

critics' choice

This week *The Herald* recommends ...



1 Dance

FLHIP FLHOP,
Paisley Arts Centre
Today, 7.30pm, £10 (£6)
0141 887 1010

The decorators are in – and they're bored. What can they do to pass the time, in between loading up the rollers with paint and brewing up cups of tea? Well, what about some beat-boxing? A break into some amazing popping and locking? Maybe a bit of a face-off at the turntables? This sharply executed and hugely funny piece of physical theatre puts the beat – and the energies – of hip hop into an unlikely comedy about home improvements. A hot ticket hit at last year's Fringe.

MARY BRENNAN

2 Jazz

GRAEME STEPHEN SEPTET,
Queen's Hall, Edinburgh, tomorrow, 8pm,
£12 (£10), 0131 668 2019; Tolbooth, Stirling,
Saturday, 8pm, £12 (£10), 01786 274000

Guitarist Graeme Stephen, one of the UK jazz scene's brightest talents, kicks off a national tour for the Scottish Arts Council's Tune Up initiative this weekend. Adding cellist Ben Davis, from Mercury Music Prize nominees Basquiat Strings, to his regular sextet brings extra ensemble colour and another significant solo voice to a group that combines Scottish, Eastern European and African influences in music that's beautifully impressionistic as well as exciting and spontaneous.

ROB ADAMS

3 Theatre

PROMISES PROMISES,
Traverse Theatre, Edinburgh, Today-Sat,
7.30pm, £5-£16, 0131 228 1404

Douglas Maxwell's new monologue for Random Accomplice is a taboo-busting exploration of a past-her-prime school-teacher's reawakening, through a six-year-old Somali girl who opts to stay silent even as her community leaders attempt to exorcise her and worse. Maxwell invests real drama into a work which goes into areas where other writers might fear to tread. As a woman who herself said nothing until it was too late, Joanna Tope gives a heroic performance in Johnny McNight's production.

NEIL COOPER

4 Classical

ACADEMY SYMPHONY ORCHESTRA,
RSAMD, Glasgow, tomorrow, 7.30pm,
0141 332 5057

The concert of the year. This gig, with Swiss conductor Baldur Bronnimann (above) directing Strauss's autumnal Four Last Songs (sung by Judith Howarth), Penderecki's Prelude For Peace and Shostakovich's colossal, god-almighty Fourth Symphony, is unrivalled in the concert calendar. Tune in to the CultureCast on www.heraldsotland.com tomorrow to hear all about Shostakovich Four and the Stalin imperative. This concert is one you should not miss. Hand on heart: be there.

MICHAEL TUMELTY

5 Pop

30 SECONDS TO MARS, SECC, Glasgow, Saturday, 6.30pm, £20, 0844 395 4000

While Jared Leto's decision to pursue music as a career has thankfully proved a more enjoyable and successful experience than the musical endeavours of other Hollywood names – such as, say, Keanu Reeves and Steven Segal – his music still doesn't totally convince. Never understated, some of his group's prior work has drifted far too close to over-blown prog metal for its own good. Still, such theatrics and grandeur should suit the surroundings of the SECC, and they possess enough pop-rock hooks to mostly satisfy.

JONATHAN GEDDES