



**MEDIA RELEASE
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Edinburgh International Festival 2010
Friday 13 August – Sunday 5 September

American artists take centre stage at one of the world's greatest arts festivals.

**Jonathan Mills, Festival Director today announced the programme for
Edinburgh International Festival 2010.**

Festival 2010 is a journey of discovery through the diverse contemporary cultures of **North, Central and South America, and Australasia.**

Artists from California, New York and New England, Mexico, Brazil, Chile, Ecuador, Bolivia, Venezuela, Argentina, Samoa, New Zealand, Australia, as well as Spain, Holland and the UK give Festival 2010 a distinctive feel as it **shifts its centre of gravity away from Europe** to explore the modern-day cultures of the 'New World'.

A **world premiere** from New York theatre company **Elevator Repair Service** (*The Sun Also Rises*), a new play from **The Wooster Group** (*Vieux Carré*) and the Festival debut of **Meredith Monk** with *Songs of Ascension*, alongside Lee Breuer and Bob Telson's great *The Gospel at Colonus* stamp New York's influence on the theatre programme in 2010.

San Francisco based **Alonzo King Lines Ballet** tours to the UK for the first time complementing a dance programme featuring Brazil, New Zealand and the Pacific Islands, flamenco and the late **Pina Bausch's** tropical *Água*.

Great American composer George Gershwin's opera *Porgy and Bess* is updated in a spectacular multi-media production by Opéra de Lyon and the hip-hop and contemporary dance Compagnie Montalvo-Hervieu.

The Cleveland Orchestra and the **Minnesota Orchestra** lead a line-up of international orchestras in the Usher Hall including Royal Concertgebouw Orchestra, Russian National Orchestra, Finnish Radio Symphony Orchestra and the Sydney Symphony Orchestra.

Popular American music, **jazz**, features in 2010, bringing the Festival debuts of the legendary classical and jazz musician Gunther Schuller, and saxophonists Joe Lovano and Tommy Smith.

The Festival opens with **John Adams's *El Niño*** and closes with the annual spectacular ***Bank of Scotland Fireworks Concert*** against the backdrop of the iconic Edinburgh Castle, this year celebrating music from the movies.

The European premiere of a brand new opera from composer Brett Dean, inspired by Peter Carey's novel ***Bliss*** is to be performed by Opera Australia.

Other **World premieres** include political writer Alistair Beaton's exploration of Scotland's futile attempt at establishing a colony in Panama, ***Caledonia***, co-produced by the Festival and the National Theatre of Scotland, and flamenco dance work ***Quimeras*** from **Paco Peña Flamenco Dance Company**.

The Festival remains **highly affordable** with tickets to performances starting at just £8, and a large range of discounts available. Customers aged 26 and under also have access to £8 on-the-day tickets.

Jonathan Mills, Edinburgh International Festival Director, said 'This year the Festival takes us on a journey around the contemporary cultures of the Americas and Australasia. We have shifted our centre of gravity from Europe towards these intriguing and complex continents. As these diverse cultures, separated by vast oceans, converge in Edinburgh, I hope you will join us to celebrate the synergies and revelations they offer.'

ENDS

Public booking opens Saturday 27 March
Hub Tickets +44 (0)131 473 2000
eif.co.uk

Further information and photographs are available from the Festival press office. Please get in touch so that we can help you. **+44 (0)131 473 2020** or press@eif.co.uk.

The Edinburgh International Festival is supported by The City of Edinburgh Council and the Scottish Arts Council. Scottish Charity (SC004694)