



Media information for immediate use

World Premiere of *The Last Witch*

Rona Munro's *The Last Witch* makes its world premiere at Edinburgh's **Royal Lyceum Theatre** on **Sunday 23 August** at **7.30pm**. The play, a co-production between the **Edinburgh International Festival** and the **Traverse Theatre**, is supported by **Edinburgh International Festival Science Consortium**.

Set in Dornoch in 1727, *The Last Witch* is based on historical accounts of Janet Horne, the last woman to be executed for witchcraft in Scotland. This extraordinary new production brings home some of Scotland's leading theatrical talents, including a stellar cast of Scottish actors and one of the country's most celebrated dramatists – **Rona Munro**. Director **Dominic Hill** (Traverse Theatre Artistic Director) and designer **Naomi Wilkinson** reunite after their award winning collaboration on *Peer Gynt* for Dundee Rep Theatre and National Theatre of Scotland.

Kathryn Howden, who recently appeared in *Be Near Me* with National Theatre of Scotland, takes the lead role as Janet Horne. Horne falls under suspicion of being a witch based on her own claims to have 'powers' over members of her community.

At a time when the Scottish Enlightenment – the theme of this year's Edinburgh International Festival – was putting the country at the forefront of scientific and philosophical thinking in Europe, we were also still burning witches.

Horne's story highlights how dangerous ideas can influence a politically apathetic society - which is how many would describe modern Britain.

ENDS

Media only: For further information please contact the Edinburgh International Festival Press Office on 0131 473 2020 or press@eif.co.uk

Notes to Editors:

Edinburgh International Festival 2009

The Last Witch

Sunday 23 & Monday 24 August 7.30pm, Wednesday 26 – Saturday 29 August 7.30pm,
Thursday 27 & Saturday 29 August 2.30pm, Royal Lyceum Theatre

Tickets from £10

Supported by Edinburgh International Festival Science Consortium

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Hub Tickets: +44(0)131 473 2000