

For Immediate Release

LYCEUM THEATRE, EDINBURGH 2013/14 SEASON

From an Autumn of Crime through to a Spring of Scottish influence on major historical events, The Lyceum Theatre, Edinburgh unveils its ambitious 2013/14 Season.

The Royal Lyceum Theatre Company, Scotland's largest producing theatre announces its 2013/2014 Season, which includes 4 World Premières, classics and 3 new co-producers. Collaborations with Citizens Theatre, Liverpool Everyman and Playhouse Theatre, Chichester Festival Theatre and Wales Millennium Centre will enable audiences to enjoy the work of the Lyceum around the UK.

Mark Thomson, Artistic Director of The Lyceum comments on the season ahead:

"In tough times when money is being asked to perform ever more acrobatic feats with unreasonable asks comes the re-emergence of the challenge to the arts. In some ways the best way I can respond is to try and create a season of work that celebrates the inspiration of great thinkers, big stories and the creativity of artists. Laughter, idea, surprise, feeling, identification, revelation, beauty, celebration and wonder appear on our stage to debate our values and make us feel more alive. We have 7 productions all happy to take up the cause with four world premières, stories from the 18th, 19th, 20th and 21st century, from pivotal moments in history to defining moments in human beings' relationships. They are all vibrant, full of invention, intelligence and drama, desperate for a conversation with an audience and to articulate the best it can that culture and arts can give meaning and joy when the bottom line on a bank account or national debt doesn't."

Launching the season is a double bill of crime. Our first play is the world première of a brand new play written by Edinburgh based internationally renowned crime writer **Ian Rankin**, OBE, DL and **Mark Thomson** of The Lyceum. Ian's *Inspector Rebus* novels are worldwide bestsellers which have been translated into twenty-two languages and adapted for television.

This will be the first ever Ian Rankin play and centres around the character of Isobel McArthur, the first female Chief Constable of Lothian and Borders Police and the case of the serial killer she put behind bars 25 years earlier which still haunts her. The role of Isobel will be played by acclaimed Scottish actress Maureen Beattie (*The List, Enquirer, 27*) who is currently touring with The Old Vic in *Noises Off*.

Mark Thomson says:

"When I approached Ian about writing something together it was as a fan of both the genre and his work in particular. He is one of Scotland's most successful storytellers but despite his presence in the world of fiction and TV through Rebus in particular he'd never had his stories told in a theatre. In fiction, TV and film the crime genre is so powerful and successful. We thought we'd like to try and capture the dark pleasure of that on stage. "

The show will be designed by Francis O' Connor (*The Guid Sisters, Every One, Six Characters in Search of An Author, Faust parts 1 and 2*) with music by Philip Pinsky. (*Time and The Conways, The Guid Sisters, Mary Queen of Scots Got Her Head Chopped Off, Educating Agnes, Age of Arousal*).

Wales Millennium Centre will then take the production on a UK tour in 2014.

Conrad Lynch, Artistic Director, Wales Millennium Centre says:

"We are thrilled to be working with the Royal Lyceum Theatre for the first time on this cracking piece of new writing. Creating work to tour is at the heart of the Centre's artistic strategy so we are delighted that we will be able to take this piece to audiences across the UK"

Our second world première is a new stage version of Fyodor Dostoyevsky's thrilling study of guilt and power, ***Crime and Punishment*** written by award winning playwright **Chris Hannan**, whose work has been produced by the Royal Shakespeare Company, the Old Vic, the National Theatre of Scotland and Shakespeare's Globe. His plays include *The God of Soho, The Evil Doers* (Time Out Award Winner), *Elizabeth Gordon Quinn, Shining Souls* and *The Three Musketeers and the Princess of Spain* which won the 2011 CATS Award (Critics' Award for Theatre in Scotland) for Best New Play.

His first novel *Missy*, won the 2009 McKitterick Prize awarded by the Society of Authors for a debut novel. One of the most extraordinary novels of all time, *Crime and Punishment* gets inside the mind of a starving student who commits murder in order to set himself above and beyond the rules of society. Cut off from the rest of humanity as a result of his crime, he finds himself attracted to Sonya, a strange young prostitute with a deep love of Christ... A riveting murder story, *Crime and Punishment* also touches great psychological and spiritual depths.

The play will be directed by **Dominic Hill**, Artistic Director of the Citizens Theatre in Glasgow. The play will open there and then move to our new co-producing partners Liverpool Playhouse before coming to The Lyceum for its final leg.

