

SIT-UP

AWARDS

NEWS RELEASE

DANGEROUS GIANT ANIMALS WINS £5,000 INAUGURAL SIT-UP AWARD



The inaugural SIT-UP Award has gone to Christina Murdock for her production **Dangerous Giant Animals** currently wowing audiences at Underbelly. It is based on her experience of growing up with her disabled sister. The £5,000 Award will help the production to further promote its message and improve its engagement with audiences and relevant charities.

A panel of judges, made up of arts and charity professionals, decided that **Dangerous Giant Animals** poignantly shone a spotlight on events that are rarely discussed as they happen behind closed doors but which have a profound effect on the relationship between those with disabilities and their carers.

Dangerous Giant Animals tells the story of Christina's relationship with her younger sister who has severe disabilities and the impact it has had, and still has, on her life. Her solo show was created with the help of a modest production team and supported by Christina's personal crowdfunding campaign. After the show, Murdock greets members of the audience with a badge and an opportunity to write their own response to the issues raised for her display board. She also listens to her audiences' own stories. Her publicity material contains contact information about the sibling carer support charity, SIBS (www.sibs.org.uk).

It is estimated that there are 500,000 young people in the UK with a disabled sibling, many of whom also act as carers. There are around seven million carers in the UK, with three in five people being carers at some point in their lives. The stresses on carers and family members too often remain unspoken, and this play provides a special insight into this

Celia Tennant, award judge and chief executive of Inspiring Scotland said:

'*Dangerous Giant Animals* is a wonderful and warm personal account of growing up with a sibling with disabilities. I was full of empathy for Christina, her sister and family. There is much to inform us and how we support carers and their families with empathy and understanding.'

Jez Bond, founder and artistic director of Park Theatre said: 'It was a pleasure to be a judge at this year's festival. I was particularly blown away by two of the shows, which so deserve recognition and a wider audience. *Dangerous Giant Animals* and *Freeman* were two of the most powerful plays I've seen in a long time. Both were told with incredible passion and energy, and from such a personal perspective. Everyone should see these plays and talk about them.'

The other shortlisted productions were:

Smokescreen Productions: Mengele

A spotlight on anti-Semitism and a warning from the past of the consequences when the world buys into hatred and bigotry.

Futures Theatre: Never Vera Blue

A play about domestic abuse and the power of coercion and control.

Power Play: The Empty Chair

A play with an interesting twist on #metoo from the young feminist activist company Power Play Theatre.

Charades Musicals and BSAC: The Mould that changed the world

A musical with an important message about the spread of antibiotic resistance. It comes from Charades Musicals, a company committed to taking musicals into schools.

For further information:

Wendy Niblock PR: m: 07961 814834 / e: wendyjniblock@btinternet.com

Notes for Editors

Christina Murdock is an actor, opera singer and a member of the Royal Court Theatre's Writer's Group. A graduate of The Royal Central School of Speech and Drama, she appeared in *A Serious Case of the Fuckits* by Anna Jordan. Since then she's appeared in *Level Two Zero One Eight* at the Arcola Theatre and *The Vagina Monologues* at Theatre Delicatessen. Christina is an advocate for people with disabilities and those that care for them.

Web: www.situpawards.com

Twitter: @situpawards

Ends.../