



For immediate release

Birds of Paradise Theatre Company

Present



Brazil 12 Scotland o

by Ian Stephen

Initial tour dates announced

AT FOOTBALL YOU DON'T WIN EVERY GAME

Featuring performers from both countries, **Brazil 12 Scotland o** is written by Lewis-based **Ian Stephen**. The performance uses music, storytelling and some neat football skills to open a gently ironic window into our national psyche.

In this game the prize is worth fighting for – the land we live on. In Brazil, communities invade unused land; in Scotland we undertake feasibility studies and buy out landlords who want to sell. However, change is in the air.

The play captures the mood of the moment, as two island communities attempt to force land sales and push Land Reform Legislation to its limits. Told with humour and passion, the production aims to provoke and inspire audiences throughout Scotland.

Brazil 12 Scotland o is directed by **Morven Gregor** and designed by **Claire Halleran**. The Cast of disabled and non-disabled actors includes **Gael Le Cornec** from Brazil alongside **Rachel Amey, John Hollywood, Alyth McCormack** and **Robert Softley**.

The premiere of **Brazil 12 Scotland o** is at the Arches in Glasgow. It is the opening event in a season called **Ya Basta!** – a Scotland-wide framework of cultural activities responding to the arrival of the G8 leaders in Gleneagles this July.

The production will then tour in Scotland. Confirmed dates so far include:

19 - 21 May	Glasgow, The Arches	7.30pm
25 May	Gigha, Village Hall	7.30pm
27 May	Aberdeen, Lemon Tree	7.30pm
31 May	Ballachulish, Village Hall	7.30pm
1 June	Perth, Upper Springland	7.30pm
3 June	Plockton, Village Hall	8.00pm
4 June	Achilitbuie, Village Hall	7.30pm
6 June	Lewis, An Lanntair, Stornaway	8.00pm
7 June	Harris, Tarbert Village Hall	7.30pm
8 June	South Uist, St Peter's Hall, Daliburgh	7.30pm
9 June	North Uist, Carinish Village Hall	7.30pm

Brazil 12 Scotland o is supported by the Scottish Arts Council Access and Participation scheme, Glasgow City Council, The Craignish Trust, The Hugh Fraser Foundation, The Garfield Weston Foundation, David Laing Foundation and RKT Harris Trust

MEDIA RELATIONS

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**Birds of Paradise – the Company**

BIRDS OF PARADISE is a professional touring theatre company, which produces adventurous and challenging work that places disability in the public arena. The Company has toured throughout Scotland for 12 years with inventive programmes of performances and workshops, both for traditional theatre-going audiences and people who have difficulty experiencing theatre due to disability or geographical isolation.

BIRDS OF PARADISE shares its knowledge of good practice across the arts and disability sector with a clear objective: to increase the number of disabled professional theatre practitioners working in Scotland.

The Company recognise that in order to reverse hundreds of years of discrimination against people with physical disabilities, it needs to present high quality work and positive role models for contemporary Scottish Theatre, its audiences and practitioners. These role models are also engaged to support the Company's work with physically disabled young people, who continue to be excluded from participating and engaging in the arts.

Since 1995, the company has intensively trained 150 people over 22 acting courses and technical skills. 400 general Outreach and Taster Workshops have been run, involving approximately 4800 people. There have been 7 inclusive touring productions with disabled and non-disabled performers and stage workers. 23 disabled actors have been employed. 12 non-disabled actors have also been employed. 4 disabled people were employed in technical jobs.

Previous Productions include: *The Farce of Circumstance*, by Tom Lannon (1995); *The Resistible Rise of Arturo Ui* by Bertolt Brecht (1996); *Tongues*, by Sam Shephard and Joseph Chaikin (1997); *Working Legs*, by Alistair Gray (1998 commission); *Playing for Keeps* by Archie Hind (1998 commission); *Merman* by Susan McClymont and Dave Buchanan (2000 commission); *Twelve Black Candles* by Des Dillon (2001); *The Irish Giant*, by Garry Robson (2003)

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Birds of Paradise and Ya Basta!

Brazil 12 Scotland 0 is a piece of theatre reflecting the issue of land – something that affects all parts of the world.

However, the Company also wanted to seize this particular moment in time when the G8 are coming to Scotland and to make a creative response. That's where **Ya Basta!** comes in. A chance for creating a cultural movement that encourages people to question what the G8 is about. At a time when politicians are worrying about apathy amongst voters, it should be remembered that social and cultural movements are thriving, active and have something important to say. In addition to BIRDS OF PARADISE, **Ya Basta!** includes performances by **7.84** and **Kamerni Teater 55** (Bosnia), an Artist Forum, gigs, workshops, films and exhibitions. Further information: www.yabasta.org.uk

BIRDS OF PARADISE Artistic Director Morven Gregor says:

“The gathering of G8 leaders is an ideal moment to raise Scottish and international concerns, and revitalise Scottish theatre. People are making issue-based theatre and it seemed the right moment to pull all these people together.”

BIRDS OF PARADISE has already co-published a collection of creative writing called **OUR LAND / AR DÙTHAICH**, with contributions from MSPs, land campaigners and community activists.

What is **Brazil 12 Scotland 0 about?**

Simply, land, our relationship to it and questions of who owns it. Do we know or care enough about who owns the land we live on? Is land reform in Scotland really done and dusted? Why do two countries have such different approaches to the same problem? (In case anyone thinks the problem must be worse in Brazil, latest statistics show that

**In Brazil 1% of the population owns 50% of the land
while in Scotland 0.02% of the population own 66% of the land**

[Source: Daemon 5, Our Land; Survivors Press; December 2004]

Seeing the passion and sense of empowerment of the people who've been part of community buy outs it is clear that something changes when a community can control its own present reality and future. Is there something that the rest of the country can learn from? And if increased local activism, democracy and accountability are widely perceived as desirable, then maybe there should be more buy outs and even further legislation to encourage more community ownership.

This inclusive touring production of **Brazil 12 Scotland 0** will be accompanied by an exhibition, outreach workshops and post-show discussions. For more information contact Ann Philbrow on 0141 339 1155.

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