

Library plays host to budding local playwrights

The McDonald Road Library in Leith is offering budding Edinburgh playwrights an opportunity to grab a place at its free 'How to be a Playwright' event. The course was a sell-out event at this year's Edinburgh International Book Festival and will again be presented by Edinburgh author and playwright Caroline Dunford. The library is collaborating with Edinburgh theatre production company Siege Perilous in its forthcoming Playwright Development Programme, and will host mentoring sessions and workshops from the programme.

Katie Swann, Team Leader at the library said "libraries are very much at the heart of its community and McDonald Road like many others is a hub for a wider range of local activities beyond book hire. The range of activities at McDonald Road is extremely diverse covering children's groups, belly-dancing and the Leith Business Hub as well as hosting politicians and celebrities alike. There is a natural symmetry in our participation with a programme aimed at developing new writers and we are very pleased to be involved with it".

Leith-based author of novel 'hunting Jack' and blogger Colin Galbraith attended Caroline's Creative Writing course at this year's Book Festival and following his experience blogged this advice to other writers "get yourself onto a Caroline Dunford creative writing course, and do it sharpish."

The event, to be held on Monday 5th September 2011, 6.30 – 8.00 p.m. is free but it is essential to book as places are limited to 20. To reserve a place call the library direct on 0131 529 5636, email mcdonaldroad.library@edinburgh.gov.uk or call in person 2 McDonald Road EH7 4LU.

ENDS

Notes to editors

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

2) McDonald Road Library was built as a benefaction from Thomas Nelson II, the nineteenth-century Throsk-born printer and publisher. It is one of four Nelson Halls in various parts of Central Edinburgh. It stands on part of a 5-acre site occupied in 1763 by the Physic Garden of the University before it moved to Inverleith to become the Botanic Garden. Sensitively refurbished in 2003, McDonald Road Library today hosts a wide range of events, classes and activities and offers up-to-date facilities such as wi-fi and internet access.

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 presented 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) 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 Craigcrook Castle in association with the de Marco European Art Foundation. The Company regularly mentors new entrants to the industry in roles such as Assistant 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.

5) Colin Galbraith has been publishing books, short stories, poems and non-fiction articles since 2004. His first novel, 'Hunting Jack', was serialised by US-based publisher, KIC, and paranormal suspense novella 'Stella' was published by Eternal Press. His flash fiction 'BUZZ', one of Colin's creepiest tales, appeared in the horror e-zine, Flashes in the Dark, on 23rd August. His short fiction has appeared around the globe in such magazines as "Static Movement", "The Scruffy Dog Review", "Wildchild", "This It It Magazine" and "Zygote in my Coffee". Colin lives in Leith with his wife and daughter. <http://www.colingalbraith.co.uk>.

6) Interviews can be arranged on request.