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## Prague Fringe Festival attracts more award-winning international theatre to the city than ever before ( $24^{th}$ May – $1^{st}$ June)

Arts aficionados and anyone with an appetite for a spot of new theatrical entertainment are set to enjoy a wealth of top-quality theatre from around the world at the 12<sup>th</sup> Prague Fringe Festival. Nearly a third of this year's 35 productions have won awards from either Prague or other Fringe Festivals from as far afield as South Africa and Australia.

The Festival brings its usual exciting mix of theatre, comedy, music dance, story telling and good times to venues throughout the city's Malá Strana district and is sure to appeal to a wide array of regular and new theatre goers with some non-verbal productions bridging the language gap.

This year however sees an increase in internationally acclaimed and awardwinning companies as well as homegrown groups applying to bring their shows to the Czech capital says Steve Gove, Director of the Prague Fringe.

"Its great news for Prague theatre fans that so many international awardwinning productions have asked to come here to perform. This really is an award-winners edition of the Prague Fringe. Some of these productions have received awards from the big Fringe festivals in Edinburgh and Adelaide as well as the National Arts Festival in South Africa. They've chosen to share these works with the Prague audience – and the really good thing for us is we can see these shows right on our own doorstep for the very reasonable price of 150kc (even less for students)".

Fringe is an international phenomenon having started in the Scottish capital city of Edinburgh more than 60 years ago. The number of events continue to grow and there are more than 50 Fringe Festivals around the world and Prague is becoming an increasingly popular choice for performers touring the circuit.

Companies attending Prague Fringe 2013 have received awards from Fringe Festivals in other cities such as Adelaide, Stockholm, Edinburgh and others.

"Many of these acts are sure to sell out" says Festival Director, Steve Gove.

"Marcel Lucont's superb show "Gallic Symbol" has had a stack of rave reviews and scooped the Best Comedy Show award at the Edinburgh Fringe (the world's biggest arts event) last year, as well as another gong at the Adelaide Fringe in Australia. And South Africa's slight of hand expert Stuart Lightbody's controversial show "Stuperstition" was awarded the Standard Bank Silver Ovation at the country's National Arts Festival in 2011 as well as a weekly award at the Adelaide Fringe. This year's Prague Fringe really is a great opportunity to catch the cream of the Fringe crop" says Gove.

Other award winning productions include Ragulabuggla, **a**n interactive multigenre performance about the human condition which received the Stockholm Fringe Festival Award for Outstanding Artist/Act 2012, and City of Lions and Gods which netted the Best Play award at the Atlanta Fringe in the US in 2011.

Ends.

For full details of all productions check out <u>www.fringe.cz</u>. Show photographs can be downloaded via: <u>https://www.dropbox.com/sh/6yndsqfpe90379z/3pD48QdXYN</u>

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