Most Improved" respectively.

When not taking part in improv, he's an occasional dabbler in the local comedy debating circuit.

## **Laila Tims – Actor**



Laila has experience in all areas of the theatre; writing, producing, directing and acting in a wide range of productions over the years, including several shows at the ADC Theatre, shows with the Homerton Amateur Dramatic Society, the Cambridge University Light Entertainment Society, The Recorded Drama Society, the Pembroke Players, and her college's theatre society, Madhouse. The shows she has been involved in have ranged from writing and directing a pantomime version of the Odyssey to staging Moliere in French to providing the voice for a Wildean duchess, and improvising fairytales.

After the success of last year's Murder Most Improved she is extremely excited to take another improvised comedy show to the Fringe with "An Improved History of Absolutely Everything".

## **Rich Wareham – Actor**



Rich has been involved in performing stage comedy for over five years. He started at University where he helped found Cambridge University's longest-lived and most popular improvised comedy society. In addition to improvised comedy, Rich has co-written and directed "The X Factor: The Pantomime", a child-targeted satire on television talent show programmes. During his University career, he performed with the Light Entertainment Society taking comedy to local schools.

In 2006 he directed Triple Point Comedy's production of "Not The Crystal Maze" at the Edinburgh Fringe Festival. In 2007 he again visited the fringe playing a dame version of Lorraine Baines/McFly in Two Shades of Blue's successful "Back to the Future: The Pantomime". During this year's fringe, Rich will be celebrating a glorious one year of being pantomime free.

## **Alex Wilber – Actor**



Alex Wilber has been involved in drama and comedy for as long as he can remember, having acted in, produced and been techie for countless shows over the years. At university he (along with Rich Wareham) helped found Cambridge University's longest-lived and most popular improvised comedy society, and went on to perform in a ridiculous number of shows with them (perhaps sixty?). Alex also co-wrote the successful sketch show "The Triple Point Revue", organised what was perhaps Oxford's biggest ever student comedy night, and performed in a number of shows with both university's Light Entertainment Societies, taking comedy to local schools.

In 2006 Alex performed in Triple Point Comedy's production of "Not the Crystal Maze" at the Edinburgh Fringe Festival. In 2007 he returned with Triple Point in the very successful "Murder Most Improvised" and committed no fewer than three murders, as well as developing a bizarre enjoyment for flyer-ing the public.

## **Hannah Price – Musician**



A Classics undergraduate, Hannah has been involved in the musical side of Cambridge improvised comedy since 2007. A regular composer and performer, she has written music for an Oxford-based production of Grimm's Fairy Tales and played drums for several musical theatre productions. Having performed with a swing band, a symphony orchestra, a rock band, a jazz trio and a mixed-voice choir she has decided that improvised comedians are more challenging, though may live to regret this. Music aside, she recently wrote and co-directed DRAGON?!, a comic play lovingly lampooning the fantasy genre and has acted in various locations with the Cambridge Light Entertainment Society.

At the 2008 Edinburgh Fringe Festival Hannah provided the music for Triple Point Comedy's sell-out Murder Most Improvised. She hopes that her knowledge of dead languages should come in useful for Project Steve's show at this year's Fringe.

## **Liina Pihel – Producer**



Liina has experience in many areas of the theatre, producing and acting in shows for the Oxford University Light Entertainment Society. In addition to this she set up and runs her own translation company, writing subtitles in Estonian for English TV series and her television experience is supplemented by her work producing shows for Estonian television. With this wide background she is extremely capable of managing any organizational setback, as well as any company of actors!

## Dan Browne – Technical Director



Since becoming a student at Oxford University three years ago, Dan has provided technical assistance to dozens of shows of all sizes, across all walks of theatrical entertainment; dramas, comedies, musicals and even a fashion show. This included the immensely enjoyable opportunity to tech for the sell-out show *Matrix: The Pantomime* at Augustine's during the Edinburgh Fringe in 2007.