Dominic Hill says:

*"I'm really pleased that the Citizens and the Lyceum are working together again and collaborating for the first time with the Liverpool Everyman and Playhouse in a production that's going to bring this iconic novel to life in a truly epic way. I think that the three theatres share much common ground in terms of their histories, ethos and nature of their work and that audiences in Glasgow, Edinburgh and Liverpool will find much in this great piece of literature that they can relate to. I'm also looking forward to working again with Chris Hannan, who I've previously collaborated with on *The Three Musketeers* in 2010."*

Gemma Bodinetz, Artistic Director of Liverpool Everyman and Playhouse Theatres says:

*"The Liverpool Everyman and Playhouse are thrilled to be collaborating with the Lyceum in Edinburgh and the Glasgow Citizens. We have long admired the work of both these prestigious theatres and have found in Chris Hannan's remarkable adaptation of *Crime and Punishment* an epic telling of a classic tale that resonates with our times. Every co-production has to be the meeting of artistic ambition and relevance to the cities involved; Dominic Hill's vision for this extraordinary adaptation promises to be a theatrical feast that will speak to the people of these three great cities."*

The Lyceum are delighted to bring audiences a taste of tradition this Christmas with the classic **A Christmas Carol** by Charles Dickens. Adapted for the stage by Neil Duffield (Winner of the Arts Council of England Children's Award 2006) this version was commissioned and first performed by the Octagon Theatre, Bolton in 2007. The all time favourite tale of Ebenezer Scrooge is brought to life with an ensemble cast playing the many characters from Bob Cratchit to Jacob Marley to Mrs Fezziwig to Scrooge's nephew Fred. Ebenezer Scrooge is shown the cruel mistakes and misconceptions he has made during his life by the three ghosts of Christmas Past, Present and Future during one wintry night before Christmas. He comes to his senses and realises that there is more to life than being miserable and mean and that to be generous in spirit and kind makes the world a happier place for everyone. With Christmas carols throughout, a wonderfully evocative set and the odd flurry of snow this show will bring the best of Christmas to Edinburgh.

A Christmas Carol will be directed by Andrew Panton, Associate Head of Performance, Musical Theatre at The Royal Conservatoire of Scotland. He will also be directing a new production of *Avenue Q* for the Edinburgh Festival Fringe in August to coincide with the 10th anniversary of the show. Andrew is currently vocal director for Susan Boyle for both her forthcoming album and last year's *Standing Ovation*. Andrew's work at the BBC includes performance coach *Tonight's the Night* with John Barrowman and this year he will be working on Children in Need as creative director for *The Choir*.

Andrew Panton says :

"I'm thrilled to be joining the Lyceum team again for Christmas, this time to direct what we hope will be a thrilling, musically exciting and visually beautiful production of Dicken's A Christmas Carol. If there's one story that needs to be told in December, it's this one."

Following last season's ground-breaking work in schools with Project Dream, Lyceum Creative Learning will be producing Project Scrooge, a fully participative programme for Primary and High school pupils that places creativity at the heart of the curriculum. Between October and December 2013, 12 schools in Edinburgh (approx 750 pupils and 40 teachers) will work in partnership with the Lyceum to develop their own creative responses to *A Christmas Carol*, as well as visiting the Theatre to see the production. Project Scrooge is delivered in partnership with City of Edinburgh Council Arts and Learning and is funded by The Miller Group and the Robertson Trust. There will also be members of the acclaimed Lyceum Youth Theatre playing the Cratchit children, Little Fan (Scrooge's younger sister) and the street urchins.

January sees Lyceum Associate Artist **Tony Cownie** (*A Taste of Honey*, *Mary Queen of Scots Got Her Head Chopped Off*, *Educating Agnes*) deliver a new production of **A Long Day's Journey Into Night** by Eugene O' Neill, the master of familial drama and darkness. Set in Connecticut in 1912 the play explores the conflicts and struggles of the dysfunctional Tyrone family and is considered the most autobiographical of O'Neill's plays. The tormented Tyrones are headed up by actor father James who is married to the morphine addicted Mary. Both they and their two sons, hard drinker Jamie and younger brother Edmund are all as tortured as each other.

Tony Cownie says:

"Apart from Shakespeare no one delves into the soul of his characters more than Eugene O'Neil. Always individual and intensely private. Tortured, yes, but always striving in the dark for a precious flash of life affirming inspiration. In this, arguably his finest achievement, he gives us a haunting and shatteringly honest insight into what it is to be human."

Love is in the air in February and we are happy to announce that Noël Coward's classic comedy of manners **Private Lives** will be taking to the Lyceum stage. This fun, witty and upbeat society play filled with elegant repartee sees two divorcées Amanda and Elyot bump into one another on their second honeymoons, only to end up ditching their new spouses and running off to Paris together. The play will be directed by internationally acclaimed writer, director, composer and choreographer Martin Duncan who last brought *Man of La Mancha* to The Lyceum. Martin has been Artistic Director of Nottingham Playhouse, co-artistic director of Chichester Festival Theatre and Director and Co-writer of The National Theatre of Brent. As an actor for 20 years he has appeared on film, TV and theatres all over the UK. Last year, he was an Artistic Adviser for the London 2012 Festival / and Cultural Olympiad.

His many productions as director include *Moses – The 10 Commandments*, *Sondheim at 80* and *Nutcracker* (Mathew Bourne/Opera North and Edinburgh International Festival). He was also Associate Director on The Pet Shop Boys' 1991 *Performance* Tour.

Martin Duncan says:

"Sparkling wit - brilliant dialogue - one of the greatest rom coms of all time! They don't write them like this anymore..."

Our next world première is a rather timely romp in the year of the referendum on independence in Scotland featuring the central characters involved and events surrounding the Act of Union in 1707.

