

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

by Liz Lochhead

A co-production with Dundee Rep Ensemble

Directed by  
**Tony Cownie**

Friday 16 September - Saturday 15 October

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

***“One Kingdom.  
Two Queens.  
They’ll end up at each other’s throats.”***

Opening the Lyceum’s 2011 Autumn season is Scotland’s Makar and award-winning playwright, Liz Lochhead’s acclaimed interpretation of the lives, loves and rivalry of two famed queens, whose insurmountable differences will tear them apart.

First performed in 1987, Liz Lochhead’s play *Mary Queen of Scots Got Her Head Chopped Off* is widely acknowledged as a modern Scottish classic. A co-production with Dundee Rep Ensemble, *Mary Queen of Scots Got Her Head Chopped Off* marks the beginning of a two year partnership between the Lyceum and Dundee Rep - the production will transfer to the Rep playing from Wednesday 19 October until Saturday 5 November. **Mark Thomson, Artistic Director** said: *“I am delighted that these two great Scottish city theatres are working together to celebrate Liz Lochhead’s modern classic that continues to speak eloquently and aptly about Scotland today in a brilliant depiction of its great Queen!”*

Mary is young, inexperienced, compassionate, vulnerable. Her older cousin, Elizabeth, rules her own land with ruthless control and no leniency for political foes - even to members of her own family. In this deadly game of murder, betrayal and power, there can only be one winner, one ultimate ruler of this *‘wan green island’*.

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The production is directed by Lyceum stalwart and Lochhead's close collaborator, Tony Cownie (*Educating Agnes*, *The Cherry Orchard*); designed by Neil Murray, (*Romeo and Juliet*, *The Importance of Being Earnest*, *Confessions of a Justified Sinner*), lighting design by Charles Balfour, music composed by Philip Pinsky and movement direction by Josh Armstrong.

## **NOTES FOR EDITORS:**

### **Lyceum Press Night: Saturday 17 September at 7.45pm**

#### **Cast members:**

Corbie	Ann Louise Ross
Mary	Shauna Macdonald
Elizabeth	Emily Winter
Hepburn/Earl O' Bothwell	Stephen McCole
Knox	Liam Brennan
Riccio	Kevin Lennon
Darnley/Leicester	Lewis Hart
Ensemble Musician	Morna Young

#### **Creative Team:**

Writer	Liz Lochhead
Director	Tony Cownie
Designer, set, props, costumes	Neil Murray
Lighting Designer	Charles Balfour
Composer/Musical Director	Philip Pinsky
Movement Director	Josh Armstrong

#### **Liz Lochhead:**

Liz is no stranger to the Royal Lyceum Theatre having recently adapted Moliere's *Educating Agnes*. In the mid-eighties she adapted Bram Stoker's *Dracula*, and, a year later, Moliere's *Tartuffe*. Both have had frequent Scottish revivals as well as further afield. *Tartuffe* began Liz Lochhead's lifelong love affair with the work of this French comedic genius and was most recently seen back here at the Lyceum for its fortieth anniversary in a new production in 2006. *Miseryguts* in 2002 (a bang up-to-date version of Moliere's *Le Misanthrope*) was a rude and rhyming hit. She transposed Chekhov's *The Three Sisters* to the year 1947 and a gloomy Post-War Highland boarding school near an American Air Force Base, for a Lyceum production in 2001. In 1999, her brace of one-act plays, *Shanghaied* and *Elizabeth* (about the same quartet of characters in 1939 and on Coronation Day in 1953) was performed at the Lyceum under the title *Britannia Rules*. All of these, since the nineties at least, were directed by Tony Cownie.

Liz's original stage plays over the last thirty years also include *Blood and Ice*, *The Big Picture*, *Quelques Fleurs*, *Perfect Days*, and *Good Things*, commissioned by variously, the Traverse, Communicado, Dundee Rep and Borderline Theatre Companies. Liz became Glasgow's Poet Laureate in 2005, and, recently in 2011 was surprised and very honoured to be declared Scotland's Makar, or National Poet.

