

## **And the winners are....**

Siege Perilous and Writer-in-Residence Caroline Dunford are delighted to announce the names of the six playwrights who have secured a place on this year's Playwright Development Programme. They are John Gilmour from Glasgow; Colin Bell, Chris Purnell, Rhiannon Grist and Jen McGregor from Edinburgh, and David Hutchison from West Kilbride. The six were selected from 68 scripts that were submitted to the company in September in this first year of a new programme for emerging playwrights.

Commenting on the process, Caroline said that "it's been truly exciting to read all the work submitted and is further proof of the sheer amount of writing talent that we have in Scotland. I've been involved in other mentoring schemes but for me, this is the first time of doing so with others that have a different perspective than purely the writing craft itself. In that sense, it's been an invaluable experience for me too".

The group all met for the first time at McDonald Road Library on Saturday 29<sup>th</sup> October for a lively session that set the scene for the next 6 months. A number of interesting facts materialised about the participants including that one of them went to Shabbat with Madonna; another is a former life model; and one applied to be the presenter on "Rainbow". This emerged during an exercise to kick the event off but the names of who did what will remain within the group!

The playwrights will now work with the writer-in-residence during one-to-one sessions to develop their writing skills. This will culminate in each piece being performed by professional actors during workshops in February also to be held at McDonald Road Library.

This is the first year of a 3-year commitment by the company.

**ENDS**

## Notes to editors

1) Press contact: Tina Finch 07720 288620, [tinaf@siegeperilous.co.uk](mailto: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 what was formerly known as the GRV 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](http://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. Her most recent play 'Burke' has just completed a tour with West Port Productions around historic sites of Scotland including a jail, a court and The Vaults in Edinburgh after its 2010 premiere at The GRV produced by Siege Perilous. She has been a regular contributor to the EIBF since 2007 and in 2011 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](mailto:verdandiweaves@mac.com). More information can be found on [www.writeforward.blogspot.com](http://www.writeforward.blogspot.com)

4) 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.

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