



MEDIA RELEASE:

From Uganda to Dundee – The Last Queen of Scotland confronts Idi Amin

This August festival audiences will be treated to the world premiere of *The Last Queen of Scotland* - a Stellar Quines production co-commissioned and supported by National Theatre of Scotland and Dundee Rep. The new play by Jaimini Jethwa traces her journey from Uganda to Dundee charting the personal fallout from events of August 1972 when the notorious dictator Idi Amin ordered the expulsion of all Asian Ugandans from the country. Directed by Jemima Levick and performed by exciting young actress Rehanna MacDonald to a live soundtrack [Patricia Panther, Glasgow Girls] *The Last Queen of Scotland* is a powerful polemic rewriting Amin's relationship with Scotland.

Told through the street sounds of Dundonian dialect *The Last Queen of Scotland* is a homage to Jaimini's city "the D". From 'messy' parties in Dundee's housing schemes to the baking heat of Kampala, Jaimini Jethwa's personal journey of self discovery sheds light on a unique period of untold history. Sharing the story of a community in exile, *The Last Queen of Scotland* sees Jaimini retrace her parents steps following their expulsion from Uganda and the decisions that have made Dundee her home. On her return to her homeland she finds more questions than answers as she confronts the past and imagines the life she should have had.

The Last Queen of Scotland sees award winning company Stellar Quines return to the Fringe following the success of *The Jennifer Tremblay Trilogy* (2015). The company also received rave reviews for *The View from Castle Rock* (2016) an Edinburgh Festivals Expo Funded Co-production with Edinburgh International Book Festival. *The Last Queen of Scotland* is Artistic Director Jemima Levick's first festival production for Stellar Quines and is part of the 2017 Made in Scotland Showcase.

"an unforgettably rich and vivid hour of solo theatre"

****The Scotsman on The Deliverance

"draws us into the woman's emotional journey"

****Theatre Guide London on The Jennifer Tremblay Trilogy

"one of the 2015 Fringe highlights"

****British Theatre Guide on The Jennifer Tremblay Trilogy

Listings Information:

The Last Queen of Scotland

Venue: Iron Belly, Underbelly Venue 61

Dates and Time: 3 – 26 August 6:50PM (60mins) no perf 9 & 16 Aug

Tickets: £6.50 previews (3, 4 August) £12(11) Off peak £14(£13) Peak

Age 12+

Box Office: Call 0844 545 8252 or buy online at underbelly.co.uk

For further information, interview and image requests please contact Owen O'Leary on 07815992658 or email owen@ohreally.co.uk

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Notes to Editors

Jaimini Jethwa

Jaimini is a playwright and independent film maker with specialist skills in working with vulnerable young people and adults. In March 2014 Jaimini travelled to Uganda to explore presenting *The Last Queen of Scotland* at National Theatre Kampala as part of 'Banta in Uganda' – in a research and development project supported through Creative Scotland's International fund. Jaimini is currently based at Abertay University, Dundee and has previously worked on drama production for BBC short Films, Scottish Screen, BBC Screen writing Migrations, Lemuria Music Events Film-Maker, Diversity Films, GMAC. Jaimini was born in Uganda but was expelled in August 1972 with her family by Idi Amin. The family headed to Britain and ended up living in Dundee.

Jemima Levick

Jemima was appointed Artistic Director and Chief Executive of Stellar Quines in May 2016. Prior to that, she served as Artistic Director and as Associate Director at Dundee Rep Theatre for seven years. She trained at Queen Margaret University, Edinburgh and also on a Scottish Arts Council Director Traineeship.

She has won and been nominated for a number of awards and directed more than 18 productions at the Rep, including *Great Expectations*, *The Glass Menagerie*, *Time and the Conways*, *The Tempest*, *The Elephant Man* and *Beauty and the Beast*.

As a freelance director and producer she has worked with a number of companies, including the Royal Lyceum Theatre, The National Theatre of Scotland, Perissology Theatre Productions, Borderline, Grid Iron Theatre Company, The Traverse and Paines Plough.

Stellar Quines

Stellar Quines is an award winning Scottish theatre company that celebrates the value and diversity of women and girls by making brilliant theatre, provoking change, nurturing artists and empowering participation.

The company achieves this through a year-round programme designed to excite and inspire the audiences and artists we work with that includes producing and touring world class performance, commissioning research, championing campaigns and delivering activities to support artist development and community engagement. www.stellarquines.com

Made in Scotland

Made in Scotland is a curated showcase of high quality performance from Scotland at the world's biggest arts festival, made possible by support from the Scottish Government's Edinburgh Festivals Expo Fund. It is a partnership between the Festival Fringe Society, the Federation of Scottish Theatre (FST) Scottish Music Centre and Creative Scotland. www.madeinscotlandshowcase.com

The National Theatre of Scotland

The National Theatre of Scotland is dedicated to playing the great stages, arts centres, village halls, schools and site-specific locations of Scotland, the UK and internationally. As well as creating ground-breaking productions and working with the most talented theatre-makers, the National Theatre of Scotland produces significant community engagement projects, innovates digitally and works constantly to develop new talent. Central to this is finding pioneering ways to reach current and new audiences and to encourage people's full participation in the Company's work. With no performance building of its own, the Company works with existing and new venues and companies to create and tour theatre of the highest quality. Founded in 2006, the Company, in its short life, has become a globally significant theatrical player, with an extensive repertoire of award-winning work. The National Theatre of Scotland is supported by the Scottish Government. www.nationaltheatrescotland.com

Dundee Rep and Scottish Dance Theatre Limited

Dundee Rep and Scottish Dance Theatre Limited is the charity behind Dundee Rep Theatre, Scottish Dance Theatre and Encore Bar and Brasserie.

Our Mission: Create Together, Discover Together

Our Vision: Unmissable experiences for the curious, from nae hair to grey hair. Together, we engage, support and dare to take risks.

Dundee Rep and Scottish Dance Theatre sit at the cultural heart of Scotland and the City of Dundee. Founded in 1939, the Rep is a centre of creative energy, a space for engagement with a wide range of art forms, whilst also playing a lead role in arts education and engagement across the city and beyond. Proud of its Scottish roots, the Company looks outwards, creating and delivering work for a local audience, as well as on a national and international scale, for and with a diverse audience.

Dundee Rep Ensemble was established in 1999 with the mission of bringing together a permanent full-time company of actors, the only company of its kind in Scotland. Dundee Rep Ensemble has created a number of award-winning productions, establishing a reputation as one of the UK's foremost theatre companies.

Scottish Dance Theatre, Scotland's principal contemporary dance company and research engine for dance was created in 1986 as the Dundee Rep Dance Company. Pioneering new ways to create and distribute dance across all scales, the company commissions work by pre-eminent artists in many fields whose practice is outstanding and assured in its relationship with audiences.