Learning everything he knows on job, operating and refining on the fly, Dan is convinced his role is the most fun to be had in the world of theatre.

## Pictures 'Murder Most Improvised' (2008)

The front of the flyer features a dark blue background. At the top left is the 'triple point comedy' logo. At the top right is the 'PARADISE GREEN 152 AUGUSTINE'S' logo. The central image shows a white envelope with a gold ribbon, containing a card that reads 'You are invited to commit Murder' with a photo of the cast. Below the envelope is a pair of scissors and a bloodstain. The title 'Murder most Improvised' is written in large, bold, white letters with a black outline. At the bottom, the text reads: 'Augustine's 19-25 August, 2008', '41 George IV Bridge 16:30-17:30 (1hr)', and 'Tickets: £7.00 (over £5.00). Preview night 19th August £5.00 (over £5.00)'.

triple point comedy

PARADISE GREEN 152 AUGUSTINE'S

You are invited to commit Murder

**Murder most Improvised**

Augustine's 19-25 August, 2008  
41 George IV Bridge 16:30-17:30 (1hr)  
Tickets: £7.00 (over £5.00). Preview night 19th August £5.00 (over £5.00)

The back of the flyer has a dark brown background. At the top left, it lists the show details: 'Murder Most Improvised', 'August 19 at 16:30 (1hr) | £5 (£3)', and 'August 20-25 at 16:30 (1hr) | £7 (£5)'. It also provides the venue information: 'Augustine's (Venue 152)', '41 George IV Bridge, Edinburgh, EH1 1EL', 'Box Office: 0131 510 0022', and 'www.paradise-green.co.uk | www.edfringe.com'. The 'PARADISE GREEN 152 AUGUSTINE'S' logo is at the top right. The main text is written in a red, cursive font: 'Tonight you'll go home with blood on your hands...'. Below this is a white envelope containing a letter that reads: 'Do you love the feeling you get when you've guessed the murderer correctly? With this show, you're guaranteed to get that feeling every time! Using suggestions from the audience, and a randomly selected period location, our experienced cast will spin you a dastardly tale of death and debauchery in which you decide who was killed, with what and, most importantly, by whom.' At the bottom, it says 'Triple Point Comedy have been performing fully improvised shows in Cambridge since 2003. Following on from last year's spectacularly successful Fringe show, *Not the Crystal Maze*, Triple Point are back for more fast-paced, spontaneous comedy. We'll weave you a full hour-long story in our unique format, and we're as excited as you are to see where it will end up!'. There is a small image of a cake and a logo for 'BACK TO THE FUTURE THE PANTOMIME' at the bottom right.

Murder Most Improvised  
August 19 at 16:30 (1hr) | £5 (£3)  
August 20-25 at 16:30 (1hr) | £7 (£5)  
Augustine's (Venue 152)  
41 George IV Bridge, Edinburgh, EH1 1EL  
Box Office: 0131 510 0022  
www.paradise-green.co.uk | www.edfringe.com

PARADISE GREEN 152 AUGUSTINE'S

*Tonight you'll go home with blood on your hands...*

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Triple Point Comedy have been performing fully improvised shows in Cambridge since 2003. Following on from last year's spectacularly successful Fringe show, *Not the Crystal Maze*, Triple Point are back for more fast-paced, spontaneous comedy. We'll weave you a full hour-long story in our unique format, and we're as excited as you are to see where it will end up!

Shows with less blood, but just as much comedy

BACK TO THE FUTURE THE PANTOMIME

Flyer (by Rich Wareham, producing the publicity material for this year's production as well). Front and back.

Alex Wilber, Tom Ellis



Tom Ellis, Laila Tims

Alex Wilber





Tom Ellis (Cat  
Harris, not in this  
year's production)



Olaf Davis, Tom Ellis  
on the Royal Mile,  
Summer 2007



Laila Tims, (Cat  
Harris), Tom Ellis