

discover: new connections

YOUNG TALENT BRING NEW PLAYS TO LIFE AT EDINBURGH'S LYCEUM THEATRE

The **Royal Lyceum Theatre** in Edinburgh is delighted to host the Scottish festival for **New Connections**, produced by the **National Theatre** Discover programme and supported by **Bank of America**, for the seventh consecutive year.

Each year new plays are commissioned from some of the finest contemporary playwrights, allowing schools and youth theatres from all over the UK and Ireland unique opportunities to tackle productions for and about young people, making **New Connections** one of the world's largest celebrations of youth theatre.

This year ten Scottish and International groups will bring all of these exciting new plays to life at the Lyceum Theatre from **9 – 13 June** in one of 16 regional showcases for **New Connections**.

Participants include **Falkirk Youth Theatre**; **Oslo International School**; **Largs Youth Theatre**; **YUF Theatre** Shetland; **Craigholme School** in Glasgow; **Balerno Youth Theatre**; **Bedlingtonshire Community High School**; **Crooked House Youth Theatre** and **George Heriot's School** and the **Lyceum Youth Theatre** in Edinburgh.

The Lyceum Youth Theatre's production of **Success** premièred at the Traverse Theatre in March and they invite you once again to tumble into the dark heart of the city and discover the thrills and pitfalls of life for the super wealthy in Nick Drake's beautifully paced play, performed with LYT's trademark cutting edge style.

Nicholas Hytner, Director of the National Theatre said: *'Bank of America's continued and generous support will enable **New Connections** to develop an even more imaginative programme to support aspiring young talent, and inspire and entertain audiences.'*

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New Connections culminates at a celebratory Festival from **1 - 7 July** at the **National Theatre** in London, where twelve companies from the nationwide festivals will be invited to perform.

For further information, contact Melissa Clarke, Lyceum Theatre: mclarke@lyceum.org.uk or Jennifer Reynolds, National Theatre: 020 7452 3233 jreynolds@nationaltheatre.org.uk

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NOTES FOR EDITORS

New Connections: Connections was established 16 years ago in response to a widespread demand for challenging new plays for young people to perform. New Connections commissions 10 new plays every year, penned by some of the hottest talent in world theatre. The plays are then brought to life through hundreds of productions, created by thousands of young actors, technicians, designers and directors from across the UK, Ireland and further a field.

Plays & Writers:

Blackout by Davey Anderson

"All I can remember is: I could hear screaming. It was like being in a dream but still being awake at the same time. And all I can hear is – please, don't, stop it! And then....I don't know. Next morning, I was in a jail cell. I didnae know how I got there. And I was like that – aw naw, what did I do?"

A short play about getting bullied, fighting back, trying to make a name for yourself, turning vicious, doing something stupid, losing everything, then finding your way again.

Davey Anderson works as a playwright, theatre director and musician. In 2006, he became the first Director in Residence for the National Theatre of Scotland. During his tenure he was associate director and composer of all original music for the multi-award winning production, *Black Watch*. His credits as a writer include: *Rupture* (Traverse), *Liar* (Citizens'), *Wired* (Oran Mor) and *Snuff* (Arches, Traverse and National Theatre of Scotland).

Success by Nick Drake

Tom Rakewell is a lucky man. One midsummer night he makes a fortune and meets Lucy, the love of his life. Suddenly he is surrounded by well-wishers, led by the all-powerful Nick Shadow. Everyone who is anyone is keen to be his friend, and to help him spend his new cash on clothes, parties and the high life. It seems he has the world at his feet, and all his

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dreams of success can finally come true. But at what price success? Inspired by Hogarth's *The Rake's Progress*, *Success* tells a story of luck, success, money, false friends and true love.

Nick Drake is an award-winning poet, whose collections include *The Man in the White Suit* (Waterstone's/Forward Prize) and *From The Word Go*. He wrote the screenplay for *Romulus My Father*, a film based on the acclaimed memoir of Raimond Gaita, which won four awards at the Australian Film Awards, including Best Film. Recent projects include a stage adaptation of Philippe Petit's *To Reach the Clouds*, an account of his high-wire walk between the Twin Towers in 1974.

The Heights by Lisa McGee

Lillie Lee lives on the Heights estate. Confined to her bedroom by sickness, her bedroom window is her only connection to the outside world. To occupy herself, she keeps an obsessive watch on her neighbours and makes up stories about them. An unusual encounter with Dara, another girl from the estate, leads the two teenagers to strike up a firm friendship that may prove to be dangerous. *The Heights* touches on what it's like to be different from others; examining the idea of storytelling and the power of the imagination - and how the lines between fact and fiction can easily become blurred.

Lisa McGee is an Irish writer for stage and screen. Theatre credits include: *Girls And Dolls* (Tinderbox Theatre and Irish tour) and *Seven Years And Seven Hours* for Rough Magic. She is creator of the RTE TV series, RAW, and has written for T4's *Totally Frank* and *The Things I Haven't Told You* for BBC3.

The Séance by Anthony Nielsen

Five teenagers attempt to contact a dead school friend by means of a séance but the tensions released over its course are more frightening than any supernatural phenomenon. *The Séance* is a frank and darkly funny drama about a group of friends on the cusp of adulthood; just dimly beginning to perceive that life - and love - is finite.

Anthony Nielsen's plays include *Penetrator*, *The Censor* (winner of the Writers Guild Award for Best Fringe Play), *Stitching* (nomination for Evening Standard's Most Promising Newcomer) and *God In Ruins* (Soho Theatre). His play, *Edward Gant's Amazing Feats Of Loneliness* will be revived at the Soho Theatre in April 2009.

The Things She Sees by Ben Power, based on the novel by Charles Boyle

"Eight million people live in this city. It's so easy to disappear, to hide. How can you possibly find one person, if they don't want to be found?"

A young girl called Dizzy is searching across London for her missing father. She has inherited a magic power from her ancestors in Morocco, which allows her to see fragments of the future – an invaluable gift in her quest for reunion with her father.

Charles Boyle is the author of the unpublished novella *The Things She Sees*, adapted for New Connections by Ben Power. He has also written six poetry collections, most recently *The Age of Cardboard and String* (shortlisted for the T. S. Eliot Prize and Whitbread Award) and the novel, *24 for 3*, published under the pen-name Jennie Walker.

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Performances:

Please note all shows will be performed as double bills commencing at 7.30pm with a short interval between each show.

Date	Time	Company	Production
Tue 9 June	7.30pm	George Heriot's School, Falkirk Youth Theatre	<i>Blackout</i> <i>The Things She Sees</i>
Wed 10 June	7.30pm	Oslo International School, Largs Youth Theatre	<i>Blackout</i> <i>Blackout</i>
Thurs 11 June	7.30pm	YUF Theatre Shetland, Craigholme School	<i>Blackout</i> <i>The Heights</i>
Fri 12 June	7.30pm	Balerno Youth Theatre, Bedlingtonshire Community High School	<i>The Séance</i> <i>Blackout</i>
Sat 13 June	7.30pm	Lyceum Youth Theatre, Crooked House Youth Theatre	<i>Success</i> <i>The Séance</i>

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Tickets

Tickets: £8/£5 (conc.) for a double bill

LYT members: £2.50 or £10 for all five nights

NT Connections Participants: £2.50

BOX OFFICE: 0131 248 4848

Lyceum Website: www.lyceum.org.uk

National Theatre Website: www.nationaltheatre.org.uk/connections

Support



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