

Xaviera Hollander presents:
THE BALLAD OF THE UNBEATABLE HEARTS
written and performed by Richard Fry
Shows in October – November 2012 in Spain and The Netherlands

For links to other press material check the webpage: Online:
<http://www.xavierahollander.com/ballad-of-the-unbeatable-hearts-and-smiler>

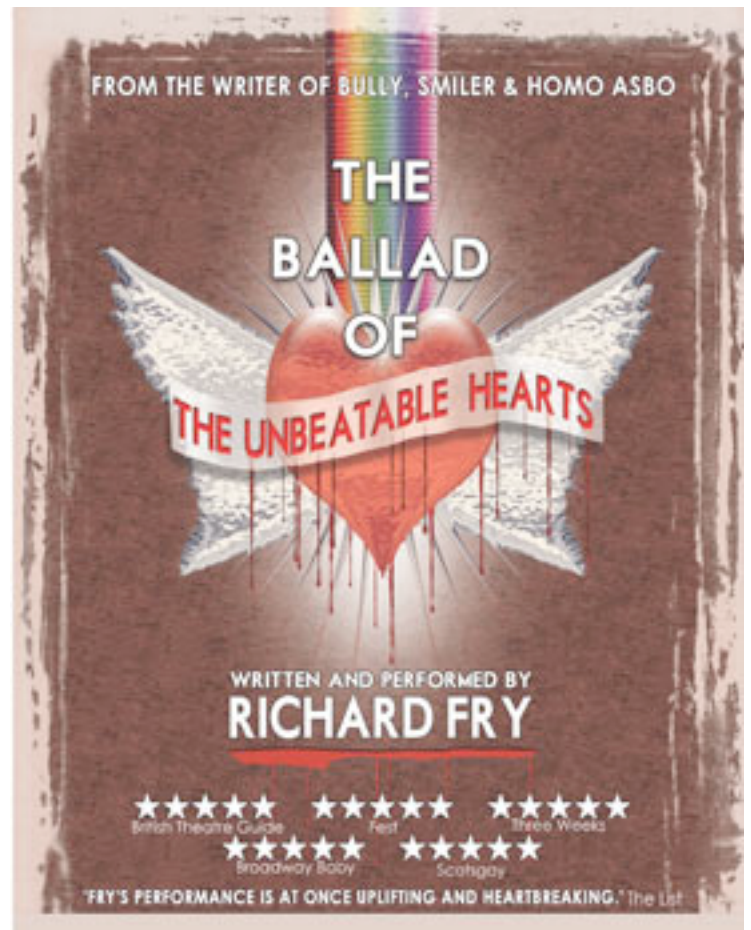
Introduction:

The Ballad of the Unbeatable Hearts is another of Richard Fry's breakneck full-force one-man verse dramas all wrapped up in a big woolly jumper. This time he is talking about *young gay suicide*. This is a subject that is gathering increasing awareness especially in a country like Australia with gay people up to 14 more times likely to attempt suicide than the general population. Richard has performed the show in the UK and US where it was received brilliantly and in Adelaide it was a massive success as well.

Although the show deals with suicide and the difficulties faced growing up gay, it is not just a show aimed at a gay audience. *The main focus is on the importance of life and how everybody should embrace it and strive to achieve their dreams.* Audiences receive a motivational message about how to make the most of their '*journey to death*'. It's an incredibly uplifting and funny piece of theatre but with a heartbreaking sting in its tail.

THE BALLAD OF THE UNBEATABLE HEARTS

Globally acclaimed playwright and performer Richard Fry is bringing his latest one-man show to Holland and Spain after a sell out tour to Australia.



'Outstanding' **Five Stars** Fringe Review 'Compelling' **Five Stars** Fringe Guru

'A stunning piece of theatre. Highly recommended.' Hairline

- *We hear about our brave war heroes who die in combat, yet the News never tells us of the conflict at home that claims more lives.*
- *We give to charities that support sick people far away but are uneasy when confronted with troubled teens at home.*
- *We rally and petition against the death penalty for homosexuality in Uganda, yet campaigns to help suicidal gay people here are consistently under supported.*
- *What would happen if we saved these brilliant young men and women? If we harnessed their talents and energy?*
- *What if we gave them a reason or a focus?*
- *What can we learn from religious extremists? They find vulnerable young people and brainwash them to blow people up.*
- *How do we stop aggressive kids at school from bullying gentle kids with different sexual ideas? Even on line nowadays kids get bullied and driven into suicide. Facebook is one of the main reasons for this, especially in Australia.*
- *What if someone helped and encouraged them to go out and do good in the world? One man did. He founded The Unbeatable Hearts. Come and find out how a group of young gay men and women changed the course of the world forever.*

The show has been a big hit with UK and US audiences and critics

The Arts Editor-in-Chief of **The Daily Telegraph** said it was *'moving and heartfelt...recommended.'*

