



## The IdeasTap Underbelly Award is back!

The IdeasTap Underbelly Award is back and is bringing four brilliant shows from IdeasTap members to the Edinburgh Fringe. The award offers funding and support from IdeasTap, a prime location at Underbelly Cowgate and mentoring from leading theatre practitioners as well as all the Underbelly staff.

The 2014 winning shows are **Karla Crome's *Mush and Me***, **Rachael Clerke's *How to achieve redemption as a Scot through the medium of Braveheart***, **Buddug James Jones's *Hiraeth*** and **Jacqui Honess-Martin's *We Have Fallen***. Identity was a theme that cropped up in many applications and was obviously important to young companies; although the judges weren't consciously looking for a motif, all the winning plays share the theme of identity, both personal and national.

The IdeasTap Underbelly Award goes far beyond financing productions; it offers advice, pre-Edinburgh boot camps, and regular expert sessions for the winners to attend. Mentoring the 2014 winners are Louise Callow (Scamp Theatre), Rachel Tyson (producer at the Bush Theatre) and Rob Watt (youth programme manager for the National Theatre).

Last year's winners found the Award enabled to them to grow in both their confidence and expertise. Jasmine Woodstock-Stewart, co-founder of Antler Theatre, one of the companies who won last year's Award says: *Winning this award was invaluable. The support we received from both IdeasTap and Underbelly surpassed mere financial support. Our mentor, David Micklem, was a fountain of knowledge for us. The IdeasTap Underbelly Award aided us in making the show, making the most of the Fringe and, consequently, led to opportunities beyond the Festival which otherwise may not have been accessible to us.*

***Mush and Me*** tells the story of Gabriella and Mushtaq, united by a mutual love of hummus and a shared distaste for bacon but at odds over faith and family. Writer Karla Crome (star of *Misfits* and *Prisoners' Wives*) follows the friendship of a Jewish girl and a Muslim boy as cultural

pressures and contemporary life collide. This stirring piece charts their office spats and lunchtime chats, from initial mistrust to eventual dependency. *Mush and Me* is a comic and compassionate new play that interrogates the religious, cultural and political loyalties of young, British-born Muslims and Jews.

***How to...Braveheart*** explores identity, belonging and machismo, delving into the personal-political debate of a country on the edge of a decision. Rachael feels uneasy about Scotland. She feels uneasy about Alex Salmond and Donald Trump, about golf, tartan and the independence referendum. She feels particularly uneasy about the fact that she once performed the Braveheart freedom speech to Rangers fans outside Ibrox. Expect rousing speeches, a woman dressed as Mel Gibson and your very own Scottish enlightenment.

***Hiraeth*** explores the decline of Welsh identity and tradition, through one woman's struggle to escape and let go. When Bud makes the decision to leave her family's three hundred year old farming dynasty, she also leaves five generations of tradition behind. As a modern young woman, Bud is desperate to change her destiny; she sets out alone into the big smoke encountering men, heartbreak, drama and hilarity along the way accompanied by live music and Welsh cakes.

***We Have Fallen*** begins the day after 12 planes have fallen from the sky. Three characters embark on journeys across Europe in the midst of a global crisis. Aviation crash investigator Jennifer must find her way home from Egypt, international financier Richard is stranded in a hotel bar in Moscow and, having lost the perfect retirement plan, Pam must find a new way to be useful. This new play from Insite Performance is about coming home and why we choose to fly.

Ed Bartlam, director of Underbelly says, *'The Underbelly programme is now very diverse, but new writing and innovative theatre still remain at the heart of what the company programmes and produces. That's why Underbelly is very pleased to be able to work with IdeasTap on this award and to help give a platform for emerging theatre practitioners to showcase their work in the world's largest arts festival.'*

Peter de Haan, philanthropist and Chairman of IdeasTap says, *'Edinburgh is a must for new theatre talent so we're proud to support four exciting, emerging companies this year with the IdeasTap Underbelly Award. In addition to a month-long slot at legendary venue Underbelly, our winners receive funding, mentoring and support so they're ready to take on the Fringe and stand out from the crowd.'*

Judges - Marina Dixon (Underbelly), Fi McCurdy (Underbelly), Chloé Nelkin (Chloé Nelkin Consulting), Rachel Tyson (Bush Theatre), Rob Watt (National Theatre) and Amanda White (IdeasTap) – selected these four new theatre pieces to head up North.

## Notes to Editors

Title *Mush and Me* by Karla Crome  
Performance Dates Thursday 31<sup>st</sup> July – Monday 25<sup>th</sup> August (except 11<sup>th</sup>), 2.50pm  
Running time 1 hour  
Location Underbelly Cowgate – Iron Belly

Title *How to achieve redemption as a Scot through the medium of Braveheart*  
by Rachael Clerke  
Performance Dates Thursday 31<sup>st</sup> July – Sunday 24<sup>th</sup> August (except 12<sup>th</sup>), 4.10pm  
Running time 1 hour  
Location Underbelly Cowgate – Iron Belly

Title *Hiraeth* by Buddug James Jones  
Performance Dates Thursday 31<sup>st</sup> July – Sunday 24<sup>th</sup> August (except 13<sup>th</sup>), 4.50pm  
Running time 1 hour  
Location Underbelly Cowgate – Big Belly

Title *We Have Fallen* by Jacqui Honess-Martin  
Performance Dates Thursday 31<sup>st</sup> July – Sunday 24<sup>th</sup> August, 2.10pm  
Running time 55 minutes  
Location Underbelly Cowgate – Big Belly

There will be a party for all award winners and press on Wednesday 6<sup>th</sup> August, 6-8pm, at Dragonfly Cocktail Bar, 52 West Port, Old Town, EH1 2LD. Please RSVP.

