



**MEDIA RELEASE**

For immediate release  
27 September 2010

**iceandfire and Amnesty International get theatrical: 5 new plays about human rights abuses**

**WHAT:** Launch of five new plays  
**WHERE:** Amnesty International's Human Rights Action Centre, Shoreditch, EC2A 3EA  
**WHEN:** Tuesdays 26 Oct | 2 Nov | 9 Nov | 16 Nov 2010, 7.30pm

**Amnesty International** and **iceandfire** are joining forces to present the top picks from entries to this year's international human rights playwriting competition. **Everyone has the Right** is **iceandfire's** New Writing programme. It is the home for plays with human rights at their heart. This year, the programme received hundreds of scripts from writers all over the world and the most compelling of those voices will be presented at four star-studded free events at Amnesty's Human Rights Action Centre this autumn.

Launched in 2008 as Protect the Human, the competition attracted over 500 plays that dealt with issues as far ranging as the right to life, Iraq war and sex tourism. Shortlisted plays were given rehearsed readings at the Soho Theatre, with winning plays also receiving platforms at the Finborough Theatre, West Yorkshire Playhouse, Birmingham Rep, and Theatre Royal Plymouth.

This year's line up includes:

**28** by Dawn King (Tues 26th October, 7:30pm - double bill)

Nathan is a schoolteacher, suspected of a connection with a known terrorist. He is detained for 28 days without charge. A terrifying account of how any one of us could fall victim to the changed laws of our land.

**Pyramus and Thisbe** by David Watson (Tues 26th October, 7:30pm - double bill)

A humorous and heartbreaking short play, depicting the eternal myth of star-crossed lovers separated by a wall. David Watson is currently under commission at Birmingham Rep and the Royal Court. He is also the Pearson Playwright in Residence at the Lyric Hammersmith, and his play Pieces of Vincent opened at the Arcola in September

**The Advocate** by Laura Quigley (Tues 2nd November, 7:30pm)

A powerful love story set against the background of the brutalities of the English Civil War. A fascinating and poetic insight into the historical perspective on human rights. Directed by the RSC's Suba Das.

**Las Brutas** by Juan Radrigan, translated by Catherine Boyle (Tues 9th Nov, 7:30pm)

Based on the true story of three *Coia* (indigenous Andean) sisters who, in October 1974, were found tied together and hung from a rock near their home. Their dogs were hung with them, while their sheep and goats were found slaughtered. The play imagines the last months in these women's lives in the isolated mountainside of Pinochet's Chile.

**The Archbishop and the Antichrist** by Michael Ashton (Tues 16th Nov, 7:30pm)

In 1996, the Archbishop Desmond Tutu was presiding over the hearings of the Truth and Reconciliation Committee, attempting to heal a fractured South Africa. This play creates two (fictional) weeks in Tutu's life as he confronts the nightmares of the apartheid era and comes face to face with a mass-murder.

"[It's] Not about lecturing but about sowing the seeds for powerful theatre that grapples with necessary issues; it reminds people there are things we need to think about and talk about." *The Guardian* (on *Protect the Human*, 2008).

Interviews are available with **Sara Doctors**, Creative Producer at iceandfire Theatre, **Alison Willis** from Amnesty International and many of the **playwrights**. Casting will be announced in early October.

### **Background Notes:**

**iceandfire** explores human rights stories through performance. A theatre company with a distinct, contemporary voice, they create work of excellence across four work strands: production, outreach, education and participation.

[www.iceandfire.co.uk](http://www.iceandfire.co.uk).

**Amnesty International** is the world's largest human rights organization. It is a movement of 2.8 million people from across the world who are standing up for humanity and human rights. Its purpose is to protect individuals wherever justice, fairness, freedom and truth are denied.

[www.amnesty.org.uk](http://www.amnesty.org.uk)