



MEDIA INFORMATION  
For immediate use

## ***Admeto, re di Tessaglia***

The classical Greek world of ***Admeto*** is re-imagined as the world of the Japanese samurai in a stylish new staged production of Handel's opera that receives its UK premiere at **Edinburgh International Festival 2009** this Friday (**28 August**) at the **Edinburgh Festival Theatre**.

The new production is directed by award-winning film maker, producer and author **Doris Dörrie**, with the Artistic Director of the Göttingen International Handel Festival, **Nicholas McGegan** leading the **FestspielOrchester Göttingen**, one of the world's leading baroque orchestras.

***Admeto*** at Festival 09 is supported by the **Edinburgh International Festival Benefactors, Patron and Friends** with additional support from the **Director's Circle**.

The creative forces behind this stunning new work also include leading Japanese Butoh dancer Tadashi Endo, his international dance company MAMU DANCE THEATRE, and Dörrie's long time set and costume design collaborator, Bernd Lepel. Acclaimed British counter-tenor Tim Mead performs the role of Admeto.

The central idea of the classic Greek tale of Admeto remains in this adaptation: that if you go to hell you probably don't come back the same person. However in this version, Alceste returns from Hades to the world of the living. By her side is her spirit-ghost - played by Tadashi Endo. He interprets her conflicting emotions of love, jealousy and rage until the very end when Alceste is reunited with Admeto and they leave to live happily ever after. The spirit-ghost reminds us in a last dance that we are always accompanied by our shadow from Hades.

Doris Dörrie has directed twenty feature films, including her first big hit *Men* (1986) a razor sharp feminist satire. Her most recent film, *Blossoms* (2009) draws parallels between Japanese and German cultures. Among the operas she has directed are *Turandot* (2002), Staatsoper Berlin and *La Finta Giardiniera* (2006) Salzburger Festspiele.

Nicholas McGegan is regarded as one of the finest baroque conductors of his generation. He has been Principal Guest Conductor of Scottish Opera and guest conducted with leading orchestras including BBC Scottish Symphony Orchestra, the Halle, and the symphony orchestras of Sydney and Houston. Nicholas McGegan is currently Music Director of the Philharmonia Baroque in San Francisco – where the

Mayor declared a Nicholas McGegan Day in recognition of his work. He has been artistic director of Göttingen International Handel Festival since 1991.

***Admeto, re di Tessaglia***

**FestspielOrchester Gottingen**

**Friday 28, Saturday 29, Monday 31 August 7.15pm**

**Edinburgh Festival Theatre**

**A Staged production sung in Italian with English supertitles**

**Tickets from £14**

**Hub Tickets +44 (0)131 473 2000**

**Online booking and information at [eif.co.uk/admeto](http://eif.co.uk/admeto)**

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NOTES TO EDITORS:

*Admeto* is supported by the **Edinburgh International Festival Benefactors, Patron and Friends** with additional support from the **Director's Circle**.

This production of *Admeto* was created to mark Handel's 250<sup>th</sup> anniversary and received its world premiere in May 2009 at the Göttingen International Handel Festival

Director Doris Dorrie will be taking part in an Edinburgh International Festival 2009 *Conversations with Artists* on Sunday 30 August at 5pm at The Hub.

At Edinburgh International Festival 2009, Nicholas McGegan also conducts Handel's concert opera *Acis & Galetea* at 8pm, Sunday 30 August at the Usher Hall.

For more information please contact the Edinburgh International Festival press office: +44 (0)131 473 2020 or [press@eif.co.uk](mailto:press@eif.co.uk)