

Siege Perilous presents

# KING ARTHUR

**CRAIGCROOK CASTLE, EDINBURGH, 30<sup>th</sup> August - 4<sup>th</sup> September 2010, 6:00pm  
90 minutes (plus interval). Tickets £12.00, (£8.00 concessions).**

**Tickets courtesy Zoo Venues, contact: [box@zoovenues.co.uk](mailto:box@zoovenues.co.uk). Phone bookings (from 1<sup>st</sup> August): 0131 6626892  
The Castle is at Craigmillar Road, EH4 3TU. Bus 13 from city centre. Parking at castle or in neighbouring streets.**

Following Siege Perilous' critically acclaimed production of Lucy Nordberg's new play "King Arthur" during Edinburgh Festival Fringe 2009, Richard Demarco invited the company to present a larger-scale promenade performance in the atmospheric grounds of Craigmillar Castle, the home of the Demarco archive, which will host events celebrating Richard's 80<sup>th</sup> birthday during 2010.



"King Arthur" charts the latter years of the enlightened king as he struggles to impose democracy upon an unwilling people. This strongly authored, character driven piece uses myth to investigate current national and international concerns: the post-enlightenment problem of reconciling faith with reason, and tradition with modernity. A renaissance style drama written partly in blank verse, it raises many questions, not least about the use of the this form in modern works and the effect on actors and audience. ("a traditional play reinvented with a topical twist" \*\*\*\*\* Three Weeks, "spectacular modern take on a legend" \*\*\*\* Edinburgh Evening News.)

Lucy Nordberg has worked as a writer for six years and co-produced with Siege Perilous for the 2009 production. Based in Brighton, she produced her large-scale play "When All the Crowds Have Gone" at the Brighton Festival Fringe 2010 ("a fresh perspective to the human dilemma" \*\*\*\* Fringe Guru, "naturalistic theatre at its best" \*\*\*\* Fringe Review).

Andy Corelli is the artistic director of Edinburgh-based Siege Perilous, dedicated to producing new work and classic theatre, recently receiving an Arts and Business Award to present new work year-round at the GRV arts venue. ("Simply wonderful" \*\*\*\* Three Weeks for Pericles, "Siege Perilous deserve respect for their casting, imagination and vision" The Skinny.)

Fringe legend Richard Demarco has attended or been involved with every Edinburgh Festival since its inception. He has staged numerous events, including a production of Shakespeare's Macbeth on Inchcolm Island. As a promoter of the visual and performing arts, he co-founded the Traverse Theatre in 1963, and later founded the Richard Demarco Gallery which forged many links with overseas artist and performers, notably Joseph Beuys and Tadeusz Kantor, who came to Edinburgh at his request.

Craigmillar Castle is a 17<sup>th</sup> century listed building lying in the shadow of Corstorphine Hill with many literary connections. Formerly the home of Lord (Francis) Jeffrey, founder of the Edinburgh Review, it was later known for its literary gatherings; among the guests were Charles Dickens, Hans Christian Andersen, George Eliot and Lord Tennyson. It is currently the home of the Demarco Collection and Archive, housing an impressive exhibition of art from around the world.

Craigmillar's connection with the Enlightenment, together with the Demarco exhibition, makes it an ideal setting for a site-specific production of King Arthur, offering director Andy Corelli the opportunity to create an immersive audience experience. The performances fall outside the Fringe but within the main Festival dates, fitting Demarco's vision of the Fringe as a 'curtain up' to the main Festival, and the place where new forms of theatre are born – moving, in effect, 'beyond the fringe'. This accords with Lucy Nordberg's use of the Fringe to try out new, large-scale work in innovative ways, to demonstrate its potential.

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## PRESS CONTACTS

Andrew Corelli, tel: 07720 288520  
[tinaf@siegeperilous.co.uk](mailto:tinaf@siegeperilous.co.uk)  
<http://www.siegeperilous.co.uk>

Lucy Nordberg, tel: 07707 556400  
[lucy@pendragonenterprises.co.uk](mailto:lucy@pendragonenterprises.co.uk)  
[www.lucynordberg.com](http://www.lucynordberg.com)