

14, Muirburn Ave.,
Glasgow G44 3HL..

19th October 2004

tel/ fax 0141 637 3434.

Mr James Boyle,
Cultural Commission,
Broughton High School,
1 Carrington Rd.,
Edinburgh,

21 OCT 2004

Dear James,

First apologies for not emailing back to the Commission by the deadline of 27th September. Work commitments, both acting and writing, have kept me pretty busy. However, I'm writing to you, in person, as someone who knows me and has some knowledge of my work.

The question I want to address is on behalf, not only of myself, but of all the working playwrights who write commissioned work for theatres throughout Scotland. At the moment, if you write for the Traverse, your play receives publication automatically; an admirable scheme, but as other theatres do not have access to this subsidy, most work by playwrights, other than the Traverse group, remains unpublished.

As you'll see from my attached cv, I have had commissioned plays performed by Dundee Rep, The Byre, Perth Rep, The Citizens, Theatre Workshop, Wildcat, Cumbernauld, Scottish Youth Theatre, Communicado, The Tron and Borderline.. Many of these plays are into second and third productions in Scotland, Only two plays (T.I.E) are published, because they were paid for by SHEG. I currently have a play 'The Yellow on the Broom' opening this Friday at Perth Rep. This is the fifth production of the play. It was previously performed by Winged Horse, then Dundee and has been performed in the wider community by colleges and youth theatres. I currently have the offer of commissions from Borderline and Oran Mor

I gave up theatre writing for a number of years as I was lured to television, where I made a good living, as have many other promising playwrights, disillusioned by a lack of support for theatre Drama. The Scottish Society of Playwrights have been lobbying for years to have plays published, in order to reach markets beyond Scotland, but have been, so far, unsuccessful.

How can Scotland as a country represent its playwrights purely from one theatre? When I look at academic tomes on Theatre in Scotland, I and many other working

playwrights, do not receive a mention. The Traverse group occur again and again, purely because they're published.

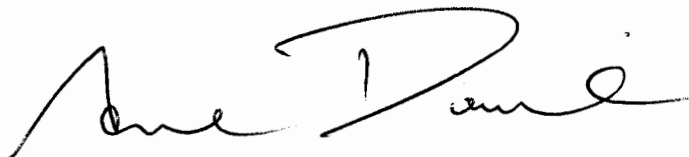
Interestingly enough, I received a call from Milan University, as one of their Drama professors was writing a book on Theatre in Scotland. I featured in it rather largely. I asked her how she'd got my name. She'd gone to all the theatres in Scotland and asked about the plays that were performed there over the last twenty years. She said my name kept recurring. Hence her interest.

I am not alone in the effects of this neglect vis a vis publication. I was giving a talk, after one of my plays, to a school party, who were studying Higher Drama. They informed me they'd studied one of my plays (an adaptation) purely from the novel and stage production, but felt at a real disadvantage because the theatre text wasn't available.

This isn't a new phenomenon. I took a BA in Drama at Glasgow University in 1979. We were set questions on Scottish playwrights for which the texts weren't available. I remember going to the University library and finding published Scottish Drama to consist purely of the works of J.M. Barrie and James Bridie. I looked at the brimming shelves on Irish, French and Swedish playwrights and couldn't believe that Scotland only had two published, and long dead playwrights. I imagine now The Traverse group are our sole representatives, plus people like Tony Roper, who self published 'The Steamie'.

If the Commission is to represent Scotland, the question of a lost generation of Scottish playwrights must be addressed. Publication of plays over the last twenty years is the first step. The second is to extend the Traverse Scheme. When a play is commissioned and accepted, publication should be included in the package. At present the Traverse sell them for £ 2.50 in lieu of a programme. Only then will there be a dissemination and a true representation of our native drama within Scotland and beyond,

I await your reply with interest,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'Anne Downie', written in a cursive style.

Anne Downie.

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CV ANNE DOWNIE - WRITER

REPRESENTATION: BRENDAN DAVIS,
FILM RIGHTS LTD.,
IN ASSOCIATION WITH LAURENCE FITCH LTD,
MEZZANINE,
QUADRANT HOUSE,
80-82 REGENT STREET,
LONDON, W1B 5A.

QUALIFICATIONS BA (DRAMA) GLASGOW UNIVERSITY
AND ROYAL SCOTTISH ACADEMY MUSIC AND
DRAMA
MEMBER OF WRITER'S GUILD OF GREAT BRITAIN,
SCOTTISH SOCIETY OF PLAYWRIGHTS and EQUITY

BBC RADIO PLAYS BROADCAST BETWEEN 1990-2004 INCLUDE...

