

PRESS RELEASE
WEDNESDAY 2 APRIL 2008 AT 10.30AM

EDINBURGH INTERNATIONAL
FESTIVAL 08 8-31 AUGUST

Festival Insights

Edinburgh International Festival has announced an array of educational and outreach events giving audiences access to the creative minds behind Festival 08, debating the issues explored in Festival 08 and spreading the ideas behind Festival 08 out into communities and schools across Scotland – and to the palm houses at the Royal Botanic Garden Edinburgh.

Festival Director Jonathan Mills said: 'A Festival is an opportunity where not only are people able to explore great art at close quarters but also engage with artists and the big ideas behind their art. The Festival is dedicated to giving access and inspiration to people across Scotland.'

A series of talks, **Borderlines**, sees writers and thinkers such as Christopher Hitchens, Dr John Lennox, Neal Ascherson and Professor Graham Ward explore the Festival's theme.

Artists offer the chance for audiences to learn more about their creativity and their inspirations through the **Conversations** programme. Those appearing in the series include Amir Nizar Zuabi of the Palestinian National Theatre, playwright Nigel Williams with Haris Pašović who transported his *Class Enemy* to Sarajevo, and members of the Istanbul Music and Sema Group (Whirling Dervishes of Turkey).

Behind the Scenes presents the inner workings of Festival performances and works in progress, with contributors including Heiner Goebbels, Clancy Productions, and Krzysztof Warlikowski.

Professional dancers have the chance to take part in a **Masterclass** with the exceptional **Rosas** company from Belgium. Even those with two left feet are invited to join dance experts **Bal Moderne** in a public workshop exploring the choreography of Anne Teresa De Keersmaeker.

Bal Moderne is also working in Edinburgh primary and secondary schools as part of the **Bank of Scotland Connecting to Culture** programme. This project also includes **Border Control** in which young people in schools and youth projects put their creative ideas on walls erected around The Hub. The third thread of the Bank of Scotland Connecting to Culture programme is **Twittering Machine** – celebrating the work of painter Paul Klee and composer Olivier Messiaen, with the help

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of the Royal Botanic Garden Edinburgh. School children will explore their response to the gardens, while young musicians work with composer Alasdair Nicolson to create their own musical responses to nature. The results will be played to visitors in the Temperate Palmhouse at the Royal Botanic Garden Edinburgh during the Festival in August.

Sharing the Festival sees East West Theatre Company's *Class Enemy* tour to Rutherglen Town Hall, Macrobert Arts Centre, Stirling and Cumbernauld Theatre and after its Edinburgh performances. Extensive education programmes working with young people take place in partnership with each venue.

ENDS

Notes to Editors:

Please see Festival Insights P51 – P53 in the Festival 08 brochure for full details.

Public booking opens **Saturday 12 April**

Hub Tickets: +44 (0)131 473 2000

Online booking and information: www.eif.co.uk

For further information please contact the EIF press office on 0131 473 2020 or press@eif.co.uk

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The Edinburgh International Festival is supported by The City of Edinburgh Council, the Scottish Arts Council and The National Lottery through the Scottish Arts Council.

The Conversations programme is supported by The Gordon Fraser Charitable Trust.

Bank of Scotland Connecting to Culture series is sponsored by Bank of Scotland.