

For Immediate Release



## RENDITION MONOLOGUES

Festival of Spirituality and Peace. St. John's Church, Edinburgh, 17<sup>th</sup> – 23<sup>rd</sup> August 2009. 16:00.



**You are in a land where there are no laws. Do you know what that means?  
We can bury you or keep you in this prison for twenty years and nobody on earth would ever know.**

Binyam Mohamed, a former UK resident, was arrested at Karachi Airport in April 2002. Three months later, he was secretly transferred into US custody and onto a CIA-registered plane to Morocco. For him, this was the beginning of a two-year ordeal known as 'extraordinary rendition', the CIA's practice of transporting people to prisons for interrogation in countries with a known risk of torture. During this time, Binyam says he was systematically tortured, including having his penis slashed with a scalpel. He was eventually transferred to Guantánamo Bay, where he was held for over three years before being returned to the UK in February this year. To this day, however, Binyam has never been charged with an offence.

*Rendition Monologues* weaves together the first-hand accounts of four men, including Binyam, who have been victims of the CIA's extraordinary rendition program. In the tradition of hard-hitting verbatim theatre – *The Laramie Project*, *The Exonerated* and *Guantánamo: Honor Bound to Defend Freedom* etc. – *Rendition Monologues* tells these stories in the victim's own words. Words you won't forget.

The testimonies at the core of the show were gathered from Reprieve UK, a legal charity which has represented many of the victims of extraordinary rendition. After every performance at Edinburgh a representative from Reprieve will conduct a Q&A session and answer questions from the audience.

*Rendition Monologues* is produced by iceandfire theatre, a company dedicated to exploring human rights stories through performance and creating innovative work spanning production, outreach, education and participation. Previous productions include *Welcome to Ramallah* and *Crocodile Seeking Refuge*. *Rendition Monologues* is accompanied by an original score and performed by members of iceandfire's Outreach Project, Actors for Human Rights. A network of over 400 professional actors, AFHR performs verbatim scripts about a range of contemporary human rights issues.

As the truth is slowly exposed, and in light of the Obama administration's failure to call an end to the rendition program and its reluctance to prosecute those involved in torture, *Rendition Monologues* will contribute to a full reckoning over human rights abuses committed in the name of the 'War on Terror'

"A Haunting and Horrifying Account Which Also Paid Testimony to Human Resilience" – *Metro (London)*

"Moving, Scarily So... I was Almost Living Through their Experiences and Mine as Well"

– Bisher Al-Rawi, ex Guantánamo Prisoner and Rendition Victim.

Produced by iceandfire Theatre. Scripted by Christine Bacon. Supported by Reprieve UK. Original score by Michael Edwards.

### RENDITION MONOLOGUES

Venue: St. Johns Church – Festival of Spirituality and Peace (Venue 127).

Dates: 17<sup>th</sup> – 23<sup>rd</sup> August 2009.

Time: 16:00 (60 mins + 30 mins post-show Q&A).

Ticket prices: £ 8.00 (full) / £ 5.00 (concession).

Venue Box Office: 0131 229 7565 – [www.festivalofspirituality.org.uk](http://www.festivalofspirituality.org.uk)

Fringe Box Office: 0131 226 0000 – [www.edfringe.com](http://www.edfringe.com)



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