**SIDE SEA VIEW, NOTHING BUT THE BEST, GLITTER OF MICA,
P.DIVISION-CRIME SERIES, THE YELLOW ON THE BROOM ,
COPSHAWHOLM FAIR.ADAPTATION of CLARE FRANCIS'S "DECEIT"
AND WRITER OF DRAMA SERIES "RACE":**

**STAGE PLAYS PROFESSIONALLY PERFORMED BETWEEN 1989-
2003**

**THE WITCHES OF POLLOK...SPECIALLY COMMISSIONED FOR EUROPEAN
YEAR OF CULTURE BY MICHAEL BOYD,TRON THEATRE GLASGOW.**

**SIDE SEA VIEW, BBC COMMISSION PERFORMED BY THREE PHASE AND
GLASGOW CITIZENS' THEATRE**

**THE WHITE BIRD PASSES (ADAPTATION) TRON/THEATRE WORKSHOP ,
EDINBURGH ,COMMISSION**

**THE YELLOW ON THE BROOM (ADAPTATION) WINGED HORSE AND
DUNDEE REPERTORY THEATRES.COMMISSIONED.**

WAITING ON ONE WILDCAT STAGE PRODUCTIONS . COMMISSIONED

WINNER OF LWT £10,000. "PLAYS ON STAGE" AWARD

THE CREATURE FROM THE MERMAID'S PURSE COMMUNICADO
(EDINBURGH) COMMISSION .

BABA YAGA AND THE MAGIC DOLL THEATRE WORKSHOP , EDINBURGH.,
COMMISSIONED CHILDREN'S SHOW.

JELLY BABIES THEATRE CO-OP PRODUCTIONS.

DE PROFUNDIS SCOTTISH YOUTH THEATRE , SCOTTISH ARTS COUNCIL
COMMISSION.

RETRIBUTION CUMBERNAULD THEATRE.

BREAD UPON THE WATERS DUNDEE REPERTORY THEATRE AND SAC
COMMISSION. (DURING PERIOD AS WRITER- IN- RESIDENCE.)

CRACKED THEATRE WORKSHOP THEATRE IN EDUCATION SHEG
COMMISSION.(PUBLISHED)

ASHES TO ASHES T.I. E. COMMISSION THEATRE WORKSHOP EDINBURGH.

THE BOY FROM BENEATH THE SEA BORDERLINE THEATRE AYR,
COMMISSION .

"TWO FAT LADIES: BYRE THEATRE AND PERTH REP CO-PRODUCTION.

**"PARKING LOT IN PITTSBURGH "THE BYRE AND 2002 COMMERCIAL
TOUR BY BRIAN HEWITT -JONES COMMERCIAL MANAGEMENT,
KINGS THEATRE, ETC.**

TELEVISION CREDITS BETWEEN 1989 and 2002

TELEVISION DRAMA "**SECRETS**" FOR STARCATCH ,NETWORKED BY BBC
TELEVISION.

COMEDY WRITER ON TWO SERIES OF CHANNEL FOUR'S "**HALFWAY TO
PARADISE.**

THE BILL. ITV CARLTON.

SCRIPT EDITOR, STORYLINER AND SCRIPTWRITER ON SCOTLAND'S SOAP
HIGH ROAD.

SCRIPT EDITOR ON SCOTTISH OFFICE DRUG FILMS SERIES.

BBC SOAP RIVER CITY- 3 EPISODES,

PUBLISHED SHORT STORIES

WALTER and DEADLY SIN (POLYGON AND ARGYLL PUBLISHING
CANCEL MR BLOOM , ICING ON THE CAKE, THE WEIGHT OF
SORROW, WRITE YOUR NAME SMALL (HERALD) DO YOU DO TEAS?
(EDINBURGH REVIEW .)

FEATURES

CHINA DIARY (HERALD) THE GREAT B MOVIE MYSTERY(TIMES)
ON BEING AN ACTOR (CHAPMAN) ON HAVING IRISH ROOTS
(ARGYLL PUBLISHING)

CURRENT: SCREENPLAY 'FLESH AND BLOOD', and one woman play
"The Female Of The Species". Production of short story anthology.
Stage Play 'The Yellow on the Broom ' to be staged at Perth rep in
October 2004 (Its 3rd professional production)