

Present their latest production for Edinburgh Festival Fringe 2009

'King Arthur' – A Legend Reclaimed for Today

Siege Perilous, an Edinburgh-based company renowned for high-quality, contemporary adaptations of both classic texts and new writing, presents the world premiere of **King Arthur**.

King Arthur is a new work by Brighton-based writer **Lucy Nordberg**. Director **Andy Corelli** was struck by the use of a legend in the renaissance form to examine modern concerns.

The King faces a dilemma. His regime is enlightened and he encourages innovation. But how can he make sure the country remains like this after his death? He decides to impose democracy and make himself, in effect, the last King. His friends tell him that he is moving too fast. His enemies are not ready to hand over their power and use personal intrigue to undermine his plans. The country is plunged into crisis. Can the King save his people? Do they want to be saved?

After a successful rehearsed reading at the **Bedlam Theatre** for Fringe 2008, this full production will be performed at **Universal Arts New Town Theatre** in 2009 before touring. The company aims to 'grow' the production, as the tragedy of a King can be universally understood, and the renaissance form allows for flexibility on any scale.

Director Andy Corelli is focussed on urgent and relevant aspects of the play, which concern the ongoing battle between tradition and modernity. After the collapse of the political ideals of the last century, many countries face decisions about what political model they should adopt. Western democracies themselves are in the grip of a social and political crisis. How can they impose democracy on other countries when they are uncertain of their own futures?

The production will appeal to all those who enjoy watching or participating in renaissance drama. It raises questions: if directors continue to use the form, why not writers? What effect does modern language have on the actors and the audience, used to a 'language barrier' that has built up over the centuries with the originals? Is now the time for potentially large-scale work?

The content and style of the play investigate the continuing relevance of renaissance ideas – an approach that coincides with the theme of Enlightenment in the 2009 main festival.

Previous Fringe productions include **Measure for Measure** at **Universal Arts Hill Street Theatre**, which went on to tour nationally. **Nick Awde** of **The Stage** pointed out that **Andy Corelli's** direction was part of a new wave of productions where renaissance dialogue is performed as if in "contemporary dialect, enabling [the words] to be spoken and heard as if for the first time, freed from centuries of baggage".

ENDS

Show title	Venue	Date
'King Arthur'	Universal Arts New Town Theatre, Fringe Venue 7, 96 George Street, EH2 3DH	5th-30th August (not 9th, 17th, 24th)
Time	Duration	Prices
2.45-4.15pm	90 minutes	Weekends £12 (concessions £10) Weekdays £10 (concessions £8), Previews £5 (5th & 6 th)
Press contact	Tickets	Website
Lucy Nordberg 07707 556400 : lucy@pendragonenterprises.co.uk	Online: http://universalartsfestival.com/by-show/King-Arthur.html Fringe Box Office Booking line: 0131 226 0000	www.siegeperilous.co.uk