## Edinburgh Festival Fringe 2015 — Le Haggis lean on Edinburgh Rugby's Simon

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Edinburgh folk are being invited to polish up their party pieces in a campaign to find new talent fit for a top Fringe cabaret show.

Le Haggis, which has been winning five star reviews and praise from celebrities and TV commentators, is a sell-out success at the prestigious Colombino Spiegeltent in the Assembly George Square Gardens.

The show's organisers are committed to developing community talent and putting it in the spotlight alongside top national and international acts.

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Edinburgh Rugby prop Simon Berghan decided to prove that he had a potential off-pitch career as a strongman by lifting The Empress Stah and Justine Squire, two of the most glamorous performers from Le Haggis, onto his shoulders.

Simon said: "I'm delighted to lend my weight to the search for talent fit for the Fringe. Edinburgh is a fantastic city that I'm proud to call home and the whole Edinburgh squad are really enjoying this year's Fringe — when we're allowed time off from pre-season training!"

With so many Scots brought up to do a party piece, Le Haggis artistic director Graham Main, believes there is a rich seam of potential cabaret talent out there.

He said: "We really want Edinburgh folk to show us what they

can do — it might be music, dance, acrobatics, magic — anything that would entertain a cabaret audience of 400 on a great night out. The more weird, wonderful and fun the better.

"Some of our own band members and performers have been plucked straight from the community in Dumfries and Galloway. And our top national and international acts all come up through the ranks — so we really want to give Edinburgh talent a chance to shine."

Le Haggis has been praised by Radio 4 comedian Mervyn Stutter, TV arts commentator Martin Hall and many others, Andy Murray's mum Judy tweeting: "Scottish music meets the circus, very different — go and see it".

It is a pulsating mix of old and the new, traditional and edgy, with a combination of Scottish and international acts.

Many of the songs are contemporary takes on Burns' best loved works. There are also other favourite Scottish tunes, plus superb original work.

Born in Burns' favourite town, Dumfries, the show has developed over the past two years as a fun, cheeky, and sometimes romantic and beautiful, celebration of life and Scottish culture.

## How to enter Dae A Turn

To take part in Dae A Turn you need to be over 18 and be an Edinburgh resident.

Just grab your phone or video camera and get some footage of yourself doing your turn and show it to them by way of the Le Haggis Facebook page

Their favourites will be invited along with the most suitable being offered the chance to appear with Le Haggis on the last nights of their run — which are  $29^{th}$  and  $30^{th}$  August.

Photos courtesy of Colin Hattersley

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