



Media information, Tuesday 21 February 2017

**FIRST WINNER OF THE ASSEMBLY ROXY THEATRE AWARD  
ANNOUNCED**

**Winners Andy Edwards and Amy Gilmartin to present *Scribble* at  
Roxy Downstairs at Assembly 2017 in the Edinburgh Festival Fringe.**

Assembly Festival is proud to announce the first winner of the brand-new Assembly Roxy Theatre (ART) Award for developing Scottish performance companies at the Edinburgh Festival Fringe.

**Andy Edwards** is a playwright and performer based in Glasgow who makes work about language and mental health. His new play *Scribble* is an attempt to understand the intersections between mental health, disability and the author's own ethnicity, gender and class.

Bran flakes, anxiety and gravity. The smallest moments in history and the largest events in the universe. A thought and a supernova. Blink and you'll miss it. A scribble from the chest. *Scribble* is a new work about what it means to have mental health.

In 2016 Andy was mentored by Playwright's Studio Scotland to develop a new piece of work, supervised by Rob Drummond. *Scribble* is the result of that. It was awarded a Small Grant Award from the Tom McGrath Trust and directed by **Amy Gilmartin** as a rehearsed reading at the Traverse Hothouse showcase in November.

Andy's first play *Killing Time* was performed at the 2012 Edinburgh Festival Fringe, receiving four star reviews from FEST, Three Weeks and the Edinburgh Evening News. Since graduating with Distinction in *MLitt Playwriting and Dramaturgy* at the University of Glasgow, Andy has presented work with galleries, heritage organisations and theatres as a playwright, performer and digital artist.

**Amy Gilmartin** is a freelance theatre director, who focuses on directing and developing new writing, and Co-Artistic Director of emerging company Urban Fox Theatre. She has directed three productions at the Edinburgh Fringe with Urban Fox Theatre; *Globophobia* (which was shortlisted for the Scottish Arts Club Award), *Safeword* and *Heartlands* (which received six four star reviews). Her freelance directing work includes *Warrior*, a play exploring modern Sectarian themes, which has extensively toured schools, community centres and theatres, including the Citizens Theatre, since 2014. Amy also assisted Orla O'Loughlin on *Milk* at the Traverse Theatre in the 2016 Festival, where she is now employed as a script reader and has directed as part of development performances. She is currently the assistant director on *Dr Stirlingshire's Discovery*, a co-production with Grid Iron, Lung Ha Theatre Company, RZSS Edinburgh Zoo and Royal Lyceum Theatre Edinburgh.

Andy and Amy will receive up to £5,500 worth of support, including Fringe and Joint Venue Brochure registration fees, rehearsal space, and development and promotional support. *Scribble* will be presented at **Roxy Downstairs** as part of Assembly 2017 in the Edinburgh Fringe Festival.

**Playwright Andy Edwards and director Amy Gilmartin** said, "Andy and I are thrilled and honoured to be selected as the winners of the first ART award! We are so excited that we are able to bring *Scribble* to the Edinburgh Festival Fringe this year, under the support and guidance of Assembly. *Scribble* explores mental health in a brave and unique way and I am delighted that Assembly are giving us the opportunity to share the play with a Fringe audience. As emerging artists in Scotland, without this award, we would not be able to present our work this year. We've got lots of hard work ahead of us and we simply can't wait!"

**William Burdett-Coutts, Artistic Director of Assembly** said, "*We received some really terrific applications for the ART Award and we are excited to have engaged with so many fresh and exciting new creative voices in Scotland. We are delighted to have selected Andy Edwards' new work Scribble directed by Amy Gilmartin to receive the first ART Award and look forward to supporting its development and profile at the Fringe this summer as part of the Assembly Festival programme. Mental health is a key issue for all areas of society, young and old, and theatre is proving itself to be an important forum to openly explore this complex and personal subject. The script is written in a really interesting graphic way which leaps off the page and shows great promise as a production.*

*"The Fringe offers one of the most challenging but potentially life changing opportunities for emerging theatre makers and we're pleased to offer Andy and Amy an opportunity to make that step within the supporting framework of one of the Fringe's most well-regarded presenters."*

A number of new and established Scottish playwrights and theatre companies have made Assembly their home over previous Edinburgh Festival Fringes including Vanishing Point, Stellar Quines, In Your Face, Nonsense Room Productions, Lickety Spit Theatre and National Theatre of Scotland.

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For further information, interviews, photos or media enquiries please contact Susie Gray, The Corner Shop PR, [susie@thecornershoppr.com](mailto:susie@thecornershoppr.com) / 07834 073 795

**Assembly Festival** is the longest running multi-venue operator at the Edinburgh Festival Fringe. The organisation is based in Edinburgh all year round at the Assembly Roxy, where it hosts theatre, music, comedy and events. Assembly also tours the best of its program, including the multi award winning *Nirbhaya*, which premiered at the 2013 Edinburgh Festival Fringe before touring to London's Southbank Centre, New York, Canada, Mumbai, Delhi and Bangalore. Assembly Festival pride themselves on putting the world's best talent on stage in Edinburgh, and beyond.