

New opportunities for emerging Scottish Playwrights

A new mentoring and development programme for emerging playwrights is announced today. Edinburgh-based theatre production company Siege Perilous is introducing the scheme in conjunction with its inaugural Writer-in-Residence Caroline Dunford.

Called simply the 'Playwrights' Development Programme', the aim is to help aspiring playwrights develop their writing skills. Up to six playwrights will be chosen for the programme. The single script submitted by the playwright will be used to determine the final selections. At the end of the programme, the developed script will be workshopped with the production company and a team of professional actors. There is the further possibility that the script will go into a full production.

"We are so pleased that someone of Caroline's experience has agreed to become our first Writer-in-Residence and that she is so enthusiastic about this new initiative" said Siege Perilous's General Manager Tina Finch.

Caroline commented that "There are a number of excellent mentoring programmes available but it is extremely rare to find one that offers such richness of support. Not only does the playwright get direct one-to-one mentoring with me rather than email exchanges, they also get feedback about staging the work and practicalities from an experienced Artistic Director and Producer."

The Company is committed to running the programme for an initial 3-year period subject to evaluations from the first cohort of playwrights in this first year, and funding.

The programme to be operated in Edinburgh will be open for submissions for a 2-week period from 12th September, and any Scotland-based playwright will be eligible to apply. The playwright does not have to have been previously produced, but the script they submit should not have been professionally performed nor used as part of another mentoring scheme. Full details of the programme can be found at www.siegeperilous.co.uk.

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Notes to editors

1) Press contact: Tina Finch 07720 288620, tinaf@siegeperilous.co.uk

2) Based in Leith Edinburgh, Siege Perilous is a professional theatre production company which was founded in 2000. Run by co-founders Artistic Director Andy Corelli and Producer Tina Finch, the company specialises in new writing and is committed to producing quality small-scale theatre in Edinburgh outwith the Fringe. The company offers new writers a platform for their work to be seen and during a 2-year residency at the GRV (now The Store), staged 8 well-received productions. Additionally since 2000 it has appeared at Edinburgh's Festival Fringe five times, completed a UK tour and staged an open air production at Craigmack Castle in association with the de Marco European Art Foundation. The Company regularly mentors new entrants to the industry in roles such as Assistant Artistic Director, Stage Manager, Wardrobe, Technical crew and newly graduated actors. It is about to produce a further three productions of Scotland-based new playwrights. It received an Arts and Business Award in 2010. For more information about Siege Perilous, go to www.siegeperilous.co.uk.

3) Caroline Dunford is best selling author of 'How to Survive the Terrible Twos: Diary of a Mother Under Siege' as well as crime series, The Euphemia Martins Mysteries. She is a multi-produced playwright of stage and educational work and was selected to participate in the Scottish Book Trust's "Screen Lab". She was one of the writers in the sell-out series of short plays, Ten, at the Traverse Theatre. She has been a regular contributor to the EIBF since 2007 and this year will present the sold-out workshops 'A day on how to write a novel' and 'How to write a stage play'. She has 15 years experience of running workshops and mentoring, and as an Advanced Psychotherapist brings a strong insight into human nature to her work. She has won mentorships with both the Playwrights Studio Scotland and The Scottish Book Trust, and is a member of the Scottish Playwrights Society and Crime Writers Association. Caroline can be contacted direct to verdandiweaves@mac.com. More information can be found on www.writeforward.blogspot.com

4) Interviews can be quickly and easily arranged with Caroline Dunford, Andy Corelli or Tina Finch on request.