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**TRAVERSE THEATRE ANNOUNCES SEVEN WORLD PREMIERES, FIVE UK PREMIERES
AND FOUR SCOTTISH PREMIERES AS PART OF 2010 FESTIVAL SEASON**

Traverse Theatre Company productions

Major new work by Sam Holcroft *While You Lie*

***Traverse Live!* beams the Traverse Festival to cinemas across the UK**

The Traverse Theatre announces its 2010 Festival season, a line up featuring eighteen productions: seven World premieres, five UK premieres and four Scottish premieres including five off-site and site-specific productions. Traverse Theatre Company will this year produce one major new play by Sam Holcroft and a programme of specially commissioned breakfast plays by top writers from the UK and Ireland. These are presented alongside shows from around the globe in one of the biggest, most entertaining and most challenging seasons of drama, comedy, music and dance in the Theatre's 47 year history.

Headlining the Traverse Theatre Company's programme of major new work is *While You Lie* (6-29 Aug, Traverse 2). This provocative and shocking new play by Sam Holcroft, one of UK theatre's most exciting new voices, is directed by award-winning writer and director, Zinnie Harris, marking the first collaboration between these two extraordinary theatre artists.

The Traverse's award-winning season of breakfast plays returns this year as an exciting fusion of film and theatre takes the Traverse Festival to cinemas across the UK. Specially commissioned plays by Marina Carr, David Eldridge, Linda McLean, Simon Stephens and Enda Walsh will be performed script in hand, first thing in the morning, with breakfast included in the ticket price. This year's programme, *Impossible Things Before Breakfast* (18 – 29 Aug, Traverse 2), sees the Traverse Theatre Company teaming up with Hibrow Productions, who will film the performances live for later webcast on the world's first comprehensive online platform for the performing and visual arts. A one-off live performance, *Traverse Live!* (23 Aug, Traverse 2), will be simultaneously broadcast to Picturehouse cinemas across the UK, including Edinburgh's Cameo Cinema.

The Traverse ventures further out into the city this year, with five off-site and site specific productions. The star of last years hit *Midsummer [a play with songs]*, Cora Bissett, directs the World premiere of *Roadkill* (11-29 Aug). This immersive, multi-artform production lifts the lid on the hidden world of sex-trafficking. It takes its audience on a journey by bus to an Edinburgh tenement. Pedestrian-based live art from Melbourne hits the streets of Edinburgh with *en route* (7-29 Aug), while St. Stephens Church becomes the site of a feral mix of theatre, art and taxidermy as the existential clowns of USA's Barrow Street Theatre perform *Flesh and Blood & Fish and Fowl* (7-28 Aug). Over at the Scottish Book Trust, Andy Manley takes 2-4 year olds into

the sparkling world of *White* (5-29 Aug), in a new production by top children's theatre company Catherine Wheels.

Celebrating ten years since its original production, Grid Iron bring Douglas Maxwell's coming of age story, *Decky Does a Bronco* (5-21 Aug) back to Scotland Yard Playground, the site where the show was first created. The temptation-prone teenagers of Richard Milward's cult novel *Apples* (11-28 Aug) also take over St. Stephens Church, negotiating a Garden of Eden where adults are absent and drugs are everywhere, in a production by Northern Stage featuring scenic design by the author.

Back in Traverse One, a darker tale of disaffected youth unfolds with *Teenage Riot* (18-29 Aug), the sequel to *Once and For All We're Gonna Tell You Who We Are So Shut Up And Listen*, as Belgium's Ontroerend Goed return following last years hit at the Traverse Festival, *Internal*. Also returning to the Traverse are Glasgow's Vox Motus, with their trademark use of comedy, music and magic telling the bizarre true story of *The Not-So-Fatal Death of Grandpa Fredo* (8-29 Aug, Traverse 1). Dublin's award-winning Corn Exchange are back with the UK premiere of Michael West's breathtaking *Freefall* (8-29 Aug, Traverse 1). The unstoppable pairing of Druid and Enda Walsh is celebrated once again at the Traverse Festival with their brand new production, *Penelope* (8-29 Aug, Traverse 1), relocating the story from Homers epic to a surreal summer afternoon at the bottom of a drained swimming pool.

Making his fourth visit to the Traverse is Tim Crouch with *The Author* (6-29 Aug, Traverse 2), a highly original Royal Court commission, performed within its audience, about the harm carried out on stage in the name of the spectator. Traverse Festival favourite Daniel Kitson makes a switch from his late night slot to early morning with his new show *It's Always Right Now Until It's Later* (11-29 Aug, Traverse 1).

Turner Prize-winner Martin Creed makes his first visit to the Traverse this year with his first ever dance work, *Ballet Work no. 1020* (8-15 Aug, Traverse 1), a sell-out hit when it premiered at Sadlers Wells last year. This Scottish premiere accompanies a major solo exhibition of Creed's work at The Fruitmarket Gallery.

This year's Traverse Festival features a number of new collaborations between some of the UKs most prestigious companies. Shared Experience and Sherman Cymru present the World premiere of *Speechless* (6-29 Aug, Traverse 2), a play inspired by Marjorie Wallace's incredible modern tragedy, *The Silent Twins*, the true story of sisters June and Jennifer Gibbons. Glasgow's iconic Citizens Theatre present a major new international project with the Market Theatre, Johannesburg, *The Girl in The Yellow Dress* (6-29 Aug, Traverse 2), Craig Higginson's sexually-charged psychological drama inspired by Ovid's story Echo and Narcissus. Comedy from DC Jackson pokes fun at the office romance in *My Romantic History* (6-29 Aug, Traverse 2), in a production by Bush Theatre and Sheffield Theatres in association with Birmingham Rep.

The Traverse Theatre Company will present two one-off panel events to support the diversity of this year's programme with its annual Festival Encounters. In *A Different Space* (9 Aug, Traverse 2), Martin Creed and Tim Crouch discuss creating work outside the artforms they are most known for. The Playwrights Encounter (16 Aug, Traverse 2) panel includes leading writers Tim Crouch, Sam Holcroft and Michael West. Both Encounters will be in conversation with The Scotsman's Joyce McMillan. As always, the legendary Traverse Bar Café will offer a chance to relax and refuel between shows, open from early to late during August, with food served all day.

For further information, images and press tickets, please contact Sarah Dee, Communications Officer (Media) sarah.dee@traverse.co.uk / 0131 659 7111.