



Downstage Theatre - Media Release
Released 24/02/2009

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

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A Night with Beau Tyler: Just one hour can change your life!

Ice cream commercial favourite Peter Feeney stars in an hour of self-help hysteria at Downstage Theatre for the NZ International Comedy Festival – and at selected South Island venues

Amidst the disturbing world of the self-help industry shines a bright new star: Beau Tyler is on the comeback trail with a new self help system that will challenge the existing gurus of spin – and rock your world! A huge success already (from Invercargill to Keri Keri, with successful seasons at the Nelson Arts Festival, the Cabaret Festival in Christchurch and the Fuel Festival in Hamilton) this funny and thought provoking theatrical satire proves that just one hour can change your life!

A Night with Beau Tyler is premiering at Downstage as part of the 2009 NZ International Comedy Festival for a strictly limited season from Friday 8 May till Saturday 23 May, Tuesday to Saturday at 7pm.

***A Night With Beau Tyler* is also showing at these South Island venues:**

Thurs 30 April **Twizel Events Centre** 03 435 3124/03 435 0066/ tpda@twizel.com

Friday 1 May **Wanaka – Cinema Paradiso** 03 443 1505

Saturday 2 May **Nelson – Playhouse Theatre** 03 540 2985/ www.playhousecafe.co.nz

A Night with Beau Tyler takes an entertaining swipe at the American self-help movement through the personal journey of guru Beau Tyler, as he travels down into the hollow centre of his personality, and bounces back again, stunned but unrepentant. Peter Feeney bases the character of Beau Tyler on the popular television character he played in the Tip Top Memphis Meltdown series of television commercials, and takes a crack at those Anthony Robbins type motivators who have cultivated a multi-billion dollar global business helping others to help themselves.

“Great comedy, an enthusiastic audience, and a bit of “self-improvement” to boot: this was a “Beautox” I could get used to.”

Nelson Mail

“If laughter is indeed the best medicine, then A Night with Beau Tyler is efficacious therapy indeed.”

Nik Smythe, Theatreview.com

“A pants-wettingly hilarious night out. 5/5.”

Southland Times

“I have not laughed so hard or for as long as I did last night.”

Waikato Times

Written and performed by Peter Feeney/ Directed by Greg Cooper

Find out more at www.feeneymcsweney.com – www.paradiso.net.nz - www.twizel.com

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Creative Biographies

PETER FEENEY - Actor

Feeney's activity has not strictly been limited to theatre and commercials. Many international movie goers recognise him as Angus Oldfield from the New Zealand comedy horror *Black Sheep*. He also starred in *30 Days of Night* alongside Josh Hartnett. His performances for UK TV have not gone unnoticed either, having appeared in television series such as *Dark Knight* and *Cold Feet*.

New Zealand however knew of Feeney long before the rest of the world from his starring roles in TV shows such as *Shortland Street*, *Secret Agent Men*, and *Rude Awakenings* – as well as his nomination for the “Best Short Film Performance” category at the 2003 New Zealand Film and TV awards (for *The Platform*).

In 2003 he formed Feeney McSweeney Productions to produce his own theatre that is accessible, affordable – and useful - to the public. Feeney McSweeney's first play *Milo's Wake* played to full houses in Auckland for six weeks in 2005, and toured nationally to similar success in 2006. Further tours of the show are planned.

GREG COOPER - Director

Fellow Tyler junkie, show director Greg Cooper has been involved with theatre and film for over 16 years, as an actor, writer, producer and director. Greg started his professional theatre career with The Court Theatre in Christchurch. As a member of their improvisational troupe The Court Jesters, he went on to represent Christchurch in two national Theatresports Competitions and New Zealand in festivals in London, Berlin, Montreal, Amsterdam, and the World Championships in Los Angeles, where he was a member of the winning team in 1995.

He also co-wrote and performed in *The Complete History of New Zealand – Abridged* with Mark Hadlow, which toured the country and had a successful season at The Herald Theatre in Auckland recently.

Greg moved to Auckland seven years ago and has kept busy with performing, directing, voice-over work and writing. He also specialises in corporate entertainment through the highly successful Auckland company Conartists, formerly Auckland Theatresports. Highlights of his time in Auckland have been playing a pot smoking motorcyclist on *Shortland Street* and Heroic Fawn Number One in the Disney film *The Lion, the Witch and the Wardrobe*. This experience has formed the basis for Greg's own one man show of the same name which is premiering at this years Auckland Fringe Festival. Watch out Beau Tyler!

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