And Paul Levy of **Fringe Review** said *'Richard Fry returns with a well-crafted, intense and beautiful piece of theatre. The Ballad of the Unbeatable Hearts is at once confronting, moving, heartbreakingly honest, and poignant; I was laughing one moment and moved to tears the next. Fry is not only a first rate raconteur but a performer of grace and clarity. Outstanding.'*

Further information and reviews for all of Richard Fry's shows can be found on his website www.richardfry.org

'At times hilarious, at times heartbreaking... Fry receives a well-deserved standing ovation from a tearful audience, and, as I stepped out of that theatre into the dreary Scottish weather, I was inspired.' (**Three Weeks 15/08/11**)

'Fry is magnificent at all times. The narration is captivating, perfectly pitched and beautifully delivered. His magnetism is palpable and entralls the audience, who are at various points moved to tears. The Ballad of the Unbeatable Hearts is a stunning piece of theatre. Highly recommended.' (**Hairline 14/08/11**)

'This is a play with the power to speak to anyone. Fry has re-imagined It's A Wonderful Life for a new generation, and in the process built a work which proves both vital and entertaining.' (**Fringe Guru - 07/08/11**)

SPAIN - MARBELLA OCTOBER 2012

Thursday October 4 and

Saturday October 6 at 8.30 p.m.

Tickets: €25 including one drink

Home Theater “ villa Caprice”

184 Calle Pizarra, Rocio de Nagueles – Marbella

Tel. 00 34 952857575 or

xie@xavierahollander.com

THE NETHERLANDS NOVEMBER 2012

Sunday November 25 at 8.00 p.m.

Galerie Pi – Oosterweg 18

Bergen NH

Wednesday November 28 at 8.30 p.m.

Studio Burgwal - Burgwal 69

Haarlem

Friday November 30 at 8.30 p.m.

Ostade theater

Van Ostadestraat 233 d, Amsterdam

Bookings: www.ostadetheater.nl

Or call 020 6795096

Price per ticket euro 22.50

For general information and booking contact Xaviera Hollander

Mail xie@xavierahollander.com Tel. 00 31 20 6733934



SECOND SHOW

SMILER

Written and performed by Richard Fry

Shows in October –November 2012 in Spain and The Netherlands

“I’d do anything for you, Smiler,” he looked me in the eye ... that’s when he begged me to help him die.

Smiler is another gripping tour-de-verse that sticks close to Richard Fry’s trademark style which will have you laughing out loud one moment and holding back tears the next. Inspired by Fry’s own friendship with a young man living with a head injury and paralyzed from the neck down, Smiler examines how we perceive disability.

- *Do we treat those with disabilities differently?*
- *How would you cope if you became disabled yourself.?*
- *What if you were responsible for causing permanent harm to somebody?*
- *What if your son or daughter brought home a girlfriend of boyfriend in a wheelchair?*
- *Could you fall in love with someone less able yourself?*

“Smiler” also deals with drink driving, assisted suicide and 1980 German soft rockers Nena

Reviews:

“I cannot begin to convey the emotional power of “Smiler”, Like all exceptional art, you leave shedding a tear, not just for the story you’ve just heard, but for its



greater exploration of humanity at large. That's why you must see it. "Three weeks."

Fry's performance is disarmingly honest and committed – Smiler was inspired by the actors real life friendship with a young man living with a head injury, paralyzed from the neck down after a drunken driver ran him over with his car. The truth of his feeling is palpable.

Mark Shenton at the Sunday Express said: *" it was the best show I've seen at the whole Edinburgh festival".*

SPAIN - MARBELLA OCTOBER 2012

Wednesday October 3

Friday October 5 and

Sunday October 7

Tickets €25 including one drink

Home theater Villa Caprice 8.30 p.m

184 Calle Pizarra – **Marbella**

Call 00 34 952 857575 or email xie@xavierahollander.com

THE NETHERLANDS NOVEMBER 2012

Friday November 23 at 8.30 p.m.

Theater Regentenkamer

Cort Heyligersstraat 4 - **Den Haag**

Saturday November 24 at 8.30 p.m.

Studio Burgwal

Burgwal 69 - **Haarlem**

Sunday November 25 at 2p.m.

Galerie Pi – Oosterweg 18 Bergen NH

A drink and a snack are included in the price

Thursday November 29 at 8.30 p.m.

Apollo First theater

Apollolaan 123 - **Amsterdam**

Saturday December 1 at 8.30 pm.

De Griffioen Theater

Uilenstede 106 Amsterdam

BOOKINGS www.griffioen.vu.nl

Or call 020 5985100

Price per ticket euro 19.50

Student price euro 16.00

ALL OTHER TICKETS ARE EURO 22.50

Except at de Griffioen theater

**For bookings and information Contact Xaviera Hollander at
020 6733934 or email to xie@xavierahollander.com**

