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Orkestra del Sol's Top Trumps

1 brass band, 9 musicians, 50 cities, 60 shows... and 45,000 playing cards!

Edinburgh Fringe favourites Orkestra del Sol further explore their polygamous love affair with bombastic brass band music, anarchic humour and tall tales in a brand new show.

Set to tour Scotland in May, ahead of dates across the UK and France, Top Trumps is inspired by the 1980s card game, and features collectable playing cards for the audience. Band members will pit themselves against each other in a frenzy of high-speed riffs, ridiculous musical challenges, one-upmanship and brass bravado. But who will emerge as Top Trump? What is the Orkestra's collective lung capacity? Who has the top speed? Which is the longest instrument? Ladies and gentlemen, there's only one way to find out...

Orkestra del sol's explosive reinvention of the brass band format has certainly turned heads on both the festival circuit and the street theatre scene, prompting comparisons to the virtuosic wedding bands of Eastern Europe, the suave street bands of the US and the rebellious brass bands of Latin-America. Soaring horn lines, mournful melodies, rolling middle-eastern rhythms, Guca-worthy trumpet solos and a dash of New Orleans sass, all expertly woven into a performance bursting with wildly skilful musical arrangements, a roguish sense of theatre and a good dose of humour. Not to be missed.

"Magnificent" **The Independent**

"Utterly captivating" **Songlines**

"Brilliant musicians" **Time Out**

"You cannot take your eyes off these characters for a second, for fear of missing another hilarious interaction or quirky gesture" **Three Weeks**

For more information or images, or to arrange an interview with the band, please contact:

Olivia Furness
t: 07968 491 835
e: oli.furness@gmail.com
www.orkestradsol.co.uk
www.myspace.com/orkestradsol





Orkestra del Sol – Top Trumps Tour 2010

May 18	Lyth Arts Centre	Lyth (nr Wick)
May 19	Eden Court (One Touch Theatre)	Inverness
May 20	Milton Village Green	Milton (nr Invergordon)
May 21	Glenuig Hall	Glenuig
May 22	'Balkanarama' @ Studio 24	Edinburgh
May 25	The Croft	Bristol
May 26	The Bell	Bath
May 28	Hootananny, Brixton	London
June 17	Queen of Clubs Cabaret @ The Regal	Oxford
June 18	'Mental Elf Collective' @ The Trades Club	Hebden Bridge
June 19	'MidMad' @ Aberystwyth Arts Centre	Aberystwyth
June 25	Ludlow Assembly Rooms	Ludlow
June 26-27	Theatre & Circus Field / Club Dada	Glastonbury Festival
July 16-18	Sandhurst Freedom Days (various venues)	Sandhurst
July 19	Cargo, Shoreditch	London
July 20	Milton Keynes International Festival	Milton Keynes
July 22	Norwich Arts Centre	Norwich
July 23-24	Lakes Alive, Carlisle Castle	Carlisle
July 24-25	Merchant City Festival	Glasgow
July 31-Aug 1	International Riverside Festival	Stockton-on-Tees
Aug 6	Belladrum Tartan Heart Festival	Beaulieu (nr Inverness)
Aug 12	Queens Hall, Edinburgh Fringe	Edinburgh
Aug 15	Spiegeltent, Fringe by the Sea	North Berwick
Aug 27	The Lemon Tree	Aberdeen
Aug 29	Solfest	Cumbria
Sept 12	The Tabernacle, Notting Hill	London
Sept 13-23	France tour (dates to be publicised soon)	France

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