



## ***Poena 5X1, or How I Came To Agree With Right-Wing Thinking by Abbie Spallen***

**Underbelly Med Quad (Ermintrude), Teviot Place, Edinburgh, EH8 9AG  
Wednesday 3<sup>rd</sup> – Monday 29<sup>th</sup> August 2016 (not 17<sup>th</sup>), 15:20**

*Profit always simplifies things. It appeals to the simple.*

Sex, politics and the power of love are explored in the world premiere of this brilliant, provocative Scandi noir thriller from Northern Ireland's multi-award-winning Abbie Spallen (*Pumpgirl*, *Strandline*, *Lally The Scut* - Irish Play of the Year, Irish Times December 2015).

Bryony Adams is an idealistic government scientist working to create a new and humane form of punishment, within a justice system crippled by prison overcrowding. But when a cabinet minister with a reputation tries to exploit her idealism for profit she feels betrayed. Her response is extreme and unexpected and will have devastating consequences for her and those she loves.

Commissioned and directed for Inside Intelligence by Robert Shaw (*Product*, *Assembly* 2014), *Poena 5X1* also has music specially composed by twice Grammy-nominated Tarik O'Regan, described by Gramophone Magazine as *one of the leading British composers of his generation*. *Poena 5X1* has a fierce political edge and one final terrifying twist.

Director Robert Shaw comments, *I'm really excited to be working with Abbie on our first new commission. We look forward to honouring her play as we develop this key aspect of our work.*

Rosie Kellagher, Literary Associate, Traverse Theatre comments, *Gripping, enormously relevant and impressive. I particularly like the fact that it's an overtly political story that places a woman centre stage in exploring issues of global significance.*

Abbie Spallen is a renowned writer, actor and film producer. Her awards as a writer include the

Stewart Parker major award, The Tony Doyle award, The Susan Smith Blackburn Prize, the Clare McIntyre Bursary from The Royal Court, the Peggy Ramsay award, the Dublin City Council Bursary for Literature and the HALMA Foundation award for excellence in the European arts.

Generously sponsored by Judi Dench, Joanna Lumley, The Ancaster Trust and Tom Stoppard.

## Notes to Editors

Title	<i>Poena 5X1, or How I Came To Agree With Right-Wing Thinking</i>
Performance Dates	Wednesday 3 <sup>rd</sup> – Monday 29 <sup>th</sup> August (not 17 <sup>th</sup> ), 15:20
Running time	50 minutes
Location	Underbelly Med Quad (Ermintrude), Teviot Place, Edinburgh, EH8 9AG
Box Office	Tickets are available from <a href="http://www.underbellyedinburgh.co.uk">www.underbellyedinburgh.co.uk</a> or <a href="http://www.edfringe.com">www.edfringe.com</a> or 0131 226 0000 Previews: £6 Weekday: £9 (£8) Weekend: £11 (£10)
Twitter	@InsidIntellige, @spallenabbie, @FollowTheCow, #POENA5X1
Playwright	Abbie Spallen
Director	Robert Shaw
Designer	Gillian Argo
Composer	Tarik O'Regan

## Abbie Spallen

Abbie Spallen's plays include *Abeyance* (Druid Debut, Druid Theatre Co), *Pumpgirl* (Bush/Traverse/Manhattan Theatre Club), which won the 2007 Susan Smith Blackburn Award, the Stewart Parker award and was nominated for the *Irish Times* Best New Play, *Strandline* (Fishamble) which was shortlisted for the Susan Smith Blackburn Award and nominated for the Meyer Whitworth Award, and *Bogwog* (NPC) O'Neill Centre Connecticut. Her short plays include *Thirteen* (Women in Power and Politics, Tricycle Theatre), *Shaving the Pickle* (59E59 NYC) and *Rubberfoot* (Pentabus).

Her work is published by Faber and Faber and has been translated into many languages and produced across Europe and the USA. She has completed one attachment to the Royal National Theatre and two to The Royal Court. In 2014 she was writer in residence in the Lyric Theatre Belfast.

Her work for radio includes *Rapture Frequency* (The Wire R3), *Live from the Palace* (R4) and the forthcoming *Snake Oil* (R4). Film and Television includes *Pumpgirl* (PG Films/NI Screen) SEACHT (Stirling Productions) and *Collusion* (Sharp Focus for Calipo).

She is currently under commission to the Royal Court, the Lyric Belfast and The Tricycle Theatre London and in 2014 was awarded the Major Individual Artist Award by the Arts Council of Northern Ireland. Her play *Lally the Scut* (Tinderbox) was the Irish Times' Irish Play of the Year in December 2015. In 2016 Abbie was awarded the Windham Campbell Prize for Literature.

All enquiries, high res images and further information:

Chloé Nelkin, Chloé Nelkin Consulting

E: [chloe@chloenelkinconsulting.com](mailto:chloe@chloenelkinconsulting.com), M: 07764 273 219

W: [www.chloenelkinconsulting.com](http://www.chloenelkinconsulting.com)