

Northern Ireland on the stage in theatre company's first 2013 show

Following the success of its 2012 season of new writing productions from breakthrough Scottish writers, Edinburgh theatre company Siege Perilous kicks off 2013 with a new piece of work about a topic currently dominating news headlines. 'Too Long The Heart' by Ayrshire-based David Hutchison is set in the context of Northern Ireland and explores the burden of history. The company also continues its partnership with boutique hotel Malmaison, Edinburgh where the show will be performed 21-26 February.

This is the second production to come out of the company's inaugural 2011/12 playwright mentoring scheme, the Avalon Mentorship. The 6-month programme gives selected writers an opportunity to develop their script with Caroline Dunford, the company's Writer-in-Residence as well as seeing scenes workshopped by the company's artistic director Andy Corelli together with a team of professional actors.

In 'Too Long The Heart', a man's fishing holiday in County Cork is shattered when he is abducted and taken hostage. But there is confusion – do they have the right man? What past wrong is fuelling his captors' thirst for revenge? Can they 'Forgive and forget'? A vivid, moving contemporary drama which will be directed by Corelli.

David said "I'm very pleased to have had the opportunity to develop this script with the Siege Perilous team. I salute their continuing commitment to the encouragement of new writing in Scotland".

Another of Hutchison's plays "The Blood is Strong" which is concerned with where Scotland might be going as it contemplates the prospect of independence, will be presented later this year at the Finborough Theatre in London. Most of his working life has been spent at what is now Glasgow Caledonian University. Among his publications are 'Media Policy' and 'The Media in Scotland' (co-editor). He also wrote 'The Modern Scottish Theatre', one of the first studies in its field. He currently chairs Regional Screen Scotland.

'Too Long The Heart' can be seen Thursday 21 – Tuesday 26 February at 7.30 pm each evening except Sunday 24 February which will be at 5.00 pm. There is an additional matinee performance on Saturday 23 February at 3.00 pm. Malmaison has also made available two special meal deals for audience members. Tickets available via WeGotTickets.com or by calling 0131 554 3005.

ENDS

Notes to editors

1) Show details and Press contact.

Show title	Venue	Date
'Too Long The Heart'	Malmaison 1 Tower Place, Leith, Edinburgh, EH6 7BZ	21 st – 26 th February 2013 (Thurs-Tues)
Time	Duration	Prices
7.30 pm except Sunday 24/2 5.00 pm Sunday 24/2 3.00 pm matinee Saturday 23/2	Approximately 75 minutes	£10/£8 £7 matinees
Press and Photo contact	Tickets; public	Tickets: Press
Tina Finch 07720 288620 tinaf@siegeperilous.co.uk	1) www.wegotickets.com 2) 0131 554 3005 3) On the door	Tina Finch 07720 288620

2) Based in Leith Edinburgh, Siege Perilous is an independent professional theatre production company established since 2000. Run by co-founders Artistic Director Andy Corelli and Producer Tina Finch, the company specialises in new writing. In 2011, it introduced a Playwright mentoring scheme, the Avalon Programme and is currently working with its second group of new writers. Since 2000, the company has staged 21 well-received productions. It has appeared at Edinburgh's Festival Fringe five times, completed a UK tour and staged an open air production at Craigmillar Castle in association with the de Marco European Art Foundation. The Company also mentors new entrants to the industry in roles such as Assistant Director, Stage Manager, Wardrobe, Technical crew and newly graduated actors. For more information about Siege Perilous, go to www.siegeperilous.co.uk.

3) In an area steeped in history and landings of several reigning Monarchs, award-winning Malmaison in Leith was the very first in the super-chic hotel group. Less than a 10 minute taxi ride from Waverley Station, with views across the Water of Leith and surrounded by high quality eateries and pubs, including three Michelin-starred restaurants, the hotel is a firm favourite destination for locals, holidaymakers, professionals and pensioners alike. Malmaison occupies a former sailor's mission built in 1883 on the dock front referred to in its day as the "Angel Hotel". There are 12 Malmaison hotels across the UK with a further 14 in its sister group, Hotel du Vin. For more information about Malmaison, Edinburgh go to <http://www.malmaison.com/hotels/edinburgh>.

4) David Hutchison belongs to Ayrshire where he still lives. 'Too Long the Heart' was developed as part of Siege Perilous's inaugural mentoring programme in 2011. Another of his plays 'The Blood is Strong' which is concerned with where Scotland might be going as it contemplates the prospect of independence, will be presented later in 2013 at the Finborough Theatre in London. He has spent most of his working life at what is now Glasgow Caledonian University. Among his publications are Media Policy and The Media in Scotland (co-editor). He also wrote The Modern Scottish Theatre, one of the first studies in its field. He currently chairs Regional Screen Scotland

5) Interviews can be arranged with David Hutchison, Malmaison, Andy Corelli, Tina Finch on request.