

15 June 2008

Three Playwrights Win in the 2008 Windsor Fringe Marriott Award for New Drama Writing

A legal English trainer/proof-reader, an amateur actor who works in Waterstones bookshop, and a RADA trained actor who worked for Radio 4 and TV are the three winners chosen by **KENNETH BRANAGH** and **IQBAL KHAN** for the fifth **Windsor Fringe Marriott Award for New Drama Writing**. The three one-act plays will be performed each evening during the Windsor Fringe on October 2nd, 3rd and 4th. After the last night's performance one of the three writers will receive the **£500** cash prize and become the overall winner.

The winning plays, in author alphabetical order are:

“**Fairy Lights**” by **Suzy Clements**, from Somerset,
“**Young Shakspeer**” by **Andy Gittins**, from Windsor,
“**The People's Act of Literature**” by **Rupert Haigh**, from Finland.

Coming a close fourth was “**All Hallows Eve**” by Peter Harrison of Cheshire.

A total of **304** scripts were submitted from the UK, Australia, France, USA, Finland, Germany, Hungary, Austria, Canada, Ireland and Russia. All writers' names and contact details were kept secret from the judges and 45 readers. The nine short-listed plays were read by our judges, **Kenneth Branagh** and **Iqbal Khan**, who were impressed by the strength of this year's group of writers.

The other five short-listed plays were, in author alphabetical order:

“**Waiting**” by Heather Cambell from London
“**Company**” by Dick Curran from Tyne and Wear
“**With Love**” by Catherine Pugh from Lincolnshire
“**Who's The Lucky One**” by Judy Walker from Northumberland
and “**Babe Inc**” by Rosemary Zibart from Santa Fe, New Mexico.

The directors for the three winning plays will be announced soon.

Editor's notes:

The Windsor Fringe was established in 1969, making it the oldest Fringe Festival in England and the second oldest, after Edinburgh, in the UK. Run by an all-volunteer committee, each year the Windsor Fringe stages an inspired and innovative programme of music, dance, comedy, drama and art.

Criteria for the competition required that authors must be amateur playwrights. Each script submitted had to be suitable for staging in a studio theatre, be no more than 30 minutes long, involve up to six actors and not have been previously performed.

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Booking information for the Windsor Fringe 19 September –5 October 2008

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