

For Immediate Release

## Lyceum Theatre celebrates creative partnerships in 2011/12

**8 PLAYS  
7 DIRECTORS  
4 WORLD PREMIÈRES  
3 CO-PRODUCTIONS  
1 FESTIVAL FRINGE SHOW**

With four world premières and three co-productions, the Lyceum Season 2011/12 provides a platform for creative partnerships, by celebrating classics along with new writing and encouraging a wide audience.

As the Lyceum draws the curtain on a successful Season 2010/11, Season 2011/12 is set to continue and enhance its position as Scotland's premier producing theatre company.

*"Our theatre's vibrancy and ability to touch and inspire is enhanced by a joy in the diversity of work we create for our audiences" says Lyceum Artistic Director Mark Thomson. "Next season we will create four world premières, work with three partners (The National Theatre of Scotland, Vox Motus and Dundee Rep), tell classic stories and present new plays, with seven directors engaging with work from five countries."*

In an exciting move, The Lyceum will be taking part in the **2011 Edinburgh Festival Fringe** as part of the Traverse Theatre's festival line up, with new play ***Wondrous Flitting***. In his first play for the Fringe since winning a Herald Angel award for *A Madman Sings to the Moon* (Brunton Theatre, Edinburgh Festival Fringe 1999), Lyceum Artistic Director Mark Thomson has written and will direct this black comedy about a clash of worlds, inspired by a chapter in Ed Hollis's book, *The Secret Lives of Buildings*. *Wondrous Flitting*, a darkly comic odyssey that sees a holy flitting house miraculously transported to contemporary Scotland, will have its world première in Traverse Two.

Mark is joined by designer Kai Fischer (*The Beggar's Opera*) and Lyceum Associate Artist and sound designer, Philip Pinsky. The cast includes Grant O'Rourke (*Romeo and Juliet*, *The Cherry Orchard*, *The Snow Queen*), Liam Brennan (*Every One*, *A View from the Bridge*) and Molly Innes (*Age of Arousal*).

**Mark Thomson** said *"I'm thrilled that as well as hosting work for the Edinburgh International Festival, the Lyceum Theatre is also presenting our own work as part of the Edinburgh Festival Fringe. We're very excited to be performing Wondrous Flitting, at the home of our neighbours, the Traverse Theatre."*

**Thomson** added *"In our new Season, I hope our audiences will find some old friends, freshly delivered, alongside the vital excitement of new work. In tough times the arts offer a window that allows us to catch our breath, reflect on the world, and look out to dream about the future. It reminds us that we're special, helps us laugh and on occasion makes us angry. It reminds us that we're human."*

The Lyceum will open its 2011/12 Season with the playful and subversive ***Mary Queen of Scots Got Her Head Chopped Off*** by Makar Liz Lochhead. Directed by Lyceum Associate Artist Tony Cownie, and designed by Neil Murray, this will be a co-production with Dundee Rep and is the beginning of a two year partnership between the two theatres.

**Artistic Director of Dundee Rep James Brining** said *"Although Dundee Rep Ensemble has visited the theatre a number of times in the last few years, we are very pleased to be working more creatively with the Lyceum on the production of this classic play by one of Scotland's leading writers."*

The Lyceum then welcomes the National Theatre of Scotland in a co-production of the **world première** of Abi Morgan's ***27***, directed by Vicky Featherstone. Religion and science meet in this new play from BAFTA award-winner Morgan, as a group of nuns open their doors, and minds, to some curious academics.

**Vicky Featherstone, Artistic Director, National Theatre of Scotland and Director of 27** said: *"I am honoured and delighted to be able to premiere this extraordinary new play by award-winning Abi Morgan in a co-production with the Lyceum. National Theatre of Scotland is nothing without the great theatres of Scotland and it is thanks to the vision and partnership of Mark Thomson that this important play about the ageing mind, faith and science can come to the stage."*

The Season's third co-production is the Lyceum's first collaboration with the acclaimed Vox Motus. ***The Infamous Brothers Davenport*** will have its **world première** at the beginning of the Lyceum's Spring Season in January 2012. Conceived, directed and designed by Artistic Directors Candice Edmunds and Jamie Harrison and written by Peter Arnott (*The Breathing House*), this highly visual production explores the destructive relationship between two young brothers amidst the magical world of Victorian séance and illusion of their creation.

