

The Rhum Plants

By Phil Baarda

During the 1940s, the British botanical elite were increasingly sceptical of the huge number of rare plants working-class Professor Heslop Harrison was finding on the island of Rum, and despatch classicist and amateur botanist, John Raven, to investigate.



What appears to be simple case of distinguishing truth from fraud becomes a back-biting tale of scientific elitism and one-upmanship, where class, ambition, arrogance and thwarted love have as much to play as botanical integrity.

The Rhum Plants is a humorous and engaging re-telling of real events that continue to reverberate in scientific circles today. It was presented by the new Inverness-based theatre company *Mangonel* during the [Play Pieces lunchtime theatre](#) programme in September 2014 to great acclaim and full houses.

'a fast-paced comedy... from the dry seed of botanical fraud'

What's On North



'the cast of four's massively energetic performances ... decked out in white long-johns and moustaches held on by elastic' *What's On North*

For a flavour of the play please see [here](#)



What our promoters & audiences say:

'Very excited about the show!'

JD Henshaw; Sweet Venues Promoter – Edinburgh Fringe (we're booked for a full run 07-31 Aug 2015)

'Very impressed' and 'It's lively, and gives a good sense of what's up – the audience is drawn in to an adventure.'

Hugh Raven – son of the play's real life protagonist, John Raven

'Instantly there's a playful, direct approach that lasts throughout'

What's On North

Audiences – *The Rhum Plants* is a great story about deception, ambition, class and doing what's right, and appeals to a wide audience who enjoy a good story, and a good laugh. The subject matter makes it particularly appealing to holiday makers, and natural history/outdoor enthusiasts

Cost – entirely negotiable

Accommodation – may be required if part of a tour and/or greater than 2 hours from Inverness. We're happy to be hosted by the venue & will share.

Tech – the play has minimal lighting and sound. It can be performed in a wide variety of spaces – on the flat, or on a stage. Max space needed – 3m x 4m.

Age Guidance – Suitable for all the family, though it's not a play for children

Company – Cast of 4

Duration – one hour

Marketing – We can provide promotional material for use in your own publicity. We have an active social media following and will help promote the show with you through our new and expanding social media networks.

For more information, please contact: philbaarda@hotmail.com 07786 662 406

Mangonel theatre is a new Inverness-based company producing exciting new work and promoting emerging writers and actors. 'Mangonel' comes from the small though highly effective catapult-type of weapon used in medieval siege warfare to conquer impregnable fortifications.