

Siege Perilous
NEWS RELEASE

Issue date:
11 January 2017

From behind the scenes and into the limelight: the story of Neil Aspinall's life with The Beatles

After wowing audiences at Edinburgh Festival Fringe and King's Head Theatre, London in 2015 (where one of the audience was Neil Aspinall's widow Suzi) - Davide Verazzini's charming play *A Life With The Beatles* is to be staged at various venues as part of a 15-performance Scotland-wide tour in February and March. Told from the unique perspective of Neil Aspinall, the only one who was always by their side and who knew everyone and everything. Yet where thousands of books have been written by people who never even met The Beatles, Neil's steadfast loyalty meant he took his secrets to his grave when he died in 2008. *A Life With The Beatles* recounts the era from him first joining The Beatles in 1961 as their driver to when he eventually stepped down as CEO of their corporate conglomerate, Apple Corps 46 years later. Veteran Glasgow-based actor Ian Sexon is effervescent in this energetic and intimate solo drama as he depicts the progression of the band from initial formation to the period after Epstein's death, along the way jumping into the characters of John, Paul, George and Ringo, manager Brian Epstein and Producer George Martin.

"The best account of the Beatles rise to international stardom I have ever seen. Highly recommended". The British Beatles Fan Club

2017 is also the 50th anniversary of the release of the groundbreaking Sgt. Pepper's Lonely Hearts Club Band, a focal point of the play. Some 10 years before the album was made, an Edinburgh bus driver had so enjoyed listening to a young John Lennon playing harmonica during a journey on his bus, he presented him with a top-of-the-range harmonica that had (fortuitously) been left on his bus the previous day. Legend has it this was the one played on 'Love Me Do'. This is one of many associations The Beatles had with Scotland. From their first tour as The Silver Beetles which began in Alloa on 20 May 1960 they honed their brilliance through gigs in Inverness, Fraserburgh, Keith, Forres, Nairn and Peterhead. Their first tour as The Beatles in Scotland was in 1963 where they appeared at the Two Red Shoes, Elgin going on to Dingwall, Bridge of Allan and Aberdeen.

The tour of *A Life With The Beatles* is a collaboration between two Edinburgh theatre companies, Siege Perilous and Orange Girl Productions. It will again be directed by Andy Corelli and performed by Ian Sexon. Davide Verazzani also has a biography about Neil Aspinall to be published in Italy by Edizioni Bietti in April 2017 titled 'L'ultimo Beatle - Neil Aspinall, dietro le quinte del mito' (translated as 'The last Beatle - Neil Aspinall, the myth behind the scenes')

For details on how to get Tickets for the show, visit www.siegeperilous.co.uk

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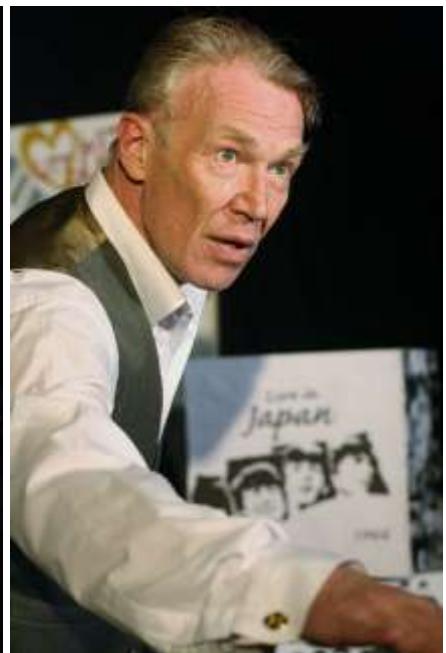
Notes to editors

- 1) Show details and Press contact.

Show title	Venue	Date
'A Life With The Beatles'		
Time	Duration	Prices
	60 minutes no interval	
Cast	Creative team	
Ian Sexon – Neil Aspinall	Writer Davide Verazzani Director Andy Corelli Translator Sabrina Macchi Set design Kirstin Rodger Sound design Mark McClelland Lighting design Kevan Shaw Filming Eric Romero & Phillip Fitness	Web www.siegeperilous.co.uk Facebook.com/ALifeWithThe Beatles Facebook.com/SiegePerilousTheatre Twitter @ALifeWTBeatles @Siege_Perilous
Press & Marketing	Tickets; public	Tickets: Press
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- 2) Neil Stanley Aspinall (13 October 1941 – 24 March 2008) was a school friend of Paul McCartney and George Harrison. He was romantically involved with Mona Best, Pete Best's mother, who was 17 years his senior and they had a son, Roag. When Pete Best was fired from The Beatles, Neil continued to work with the band driving their equipment in his old Commer van. When Mal Evans began working for The Beatles, Aspinall was promoted to become their personal assistant, and later Chief Executive of their company, Apple Corps. He was involved in notable court cases against Allen Klein, EMI, and Apple Computer. He masterminded the making of The Beatles' Anthology. On 30 August 1968, Aspinall married Suzy Ornstein after they met on the set of A Hard Day's Night's, the first Beatles' movie produced by United Artists Pictures (UK) of which the late chief executive was Bud Ornstein, Suzy's father. They had four children: Gayla, Dhara, Julian and Mandy. Aspinall and his wife owned Standby Films Ltd. which they ran from their home in Twickenham, London. On 10 April 2007, Aspinall retired from Apple Corps and died of lung cancer in New York City in 2008. (Source: Wikipedia)
- 3) Based in Leith Edinburgh, Siege Perilous is a theatre production company established since 2000 run by co-founders Artistic Director Andy Corelli and Producer Patrina Finch. The company has staged 22 well-received productions. It has appeared at Edinburgh's Festival Fringe five times, completed a UK tour and staged an open air production at Craigcrook Castle in association with the de Marco European Art Foundation. The Company mentors new entrants to the industry. It has previously attracted funding from The Lottery Fund and Arts & Business. For more information, go to www.siegeperilous.co.uk.
- 4) Orange Girl Productions is a theatre production company run by founder Laura Ingram. Laura is a theatre writer and critic who began her theatre career at Drury Lane Theatre, London as a followspot operator on the hit musical 'Miss Saigon' at the age of 19. She wrote and produced her first show 'Nell Gwyn: an Epilogue' directed by Andy Corelli at the Edinburgh Festival Fringe 2015 where it received four- and five-star reviews. A re-imagined version is planned for 2017. For more information, go to <https://www.orangegirlproductions.co.uk>.
- 5) 'A Life With The Beatles' was written by Milan born author Davide Verazzani who has been a Beatle-maniac since the age of 15. Davide has also written three feature films and two web-series screenplays one of which was nominated for an award at the Los Angeles Web Fest. His biography about Neil Aspinall 'L'ultimo Beatle - Neil Aspinall, dietro le quinte del mito' (translated as 'The last Beatle - Neil Aspinall, the myth behind the scenes') will be published April 2017.
- 6) Interviews can be arranged with Davide Verazzani or Andy Corelli on request.

Images available (contact Patrina Finch 07720 288620 / tinaf@siegeperilous.co.uk)



Images: Gary Daniell
Photography & Patrina Finch