

THE LYCEUM PRESS RELEASE

Royal Lyceum Theatre Edinburgh

For immediate release



discover:
new connections

Lyceum Youth Theatre presents,

National Theatre Connections 2011

Supported by Arts Council England & Bank of America Merrill Lynch

14-17 June 2011

7.30pm Double Bill

The Royal Lyceum Theatre, Edinburgh welcomes back the Scottish showcase for New Connections, produced by the National Theatre Discover programme and supported by Bank of America Merrill Lynch. The Lyceum has hosted the Scottish showcase of NT Connections since 2003 and is delighted to see its return after 2010's development year.

John Glancy, LYT Producer/NT Connections Partner Producer says *"The Lyceum is proud to be once again hosting the Scottish showcase of NT Connections 2011. After taking a break in 2010, the National Theatre returns with some fantastic plays to showcase Scotland's youth theatre talent. With five new plays performed over four nights, Connections 2011 will be a fantastic evening out for anyone interested in seeing cutting edge contemporary theatre performed by young dynamic casts from all over the country and beyond."*

Each year new plays are commissioned from some of the finest contemporary playwrights, allowing schools and youth theatres from all over the British Isles 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 thrilling new plays have been commissioned by the National Theatre from some of today's most exciting writers including Katori Hall, Douglas Maxwell and Nell Leyshon. Through work with young people from around the world, from the Shetland Isles to Manhattan, the Connections writers have created a series of plays that are relevant to the ideas, concerns and views of young people of today.

Participants at the Scottish showcase include: **Falkirk Children's and Youth Theatre; Oslo International School; Macrobert Young Company; Odd Productions; Craigholme School; Platform Performance** and the **Lyceum Youth Theatre**.

The Lyceum Youth Theatre's critically acclaimed production of **Bassett**, by James Graham, performed a sold out run at the Traverse theatre in March this year. LYT's performance will culminate the festival on Friday 17 June. *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.

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NT Connections is a nationwide celebration of young theatre talent with local youth theatre groups, schools and colleges performing new plays for the first time in what promises to be an exciting, lively and inspiring event.

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
To watch the promo video, with Director Christie O'Carroll and LYT Producer John Glancy, visit <http://bit.ly/hdoUmV>

For more information on National Theatre New Connections and the plays please visit www.nationaltheatre.org/connections or contact John Glancy, Lyceum Youth Theatre Producer: jglancy@lyceum.org.uk or 0131 248 4830

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

Notes for Editors:

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 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:

Connections is a national festival of new writing and young theatre making. The concept is simple - exciting new plays, commissioned by the National Theatre and performed by youth theatre groups across the UK, with professional support from the NT and its partner theatres. www.nationaltheatre.org.uk/connections

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BASSETT:

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

Tuesday 14 June:

Shooting Truth: Falkirk Children's and Youth Theatre.

Children of Killers: Oslo International School.

Wednesday 15 June:

Bassett: Macrobert Young Company.

2nd company still to be announced

Thursday 16 June:

Frank and Ferdinand: Odd Productions.

Too Fast: Craigholme School.

Friday 17 June:

Shooting Truth: Platform Performance.

Bassett: Lyceum Youth Theatre.

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Venue

Lyceum Theatre, Edinburgh

Tickets

All performances begin at 7.30pm and each night will be a double bill. Tickets £8/£5 concession
Tickets available from The Lyceum Box Office 0131 248 4848

Box office

Book via Lyceum Box office on 0131 248 4848

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