## Mentors

### Rachel Tyson

Rachel is Producer at the Bush Theatre and worked to open the new building in 2011. Since then she has produced all the work at the venue including, inaugural production 66 Books, Disgraced and the Olivier Nominated Josephine & I. Rachel has overseen successful projects including The Beloved co-produced with the Young Vic the Bush's inaugural new writing festival RADAR. Rachel is Producer for Comedy Duo *Guilt & Shame* who have presented work at the Soho Theatre, the Underbelly Edinburgh, Brighton Fringe, Latitude and Bestival festivals. She mentors emerging artists and producers, this has included work with Royal Central School of Speech and Drama, Central St Martins, the Lyric Hammersmith and Bestival Festival. She has produced work

with Old Vic New Voices at the Public Theatre in New York as part of the UK/US Exchange. For 2 years Rachel has worked with Ideastap, the National Theatre and the Underbelly as a judge and creative producer for the Ideas tap/Underbelly Edinburgh fund and in 2014 Rachel was selected by the Clore Leadership Programme as an Emerging leader in the Arts.

### Rob Watt

Rob is an experienced director and producer. He currently produces young people's work at the National Theatre; he produces Connections, a national festival of new writing for young theatre makers and has set up Young Studio, a place for young theatre makers to experiment. He is also the Associate Director of Madison Theatre Company, Board member of NAYT and regularly teaches at the Royal Central School of Speech and Drama. His directing credits include: *The Mercy Seat* by Neil Labute (*The Pleasance*), *Lone Star* by James McLure (*Theatre 503 & Augustine Studio*), *Rumours* by Neil Simon (*Hen & Chickens*), *Beat Them / Join Them?* by Jamie Beddard (*Tour*), *Saturday Girl* by Hannah Rodger (*The Pleasance*).

### Louise Callow

Louise is the co-founder of Scamp Theatre. Scamp brings a range of theatrical live performance to audiences of all ages, with an increased focus on adaptation, particularly in children's literature. With productions touring constantly, Scamp have a superb track record in theatre production in London, on tour and at the world's leading venues & festivals. Last year Scamp Theatre mentored Ellie Browning with her show *The Love Project* and have most recently helped her gain her first Arts Council Award to tour this production. Scamp productions include: *Pirate Gran* (Current UK Tour and Edinburgh 2014); *Private Peaceful* by Michael Morpurgo (Co-Production with Fiery Angel Current UK No1 Tour and Edinburgh 2014); *Tiddler & Other Terrific Tales* from Julia Donaldson and Axel Scheffler (premiered in March 2012 followed by a UK National Tour & E4 Underbelly at Edinburgh Festival Fringe 2012 & 2013 and International touring to Dubai, Hong Kong and Singapore); *Swamp Juice* created and performed by Jeff Achtem (Total Theatre Award Winner at Soho Theatre April 2012 followed by a UK National Tour); *Friend or Foe* by Michael Morpurgo (premiered in September 2011 followed by a highly successful UK National Tour); *Stick Man – Live on Stage!* (West End run 2012, 2013 & 2014, and has toured several times to Dubai, Hong Kong, Paris & Singapore and toured the UK extensively); *Sticks, Stones, Broken Bones* (Edinburgh 2010, New York and UK 2011); Michael Morpurgo's *The Mozart Question* (London & tour 2009, Edinburgh); *Charlie Victor Romeo* (UK tour 2008 & Edinburgh); *Private Peaceful* by Michael Morpurgo (UK tours 2005, 2007, 2009, 2011, Presented by The National Theatre at Theatre Royal Haymarket in 2012, Off Broadway 2007 and Trafalgar Studios 2005 & 2007); *Aesop's Fables* (Edinburgh and UK & New Zealand & Australia tours 2008); and *Two Men Talking* (West End & UK tour 2007).

## More Info

### IdeasTap

IdeasTap is an arts charity that supports creative people through opportunities, funding, jobs and career development. Since launching in December 2008, IdeasTap has awarded more than £1.8 million worth of direct funding and accompanying expert mentoring to emerging artists. Its membership currently stands at 145,000+ and its partners include the Barbican, BFI, Magnum Photos, Mother London, The National Theatre, Royal Exchange Theatre and Sky Academy. For more information, see [www.ideastap.com](http://www.ideastap.com).

### Underbelly

Underbelly was founded in 2000 by directors Ed Bartlam and Charlie Wood, as a single theatre space at the Edinburgh Festival to house five shows by young company Double Edge Drama. Underbelly has since grown to include the Udderbelly and London Wonderground festivals in London and The Comedy Hullabaloo in Stratford-Upon-Avon, as well as becoming one of the largest venues on the Edinburgh Fringe.

All enquiries, high res images and further information:

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