

1980s retro stage shtick at Edinburgh boutique chic

'Standing Stanes' will shortly become the first theatre show ever to be performed in the luxurious surroundings of Malmaison Edinburgh. Written by Dundee-based playwright Robert Ballantine, the latest emerging playwright to be showcased by Edinburgh production company Siege Perilous which has a new writing focus. It was written in the early 1980s when it had a rehearsed reading alongside John Byrne's 'Cuttin' A Rug' at the Dundee Rep with Alan Cumming and Forbes Masson taking up the roles of Freeman and Smithson. This will be the first ever full staging of the work.

'Standing Stanes' is a wry political comedy. It centres on a young man who, fired with entrepreneurial spirit and a desire to improve his community, endures a tireless journey as he comes face-to-face with the bureaucracy of larger-than-life, verging on cartoonish officials. Set in the 1980s when it was originally penned, it has a charming retro appeal.

There are many similarities between the UK political and economic landscape at that time and today; recession, austerity, unemployment, a Tory (led) Government. The play also talks of the divisiveness of the "Cold War" between the East and West and though arguably that no longer exists in those terms, there is a potential battle looming in the UK between North and South as the country debates the issue of Scottish independence.

Artistic Director Andy Corelli says "As a company, we enjoy performing in interesting locations. The space at Malmaison is very flexible and comfortable, and we are thrilled that the team there is so enthusiastic about our venture with them. 'Standing Stanes' is a fun piece of retro theatre. With 20-plus characters being played by 4 actors, this is a truly ensemble piece with loads of opportunities to tell the story in a surreal, comedic manner. As an '80s throwback myself, there is a great opportunity to pull in music and references from this period."

Playwright Bob Ballantine commented "I am delighted to be working with Siege Perilous on this project. Andy's directing approach is ideally suited to this somewhat surreal comedy and I'm very much looking forward to seeing it staged at Malmaison. The original script was a screenplay which I have now adapted for the stage, retaining the 1980s setting".

'Standing Stanes' can be seen between Thursday 3rd – Tuesday 8th May at 8pm with a matinee performance on Saturday 5th May at 4 pm. 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
'Standing Stanes'	Malmaison 1 Tower Place, Leith, Edinburgh, EH6 7BZ	3 rd – 8 th May (Thurs-Tues)
Time	Duration	Prices
8.00 p.m Matinee - 4pm 5 th May	Approximately 60 minutes	£10/£8 £6 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 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. In 2011, it introduced a Playwright Development Programme the winners of which were announced at the end of October. During a 2-year residency at the venue formerly known as The GRV, it staged 8 well-received productions. 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 mentors new entrants to the industry in roles such as Assistant Director, Stage Manager, Wardrobe, Technical crew and newly graduated actors. It received an Arts and Business Award in 2010. 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 now 12 Malmaison hotels across the UK and the company is part of the MWB group which also owns another leading hotel brand, Hotel du Vin. For more information about Malmaison, Leith go to <http://www.malmaison.com/hotels/edinburgh>.

4) Robert Ballantine has professional credits in both stage and television writing. He was a founder-member of Dundee Playwrights' Workshop, which was active under the umbrella of Dundee Rep Theatre in the 1980s and '90s. Bob was one of the writing team involved in the Dundee Mystery Play, centrepiece of the Dundee Community Festival in 1989. His television work has included material for the BBC comedy series Naked Video. Bob has also collaborated with local playwright Donald Gunn on various projects, and is currently working on a musical play on the life and influence of St Andrew, Scotland's patron saint. Bob has combined his writing with a varied career in the fields of economic development, business consultancy, taxation, social work and most recently conflict resolution. He lives in Dundee with his wife Ann.

5) Interviews can be arranged with Malmaison, Andy Corelli, Tina Finch and Bob Ballantine on request.