The fourth and final **world première** is ***The Marriage of Figaro***, a contemporary take on Pierre Beaumarchais's well known tale. Award-winning Scottish playwright DC Jackson, acclaimed for his plays *My Romantic History*, *The Wall*, *The Ducky* and *The Chooky Brae* has been commissioned by the Lyceum to create this new play. Mark Thomson will direct.

Having completed his seven year, five play exploration of Arthur Miller's work, Lyceum Associate Artist John Dove returns to direct another American classic - John Steinbeck's ***Of Mice and Men***. This very human story of love and friendship between two men on a journey is one of the greatest and most popular American plays.

# THE LYCEUM PRESS RELEASE

Royal Lyceum Theatre Edinburgh

Thursday, 21 April 2011

The Lyceum Season concludes with a gruesome and unruly black comedy by the writer of *The Beauty Queen of Leenane*, Martin McDonagh. ***The Lieutenant of Inishmore*** will be directed by Mark Thomson.

Finally the Lyceum's Christmas production for 2011 will be Stuart Paterson's ***Beauty and the Beast***. After the success of last year's *The Snow Queen*, the Lyceum will again bring Paterson's magical tales to life on stage this Christmas. Neil Murray will direct this production as well as design, having designed numerous shows for the Lyceum (*The Importance of Being Earnest*, *Romeo and Juliet*, *Confessions of a Justified Sinner*) Murray is also Associate Director and Designer at Northern Stage.

-ENDS-

## Plays

### 2011 Edinburgh Festival Fringe

#### World Première

#### ***Wondrous Flitting***

#### Traverse Theatre 4 -28 August

Written and Directed by Mark Thomson

Designed by Kai Fischer

Sound designer/Composer Philip Pinsky

Inspired by the book *The Secret Lives of Buildings* by Ed Hollis

#### ***Sam needed a miracle. For his sins he got one!***

In Loreto there's a Holy House – a divine and wondrously flitting house. A vessel for the holy. Now it's in Sam's house. And Sam can't figure it. It's not every day a miracle happens and your house becomes the vessel that contains the vessel that contained Mary (as in Mary, the vessel that contained our Lord). This symbol of faith and transformation comes crashing into contemporary Scotland as Sam races through 24 hours of trapped parents, girlfriends and dentists to find meaning in this darkly comic odyssey.

In his first play for the Fringe since the Herald Angel award-winning *A Madman Sings to the Moon*, Lyceum Artistic Director Mark Thomson directs this black comedy about a clash of worlds, inspired by a chapter in Ed Hollis's *The Secret Lives of Buildings*.

Recommended for Ages 14+ - Contains strong language

## **Season 2011/12 – all dates to be confirmed**

### ***Mary Queen of Scots Got Her Head Chopped Off***

A Co-Production with Dundee Rep Theatre

By Liz Lochhead

Directed by Tony Cownie

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Thursday, 21 April 2011

## World Première

**27**

A Co-production with the National Theatre of Scotland

By Abi Morgan

Directed by Vicky Featherstone

## CHRISTMAS

**Beauty and the Beast**

By Stuart Paterson

Directed and Designed by Neil Murray

## World Première

**The Infamous Brothers Davenport**

Conceived, directed and designed by Jamie Harrison and Candice Edmunds

Written by Peter Arnott

**Of Mice and Men**

By John Steinbeck

Directed by John Dove

## World Première

**The Marriage of Figaro**

By DC Jackson

Directed by Mark Thomson

A contemporary take on Pierre Beaumarchais's well known tale

**The Lieutenant of Inishmore**

By Martin McDonagh

Directed by Mark Thomson

## NOTES TO EDITORS

### Tickets

Season tickets go on sale from 23 May

All tickets go on sale 16 July

Box Office 0131 248 4848

Groups 10+ 0131 248 4949

Online [www.lyceum.org.uk](http://www.lyceum.org.uk)

Every production in the 2011/12 Season will have at least one audio-described, captioned and BSL interpreted performance. Dates TBC.

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## Press Office

Please contact Melissa Clarke on 0131 248 4822 or [mclarke@lyceum.org.uk](mailto:mclarke@lyceum.org.uk)

## Sponsors & Funding



## Co-producers

