

New writing talent and new play emerges from new mentoring programme

'Farmhouse' by Glasgow-based writer John C. Gilmour will be the third production to be staged at boutique hotel Malmaison in October. This is a highly significant event for the emerging writer as 'Farmhouse' is his first full-length play. He took part in the company's mentoring programme in 2011 and developed the work under the careful guidance of best-selling author and multi-produced playwright, Caroline Dunford. The programme's panel were so impressed with the finished script that they offered to stage it.

John is well-known in the industry as an actor and most recently performed at the Arches and CCA in Glasgow as well as the Traverse Theatre, Edinburgh. His appetite for writing was whetted after submitting his short play 'Burn of Sorrow' in the New Writing New Worlds project in Glasgow in 2005. Sharing his views about the programme, John said "Quite simply I would never have finished this play without the support and encouragement of the playwriting programme. It gave me confidence but it was an exacting process which asked you to do your very best. As a result I felt that it opened a door for me. To have your work staged is wonderful of course, but the true value of the programme for me was that I discovered that I could write".

Intriguingly, 'Farmhouse' is described on the flyer as "A tense, claustrophobic and unsettling drama". Expecting their first child, heavily pregnant Claire and her partner Anthony break down in their car near a remote farmhouse. The congenial owner, Lachlan a farmer in his sixties, comes to their rescue. But along with the help comes a bizarre offer.

The company is also introducing a series of free post-show events across all 6 evening performances for the audience adding even more value to the ticket price. Confirmed 30-minute soupçons thus far include 'A Conversation with the Writer and Director' hosted by experienced freelance journalist and Scotland Correspondent of The Stage newspaper Thom Dibdin, and a second toward the end of the run hosted by the Creative Director of Playwrights' Studio Scotland, Fiona Sturgeon-Shea to offer a different perspective. Music, reading and an informative talk are all expected to feature in this first programme. Full details will be announced on the company's website www.siegeperilous.co.uk

'Farmhouse' can be seen Friday 12th – Wednesday 17th October at 7.30 pm each evening with a matinee performance on Saturday 13th October at 3.00 pm. Tickets available via WeGotTickets.com or by calling 0131 554 3005.

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Notes to editors

1) Show details and Press contact.

Show title	Venue	Date
'Farmhouse'	Malmaison 1 Tower Place, Leith, Edinburgh, EH6 7BZ	12 th – 17 th October (Fri-Weds)
Time	Duration	Prices
7.30 p.m Matinee – Saturday 13 th October 3.00 p.m	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 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 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) John had been acting professionally for several years when he decided to submit a short play - Burn of Sorrow - for the New Writing New Worlds project in Glasgow in 2005. He completed an MA in Theatre and Performance Studies at Rose Bruford College in 2006 which stimulated him to develop his playwriting skills further. In 2011 he submitted a scene to Siege Perilous' Playwright Mentoring scheme. After being accepted he worked, with the support of tutor Caroline Dunford, to develop this scene into the full length play which became 'Farmhouse'.

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