

WELL TRAVELLED

JAPAN COMES TO EDINBURGH

What's your show about?

Amanojaku - Taiko drums. Traditional Taiko drum beats are engrained in the people of Japan. The show reveals the earthy dynamic passion of the drums.

How many of you are there?

Six: three women, three men.

How much did it cost to bring it here?

£6,000 airfare with Malaysian Airlines (Tokyo-Kuala Lumpur, London-Edinburgh) plus drum transport (450 kilos), which cost about £8,000.

What's home like?

Tokyo is very hot and humid now and is a big and bustling city.

What do you think of the Scots?

Very friendly. The group cannot understand what they are saying but they don't understand English anyway. They feel that the Scottish traditions with the bagpipes have a strong similarity to the Taiko drums. Both are powerful and are symbols of the wild nature.

● *Amanojaku* (pictured), The Garage, until 26 August.



CANADA COMES TO EDINBURGH

What's your show about?

Love's labours lost. That initial first flame with all its excitement, giddiness and passion. And then it captures how you grow up into life - the tensions, darker consequences and complexities that can extinguish that flame.

How many of you are there?

Two of us. Daniel and Medina. We wrote it. We perform it. We produce it. We haul our set around. We set our lighting levels. So if there's money to be lost, we lose it.

How much did it cost to bring it here?

We're working on an expense budget of about £8,300. Maybe. If we're lucky. And

now we're spending all of it (and our parents' money, too) visiting you haggis-eating kilt-wearing Scots folk.

How did you travel here?

We've given our souls to Air Canada. It's the only frickin' airline we have.

Where are you staying in Edinburgh?

We've found quaint little lodgings up the north side of London Road, a wee bit off the beaten track from Princes Street. A one-bedroom flat with all the amenities.

Tallyhoo.

What's home like?

Multicultural, bilingual. The theatre community in our city (Edmonton) is awesome. Our Fringe Festival is second only in size and attendance to Edinburgh. We have the best weather. The best nightclubs. The biggest mall. And the people are so humble.

What do you think of the Scots?

They drink well and supposedly they're kind, but we don't get the fried pizza and Mars Bar thing.

● *Tuesdays & Sundays*, Pleasance Dome, until 26 August