

THE LYCEUM PRESS RELEASE

Royal Lyceum Theatre Edinburgh

For immediate release

LYT LYCEUM
Lyceum Youth Theatre



The Lyceum Youth Theatre presents

BASSETT

By James Graham

Directed by Christie O'Carroll

24-26 March 2011

Traverse Theatre

As part of National Theatre Connections 2011

Recommended for Ages 14+ (Contains some strong language and war references)

"I'm just saying when you look at everyone else's flag some of them are really mingling, but ours, I think it's probably one of the best. Ours and America's."

The Lyceum Youth Theatre is delighted once again to be performing at **The Traverse Theatre** on **24-26 March** as part of the **National Theatre Connections 2011** Programme. NT Connections, supported by Bank of America, is a UK wide initiative to support and encourage new writing and theatre for young people.

This year LYT will be performing **Bassett** by James Graham. *Bassett* is a darkly comic, powerful look at young people questioning their country and beliefs in a small town, which has in recent years, become synonymous with the mourning of fallen British service people in Afghanistan.

Citizenship class at Wootton Bassett School, and the supply teacher has gone a bit nuts, doing a runner and locking the pupils in. That's bad enough, but tensions are higher today than normal, a day when only yards from their confinement a repatriation of fallen British soldiers is happening along the high street – as it has over a hundred times before through this quiet Wiltshire town. And this one is more personal than most ...

Dean needs the toilet, Aimee needs a coffee, Amid needs to pray, and Leo ... well, Leo really, really wants to be at the repat, and is determined to escape. As factions form and secrets are revealed, maybe he's not the only one who'll want to get away.

"LYT is very excited to be back at the Traverse in 2011." **Says John Glancy, Lyceum Youth Theatre Producer.** *"Bassett is a wonderful piece of theatre with a script that will no doubt ask a lot of questions of its audience. It's wonderful that our young people are also being given the opportunity to work on such a*

THE LYCEUM PRESS RELEASE

Royal Lyceum Theatre Edinburgh

Cont...

powerful and relevant piece. Its vitally important that we support young talent and understand that an evening of youth theatre is not just for friends and family but a vibrant and energetic part of Scotland's Cultural Identity."

On 24-26 March, *Bassett* will appear as part of a double-bill with rehearsed readings of scripts by the Traverse Scribble groups. The **Traverse Scribble programme**, supported by Cairn Energy, gives young writers aged 14-17 the chance to create scripts by working alongside working theatre professionals.

ENDS

LYT is the youth theatre company of the Royal Lyceum Theatre. For more information visit www.lyceum.org.uk/lyt

For further information on **Bassett** visit www.lyceum.org.uk/bassett

For press please contact **Melissa Clarke**, Lyceum Theatre: mclarke@lyceum.org.uk 0131 248 4822

Notes for Editors:

Watch our promo video embedded below

(Please click 'allow' when prompted. Requires [Adobe Reader 9](#) or above)

Alternatively view it online at <http://bit.ly/hdoUmV>



Lyceum Youth Theatre:

The Lyceum Youth Theatre is one of Scotland's biggest youth theatre companies and has established a name for itself as a producer of high quality contemporary theatre, by young people. LYT is regularly approached by leading British and International film, television and theatrical casting agencies and is now recognised as a

THE LYCEUM PRESS RELEASE

Royal Lyceum Theatre Edinburgh

reliable source of young Scottish based talent.

The ethos of LYT is that of a professional theatre company; young people are given the opportunity to develop skills and learn from experienced tutors, working in a professional manner as young actors and theatre makers.

As well as regular drama sessions, LYT offers the opportunity to participate in a range of projects, workshops and performances.

National Theatre Connections:

National Theatre Connections is a nationwide celebration of young theatre talent. Ten Thrilling new plays have been commissioned by the National Theatre from some of today's most exciting writers. Now young theatre companies perform them for the first time in what promises to be an exciting lively and inspiring event.

www.nationaltheatre.org.uk/connections

James Graham, Playwright:

James Graham won the Pearson Playwriting Bursary in 2006 after writing *Albert's Boy* which opened at the Finborough and has since been adapted for Radio 4. His next play, *Eden's Empire* won the Catherine Johnson Award for Best Play in 2007. He is Writer in Residence at the Finborough Theatre and his play *The Man* will be staged as part of their 30th Anniversary celebrations in June 2010. *Tory Boyz* was a success for the National Youth Theatre last year, and he is now writing *Relish* about Alexis Soyer, the first celebrity chef, who embarked on revolutions in cooking during the Irish Famine and the Crimean War. James Graham's latest play *The Whisky Taster* had an extended run at The Bush in January 2010 to 5 star reviews. His first film for television, *Caught in a Trap*, was broadcast on ITV1 on Boxing Day 2008.

Christie O'Carroll, Director:

Christie is the Drama Artist for the Lyceum Theatre. Since graduating from RSAMD in 2007 she has lectured in Performing Arts for Motherwell College, based at HMP Shotts and HM YOI Polmont, as well as having worked extensively as a performer, workshop leader and director for the National Theatre of Scotland, RSAMD Opera School and RSAMD Dramaworks, Toonspeak Young People's Theatre, The Grassmarket Project and RADA. Christie won the Bruce Miller Award for Directing in 2007 and the Winston Churchill Memorial Trust Travelling Fellowship in 2010.

LISTINGS:

Performances

Thursday 24–Saturday 26 March

Evenings 7.00pm

Saturday matinee 2.30pm

Venue

Traverse Theatre (Traverse Two), Edinburgh

Tickets

Full Price £14 (£10 Concessions/£6 unemployed)

Family Prices Family of 2- £22

Family of 3- £34

THE LYCEUM PRESS RELEASE

Royal Lyceum Theatre Edinburgh

Family of 4- £42

School Groups £6 plus one teacher free per 10 students

Box office

Book via Traverse Box office on **0131 228 1404**

Book Online http://www.traverse.co.uk/shows_bassett.htm

Support:

Supported by

Bank of America
Merrill Lynch

