

MEDIA RELEASE
For Immediate Release
9 April 2009**Actors bring asylum stories to the stage**

WHAT: Performance of *Asylum Monologues*
WHEN: Mon 20th April, 1:30pm
WHERE: Aberystwyth Arts Centre

Actors in Aberystwyth are joining forces to give a voice to Britain's unheard asylum seekers and refugees. iceandfire theatre's *Asylum Monologues*, scripted by award-winning playwright Sonja Linden, is made up of first-hand testimonies from asylum seekers and refugees, told in their own words. The play is performed by iceandfire's outreach project, Actors for Human Rights, and will feature Aberystwyth's Mayor Sue Jones-Davis (from *The Life of Brian*) as a performer.

BAFTA Award-winning actor Juliet Stevenson, who has performed in *Asylum Monologues*, says:

"I am proud of many things about the UK, but I am not proud of how we treat asylum seekers and refugees. We must insist on a more humane system."

Asylum Monologues has been touring around the UK since it was launched at Amnesty International in June 2006. Actors for Human Rights has since launched five other documentary plays, all exploring human rights issues. More than 13,000 Britons have seen one of Actors for Human Rights' shows across the UK in the three years since its inception.

Sinead Cusack, Simon Callow, Dan Stevens (*The Line of Beauty*), Hayley Atwell (*Brideshead Revisited*), Thusitha Jayasundera (*The Bill*), Shobna Gulati (*Coronation Street*), Shobu Kapoor (*Eastenders*) and Sam Spruell (*London to Brighton*) are amongst the professional actors that support the project.

Clea Langton, the Actors for Human Rights regional co-ordinator, said:

"As actors we can give faces and voices to the unseen and the unheard. We try to redress some of the misconceptions about asylum seekers and refugees with more accurate information and with personal stories that will appeal to many British audiences.

"This event, which is being supported by refugee organisations across the UK, will both move and inspire audiences and will be a chance to see some of Britain's best-loved actors giving live performances in the heart of their communities."

Background Notes:

One of Britain's most esteemed actresses, **Juliet Stevenson** first came to public attention with her performance in Anthony Minghella's *Truly, Madly, Deeply* (1991). Stevenson has solidified her standing as one of Britain's best stage actresses, tackling roles from Yerma to Hedda Gabler and her award-winning turn in *Death and the Maiden* (1991). Juliet has also appeared in *Bend it Like Beckham* and *Emma*.

iceandfire creates compelling theatre that makes real and relevant the impact of human rights issues on our everyday lives. The company was founded in 2003 by playwright Sonja Linden inspired by her seven years as writer in residence at the Medical Foundation for the Care of Victims of Torture. Over the last six years they have become a theatre company with a distinct, contemporary voice creating work of excellence across our four work strands: production, outreach, education and participation.

www.iceandfire.co.uk.

Actors for Human Rights is iceandfire's national outreach project, made up of over 300 professional actors who are dedicated to drawing public attention to a range of contemporary human rights concerns. The performers involved donate their time and their profile to encourage public acceptance of human rights and to give voice to people whose basic human rights have been violated.

www.iceandfire.co.uk/afhr

For more information about this press release, or to arrange an interview with Sue Jones-Davis, please call Rachel Lilley 07749188520.

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