

# THE LYCEUM PRESS RELEASE

Royal Lyceum Theatre Edinburgh

## SUCCESS

By Nick Drake

Directed by Steve Mann

12 – 14 March 2009

### Traverse Theatre

Cambridge Street  
Edinburgh

LYT **LYCEUM**  
Lyceum Youth Theatre

discover:  
new connections

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***“I can guide you through the pitfalls of super-wealth; I know who the con-men are, in their off the peg suits and cheap shoes, and the High Street girls with their eyes the colour of maxed-out credit cards.”***

For the seventh consecutive year the Lyceum Youth Theatre (LYT) is taking part in the National Theatre’s **New Connections** festival, a UK wide celebration of youth theatre. Companies taking part in **New Connections** select a play from a selection of newly commissioned work by leading contemporary playwrights. LYT’s performance at the **Traverse Theatre** from **12 - 14 March** and will be the Scottish premiere of Nick Drake’s play, **Success**.

LYT are inviting their audiences to tumble into the dark heart of the city and discover the thrills and pitfalls of life for the super-wealthy in this vibrant, stylized production. Nick Drake’s beautifully paced play charts the rise and spectacular fall of one Tom Rakewell, and is programmed as part of the current season at the Traverse, Edinburgh’s new writing theatre.

**Success** will carry audiences through epic cityscapes to scenes of quirky friendship as in one mid-summer night Tom makes a fortune and meets Lucy, the love of his life. The play poses the question “at what price does success come?” Just when Tom thought he had it

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all, he finds himself slipping into the underworld of a city where everyone is struggling to survive. What he finds there - from the anarchic pizza delivery boys Ping and Pong, to the all-seeing Kid in the rusty shopping trolley - shows him a world that is stranger than he ever imagined.

Inspired by Hogarth's *The Rake's Progress*, in *Success* the decadence of the 18th century and the pace of the 21st century collides. Lyceum Youth Theatre present this tale of magical realism, with their trademark cutting edge style and scored with an eclectic soundtrack and live music.

Director **Steve Mann**, who is one of LYT's tutors as well as a freelance director, leads a nineteen strong cast. He explains: "*Success is a very fast paced show. It's very visual and exciting and the cast have put in a huge amount of work to develop the physical style that the play demands. In some ways this is a very different piece for LYT as it is so stylised, but **Success** follows the LYT strength of mixing contemporary music and choreography to create a dynamic and eclectic piece of visual drama.*"

Joining Steve on the creative team is lighting designer **Paul Rodger** (*DeoxyriboNucleic Acid, Fugee*), assistant director **Rachel Esdale** (an LYT group assistant) and design assistant **Lucy McGlennon** (LYT production team support member) to bring you a story of the quandaries money can bring, which can pave the way for triumph and failure in equal measures.

**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.*'

ENDS

LYT is the youth theatre company of the Royal Lyceum. For more information visit [www.lyceum.org.uk/lyt](http://www.lyceum.org.uk/lyt)

For further information and press tickets please contact [Melissa Clarke](mailto:mclarke@lyceum.org.uk), Lyceum Theatre: [mclarke@lyceum.org.uk](mailto:mclarke@lyceum.org.uk) 0131 248 4822 or [Jenn Reynolds](mailto:jreynolds@nationaltheatre.org.uk), National Theatre: [jreynolds@nationaltheatre.org.uk](mailto:jreynolds@nationaltheatre.org.uk) 020 7452 3233

**Free preview: Friday 22 March**

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~~Full price: £7.00—17.50~~

~~Concessions: £2 off full price Tue—Thu evenings~~

~~Students & people with disabilities: half price~~

~~Group discounts available.~~

~~Box office: 0131 248 4848; Groups (10+): 0131 248 4949~~

## **Notes for Editors:**

**New Connections** is an annual event where, with support from Bank of America and Arts Council England, new plays are commissioned from leading contemporary playwrights by the National Theatre, London. Schools and youth theatres all over the UK are then given the opportunity to perform them, supported by regional directors appointed by the National Theatre.

Like other companies involved in ***New Connections***, LYT will be performing a run of the production and also have the opportunity to take part in a festival alongside schools and youth theatres from across Scotland. This year's ***New Connections*** festival for Scotland will take place at the **Lyceum Theatre**, Edinburgh from **9 -13 June**. ***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.

**Nick Drake, Playwright:** is an award-winning poet, whose collections includes *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.

**Steve Mann, Director:** Steve trained as an actor at Guildford School of Acting on the musical theatre course. GSA credits include; 'Dino' in *The Rink*, Hamish in *The Mitford Girls*, 'Spelvin' in *Strike Up The Band* and 'The Beadle' in *Sweeney Todd*. Professional work includes *The Butterfly Ball* (Wimbledon Theatre), *Palladium* (Finborough Theatre), *The Sound Of Music* (B.A.C.), *The Frogs* (The Barbican), *Anyone Can Whistle*

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(Covent Garden Festival, Savoy Theatre) and John in a workshop of a new Scottish musical, *Blud Red* (Bedlam Theatre).

Steve has directed *West Side Story*, *Jesus Christ Superstar*, *Kiss Me Kate*, *Calamity Jane*, *Boogie Nights* and *42<sup>nd</sup> Street* (King's Glasgow) *Godspell* (King's Edinburgh), *Les Liaison Dangerous* (Mitchell Theatre), *We Will Rock You*, *Jock Whittington*, *Beauty ad the Beast* and *Aladdin* (HTH), *Dracula Spectacula*, *The Wizard of Oz* and *Oliver!* (Falkirk), *Cirkus!* (Byre Theatre), *The Gallery* and *3 Cutting Edge Cabarets* (Perth Theatre) and *Into the Woods* (Royal Lyceum). He was also the Assistant Director on the award winning *Shining Souls* (The Tron, Glasgow) and *A Winter's Tale* (Royal Lyceum). Steve was one of the Directors for Cameron Macintosh/Eden Court's *Highland Quest*, The search for the new Scottish musical. In addition to this Steve has worked with Scottish Youth Theatre, The Byre Theatre, Perth Theatre, Stagecoach and the Royal Lyceum, Edinburgh.

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## LISTINGS

### Press Night: Thursday 12 March 7.30pm

#### Performances

Thursday 12 March – 7.30pm

Friday 13 March – 7.30pm

Saturday 14 March – 2.30pm & 7.30pm

#### Tickets

Thursday eve & Saturday matinee - £13 (conc. £8, under 18s £8, unemployed £5)

Friday & Saturday evening - £16 (conc. £12)

Early Bird - £8 (conc. £5) on Thursday 12 March (if bought before Thursday 5 March and subject to availability)

#### Box office

0131 228 1404

[www.traverse.co.uk](http://www.traverse.co.uk)

#### Support

