

PRESS RELEASE

The International Company Prodigal Theatre will present their award-winning reinterpretation of Webster's Duchess of Malfi entitled:

"TEN THOUSAND SEVERAL DOORS"

At [insert name of venue] at [insert times of performance] each day from [insert date] to [insert date and month] as part of the [insert name of festival]

Webster's opulent court of Malfi is supplanted by a seedy 1950s underworld in Prodigal's site-sensitive reworking of this 17th century classic. Stripping back to the bare bones of Webster's narrative to create a multilayered montage of music and voices, the action is played out in a thrilling promenade among the backrooms, stairways and surrounding streets of [insert name of venue]

Sharp suited Heavies with foul mouths and bruised knuckles surround the elegant "Duchess" as she fights to take control of her own destiny. Her two brothers are at the top of the Gangster-land tree and wish to keep her where they can control both her money and her fate. When she falls in love with "the wrong kind of man" events begin to spiral out of control...

Prodigal Theatre with Director Jane Collins and Designer Peter Farley work to achieve a theatricality which reflects the heightened naturalism and dark comedy of Webster's original in a unique performance event.

Prodigal's largest ever cast includes an Amsterdam based comic with a reputation as a Shakespearean Scholar, a folk musician who teaches Elizabethan Martial Arts, actors from the RSC and The National Theatre and performers with CV's featuring Eastern European Physical Theatre Laboratories and internationally recognised Contemporary Dance Companies. Not to mention the Opera Singer or "the kids"...

A chorus of local performers from [insert name of theatre school here] will also appear in the production.

"It's always important to have some local muscle" laughed Prodigal co-founder Miranda Henderson who plays the Duchess.

A co-commission by The Brighton Festival and Made In Brighton, Supported by the Arts Council of England, South East, & by Wimbledon School of Art, this show was the fastest selling piece of theatre on the 2006 Brighton Festival and was described by the BBC as "Not to be missed"

Ends

Notes for Editors

- Contact **Alister O'Loughlin** on **07880 704380** for interviews and further info
- You can see more about the company, including individual biographies for the core company, at www.prodigalthatre.co.uk
- Prodigal Theatre are also the actor-managers of the award winning Nightingale Theatre, Brighton; where they support the development of new work by artists such as Badac, Inspector Sands & Stamping Ground, and Linda Marlowe. See more at www.nightingaletheatre.co.uk
- Steven Berkoff is the venue's patron and Prodigal's mentor
- Ten Thousand Several Doors is sponsored with the creation of the Duchess' costume by Sara Arnett of Simultane and with period hair styling by the Trevor Sorbie salon.
- Prodigal won a "Three Weeks Editors Award" for the Tragedian Trilogy in 2005. The show was also nominated for "Best Actor" at that year's Stage Awards for Acting Excellence, and won Best Actor at the Brighton Festival
- "Ten Thousand Several Doors" sold out its entire run and won Best Show at the Brighton Festival Awards in 2006
- Prodigal's latest performance "Queen of the Slaughter" won an Argus Angel at the Brighton Festival in 2007
- The company also perform an outdoor dance piece based on Parkour or "free-running" and work in collaboration with two of Parkour's creators. You can see more at www.theurbanplayground.co.uk