The aptly titled **Union** by **Tim Barrow** is a boisterous new play which takes us through the bawdy taverns of Edinburgh's Old Town through to the court of Queen Anne in England. A merry bunch of historical figures populate the play from Allan Ramsay to the Duke of Queensberry, Queen Anne and Daniel Defoe.

Tim Barrow set up Lyre Productions in 2007 as a platform for contemporary, challenging new work. He wrote, produced & starred in *The Inheritance* – the award-winning independent Scottish road movie and directed his second feature *The Space Between* in 2011. His first stage play *Guy* was produced at London's Pleasance Theatre

Tim Barrow says:

"Before writing this play, I knew nothing about the Act of Union in 1707 - it wasn't taught at school. When researching these incendiary times, an amazing cast of characters were uncovered - Queen Anne, Daniel Defoe, Queensberry, Marlborough - and above all I found the poetry of Allan Ramsay and fell under his spell. The events are incredible. Scottish MPs took money and titles to write their Parliament out of existence, and their poverty-stricken, bankrupt citizens were left to struggle on as best they could. The play started writing itself. I'm honoured UNION has found a home at the beautiful Lyceum, and am excited to share this incredible story with audiences."

This will be the second production of the season to be directed by **Mark Thomson**.

To coincide with this production of **Union** there will be Curtain Raiser Performances of **7 Billion Others and Me** devised by Christie O'Carroll and the Lyceum Youth Theatre on Friday 28 March and Friday 4 April 2014. **7 Billion Others and Me** is not a history lesson. LYT explore what it is like to live in a world where there are more people living than ever before, and what it means to come from a tiny country which is questioning its own identity.

The final play of the season is the long awaited **Pressure** another world première of a new play commissioned by the Lyceum from **David Haig**, writer and Olivier Award winning actor (*The Madness of George III*) whose previous writing credits include *My Boy Jack* his 1997 play which was adapted for television in 2007. David is due to go into rehearsals to play **King Lear** and is currently playing the lead in the new Ben Elton sitcom **The Wright Way** on BBC1.

The play centres around Sir James Martin Stagg, the Scottish meteorologist who was charged by Eisenhower to set the date for the D-Day landings. A fascinating and gripping story of a Scotsman who changed the course of history forever.

David Haig says:

"My play is about a forgotten hero. A Scottish meteorologist, modest, tenacious and brilliant, who helped to save Europe in 1944. I'm absolutely thrilled that this Scottish story is to open at the Royal Lyceum in Edinburgh. "

This play will be directed by Lyceum Associate Artist and award-winning director **John Dove** (*Of Mice and Men*, *View From The Bridge*, *All My Sons*, *The Man Who Had All The Luck*).

This is a co-production with Chichester Festival Theatre.

Season 2013/14 – all dates correct at time of going to press

Dark Road

By Ian Rankin and Mark Thomson

Directed by Mark Thomson

25th September 2013 – 19th October 2013

Press Performance Saturday 28th September 2013

Crime and Punishment

From the Novel By Fyodor Dosteyovsky

In a new stage version by Chris Hannan

Directed by Dominic Hill

22nd October 2013 – 9th November 2013 at Lyceum, Edinburgh

Press Performance Tuesday 22nd/Wednesday 23rd October 2013

A Christmas Carol

By Charles Dickens

Adapted for the stage by Neil Duffield

Directed by Andrew Panton

26th November 2013 – 4th January 2014

Press Performance Friday 29th November 2013 @ 7pm

Long Days Journey Into Night

By Eugene O' Neill

Directed by Tony Cownie

17th January – 8th February 2014

Press Performance Tuesday 21st January 2014

Private Lives

By Noël Coward

Directed by Martin Duncan

14th February – 8th March 2014

Press Performance Tuesday 18th February 2014

Union

By Tim Barrow

Directed by Mark Thomson

19th March - 12th April 2014

Press Performance Saturday 22nd March 2014

Pressure

By David Haig

Directed by John Dove

30th April – 24th May 2014

Press Performance Saturday 3rd May 2014

NOTES TO EDITORS

Tickets

Season tickets go on sale end of May 2013

All tickets go on sale July 2013

Box Office 0131 248 4848

Groups 10+ 0131 248 4949

Online www.lyceum.org.uk

Every production in the 2013/14 Season will have at least one audio-described, captioned and BSL interpreted performance. Dates TBC.

The Royal Lyceum Theatre Company is one of Scotland's leading producing theatre companies. It has a reputation for excellence in its presentation of bold, eclectic programmes celebrating classical and contemporary work. Its commitment to developing new talent alongside its pursuit of the finest artists enables it to bring dynamic and high quality drama to the stage. The Lyceum enjoys creative partnerships led by passion for the work and has co-produced with many of the best theatre companies in the UK. The Lyceum engages with a wide audience and has one of the liveliest youth theatres in Scotland. The Lyceum is funded by Creative Scotland and The City of Edinburgh Council

THE LYCEUM PRESS RELEASE

Royal Lyceum Theatre Edinburgh

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Press Office

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