**SPECIAL EVENT** - Rehearsed reading of **UNION** by Tim Barrow. Directed by Mark Thomson.

Wigmaker and aspiring poet Allan Ramsay is united with Queen Anne, Daniel Defoe, the Dukes of Queensferry and Marlborough and others in a sprawling historical drama, inspired by the characters and events of the Act of Union in 1707. Saturday 15 October, 2.30pm. Tickets: £6 (£4 concessions). Book 0131 248 4848 or [www.lyceum.org.uk](http://www.lyceum.org.uk)

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Royal Lyceum Theatre Edinburgh

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## **LYCEUM TICKETS & PERFORMANCES:**

**Performances:** Friday 16 September - 15 October 2011

**Evenings:** Tuesday – Saturday at 7.45pm

**Matinees:** Wed 21, Sat 24, Wed 28 September and Sat 1, Wed 5, Sat 8 October at 2.30pm

**Preview:** Friday 16 September at 7.45pm - tickets £5 (sponsored by The List)

**Curtain Raiser:** Tuesday 20 September at 6pm – tickets £5 Conc £3 & under 18s free

**Theatre Class:** Wednesday 21 September at 10.30am

**Post-show discussion with members of the cast:** Tuesday 27 September (FREE)

**Matinee Discussion Group:** Wednesday 28 September (after matinee)

**Touch Tour for the visually impaired:** Thursday 29 September at 6.15pm & Saturday 1 October at 1pm

**Audio described performances:** Thursday 29 September at 7.45pm & Saturday 1 October at 2.30pm

**BSL Interpreted performance:** Wednesday 5 October at 7.45pm

**Captioned Performance:** Saturday 8 October at 2.30pm

## **Tickets**

**Evening performances (full price):** £13.50 - £29

**Matinee Performances:** Wednesday and Saturday Matinees £16

**Concessions:** £2 off full price for all Tuesday – Thursday shows

**Under 18s:** Sat eves: £15; Tue-Fri eves & Sat matinees: £10; Wed matinees: £5

**School Groups:** £8.50 (stalls & grand circle). £7.50 (upper circle). Matinees – all seats £7. One teacher FREE with every ten pupils.

**Registered unemployed:** Tues – Fri eves: £10; Wed matinees: £5. (Tues – Thurs), £1 Stalls tickets available on the day (max 20 per show, stalls only). ID required.

**Students/ people with disabilities:** Sat eves: £15; Tue-Fri eves & Sat matinees: £10; Wed matinees: £5

Wheelchair spaces are available in the stalls boxes. Students – full time only – ID required.

**Groups discounts for 8 or more people:**

**Evenings:** Stalls/Grand Circle £5 off and Upper Circle £3 off full price tickets plus one FREE ticket for every 20 paid for.

**Matinees:** £3 off full price tickets plus one FREE ticket for every 20 paid for.

**BOX OFFICE:** 0131 248 4848

**ONLINE:** [www.lyceum.org.uk/mary](http://www.lyceum.org.uk/mary)

**MOBILE:** [m.lyceum.org.uk](http://m.lyceum.org.uk)

For press tickets and images please contact Wendy Niblock on 07961 814834 or email [wendyniblock@btinternet.com](mailto:wendyniblock@btinternet.com)

## **DUNDEE REP THEATRE DATES - *MARY QUEEN OF SCOTS GOT HER HEAD CHOPPED OFF***

Wednesday 19 October - Saturday 5 November at 7.30pm

Matinees: Thursday 27 October & 3 November and Saturday 29 October & 5 November at 2.30pm

Tickets available from Dundee Rep box office 01382 223530 / [www.dundeerep.co.uk](http://www.dundeerep.co.uk)

**Dundee Rep Press Night Thursday 20 October at 7.30pm**

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