



Press Release

For Immediate Use: Wednesday 6 April, 2016

The Royal Lyceum Theatre Company presents, in association with Edinburgh International Festival, the World Premiere of

Wind Resistance

By Karine Polwart

Directed by Wils Wilson

Dramaturgy by David Greig

4 August – 21 August 2016

- ***Wind Resistance* is a compelling, new theatre gig by award-winning Scottish singer, songwriter and composer, Karine Polwart**
- **This is the first production that will feature The Lyceum's new Artistic Director, David Greig (as Dramaturg) since his appointment**
- ***Wind Resistance* will be performed in The Lyceum's 'Rehearsal Studio' - a new, bespoke and intimate venue, created in the theatre company's own rehearsal space**
- ***Wind Resistance* is part of the Edinburgh International Festival's 2016 programme**

The Royal Lyceum Theatre Company is delighted to announce that it is presenting the World Premiere of Scottish singer, songwriter and composer, Karine Polwart's new theatre gig, ***Wind Resistance***, as part of the world renowned Edinburgh International Festival this August.

Wind Resistance is the first production that will feature The Lyceum's new Artistic Director, David Greig, (as Dramaturg) since his appointment and reunites Greig with site-specific theatre-maker, Wils Wilson. Their previous work together includes the hugely successful *The Strange Undoing of Prudencia Hart*, the internationally acclaimed Scottish folk-theatre fable that has toured four continents and nine countries.

Wind Resistance will be performed in The Lyceum's 'Rehearsal Studio', a new, bespoke venue created in the theatre company's own rehearsal space to provide an intimate and unique setting for this fusion of music and theatre.

Every autumn, two and a half thousand pink-footed geese fly from Greenland to winter at Fala Flow, a protected peatbog south-east of Edinburgh. From this windy plateau, Karine Polwart surveys the surrounding landscape through history, song, birdlore and personal memoir. Ideas of sanctuary, maternity, goose skeins, Scottish football legend and medieval medicine all take flight, in this compelling combination of story and song.

David Greig, Dramaturg on *Wind Resistance* and incoming Artistic Director at The Lyceum says:

“Karine is a mesmerising musician and singer but she’s also an incredible storyteller. She can take us deep into ordinary lives, into nature, into history with a couple of well-turned lines. Wind Resistance is above all a wonderful piece of writing.

It’s exciting to be able to showcase Karine’s talents and explore and develop this new theatrical form in my first project as Artistic Director at The Lyceum, with the International Festival. I’m also very excited to open The Rehearsal Studio for this new Lyceum show and I look forward to welcoming and sharing this unique space with audience members.”

Karine Polwart is a Scottish multi-award winning singer, songwriter and composer. She combines folk influences and myth with social/current observations on matters such as, Donald Trump’s corporate megalomania, Charles Darwin’s family life and the complexities of modern parenthood. She is four-times winner at the BBC Radio 2 Folk Awards, twice for Best Original Song, her most recent album *Traces* (produced by Iain Cook of Chvrches) was shortlisted for both the Scottish Album of the Year Award and BBC Radio 2 Folk Awards Album of the Year. The Guardian chose it as international folk-roots release of 2012. Her debut solo album *Faultlines* won Best Album at the BBC Radio 2 Folk Awards back in 2005, following six years of touring as a traditional Scots singer with Malinky and Battlefield Band.

David Greig is currently Artistic Director Designate of the Royal Lyceum Theatre Company, Edinburgh. This role will expand to Artistic Director in June 2016. David was born in Edinburgh in 1969 and is an award winning, internationally renowned theatre maker. David co-founded Suspect Culture Theatre Company in 1990 and from 2005 to 2007 he was the first Dramaturg of The National Theatre of Scotland. Recent credits at The Lyceum include the critically acclaimed *Lanark: A Life in Three Acts* with the Citizens Theatre and the Edinburgh International Festival and *Dunsinane* with the Royal Shakespeare Company and the National Theatre of Scotland.

Director Wils Wilson’s recent theatre credits include *The Strange Undoing of Prudencia Hart* with National Theatre of Scotland, *Praxis Makes Perfect* for National Theatre Wales and *I Want My Hat Back* for the National Theatre of Great Britain.

Other productions being presented by the Edinburgh International Festival at The Lyceum include Shakespeare’s *Measure for Measure* by Cheek by Jowl and Moscow’s Pushkin Theatre, *Richard III* by Schaubühne Berlin, and *Shake*, a pop-theatre rethink of the *Twelfth Night* by Eat a Crocodile as well as two acclaimed productions by Scottish theatre company, Vanishing Point, *The Destroyed Room* and *Interiors*.

Wind Resistance was originally performed as a work-in-progress in early 2016.

ENDS

For further media information on ***Wind Resistance***, please contact –

The Lyceum Press Office, Clare McCormack - press@lyceum.org.uk / 0131 248 4822

or

Edinburgh International Festival Press Office, Liz Wallace - press@eif.co.uk / 0131 473 2020

Full Listings information:

Wind Resistance

By Karine Polwart

Directed by Wils Wilson
Dramaturgy by David Greig

Address: The Lyceum, Rehearsal Studio, 30B Grindlay Street, Edinburgh, EH3 9AX

Box Office: Hub Tickets Box Office - 0131 473 2000

Website: eif.co.uk

Performance Dates: 4 August – 21 August 2016

Times: 6–21 August, 8pm (except 8,9,15 & 16) 6, 13 & 20 August, 2pm

Previews: 4 & 5 August, 8pm

Press Performance: 6 August, 8pm

Prices: £18-20 (fees apply)

Running Time: 1hr 45mins (with interval)

Join the conversation: #WindResistance

Notes to Editor

1. Established in 1965, **The Royal Lyceum Theatre Company** is one of the leading drama-producing companies in Scotland. It has gained a reputation for excellence in both classical and contemporary work and is committed to developing the country's considerable indigenous talents while presenting the best of international drama.

In recent years, The Lyceum has staged co-productions with Told By An Idiot; Theatre Royal, Bath; The Bush Theatre, London; Nottingham Playhouse Theatre Company; National Theatre of Scotland; Citizens Theatre; Dundee Rep; Liverpool Everyman & Playhouse; Chichester Festival Theatre and the Lyric Hammersmith.

In addition, The Lyceum also runs an award-winning, ambitious and acclaimed Creative Learning programme which engages with over 16,000 young people across Scotland annually.

For more information, please visit lyceum.org.uk

2. The **Edinburgh International Festival** is an unparalleled celebration of the performing arts and an annual meeting point for peoples of all nations. Committed to virtuosity and originality, the International Festival presents some of the finest performers and ensembles from the worlds of dance, opera, music and theatre for three weeks in August.

Over the course of the year, the International Festival team travel the world in search of the most exciting and creative artists working today. Together, it brings unique collaborations, world premieres, new takes on classic works, critically acclaimed productions and more to captivate, thrill and entertain audiences from around the world. All in one place, right here in Scotland.

Compelling, exciting and often surprising, the International Festival is, quite simply, an unmissable experience.

3. **Wind Resistance** is supported through the **Scottish Government's Edinburgh Festivals Expo Fund**


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