

PRESS RELEASE

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For immediate use

## **DIVIDED CITY stage show performed to sell-out audience and glowing reaction**

**Glasgow, UK; Last night the Citizens Theatre hosted the world premiere of a musical stage production of DIVIDED CITY, a book which tackles sectarianism on and off the football pitch.**

The show was performed by a cast of almost fifty S1 and S2 pupils from schools across the Glasgow area. The project, in co-operation with Glasgow City Council's Youth Music Initiative, aims to promote racial and religious tolerance.

After a rigorous rehearsal schedule, which has lasted three months, the young people's talent and enthusiasm shone through last night. The production utilised every single young person in the cast as the pupils were on stage throughout acting as choir, cast, staging and group narration. Claire McKenzie's original score had a powerful impact, from the meld of Scottish skipping rhymes to the emotional heart-pulling tribute to Glasgow.

Reaction to the show was wholly positive:

"I couldn't have imagined a better world premiere for Divided City. From the first bars of the opening number, the energy and talent of the young people enthralled the theatre. All praise to them for their hard work and to the huge team of people behind the production."

*Theresa Breslin, author of Divided City*

"A fantastic experience and an amazing venue for Glasgow's young people."

*Neil Robertson, Youth Music Officer for Glasgow City Council*

"Very powerful and typical Glasgow that the humour comes through even though the subject is so serious."

*Anne McFadden, St Mirin's Primary School Head Teacher and Scottish Head Teacher of the Year*

"Extremely powerful, we're so proud of former pupil David who is in the cast."

*St Peter's Primary School*

"Phenomenal."

*Knightswood Primary School*

"Amazing, we loved it."

*Whiteinch Primary School*

“Wow what an amazing performance! The children and adult volunteers were mesmerised throughout. A wonderful storyline transformed into a fantastic musical production using such enthusiastic and talented young people. This is a night our young people will remember forever.”

*Hazel Shaw, the Machan Trust*

“Fantastic. The girls loved Leanne.”

*St Thomas Riddrie Primary School*

“Amazing.”

*Riverside/St Saviour Campus Pupils (so well behaved)*

“We were supporting one of our former pupils, Jay.”

*St Ninian’s Primary School*

There were two school performances today and the final show is tomorrow night. The four performances were all sell-outs.

For more information, see [www.theresabreslin.co.uk](http://www.theresabreslin.co.uk) or [www.facebook.com/theresabreslinauthor](https://www.facebook.com/theresabreslinauthor)

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Photographs attached and available for media use. Please credit Richard Campbell

### **About the production**

The production is a joint Youth Music Initiative project created and funded by The Citizens Theatre, Glasgow City Council Education Services and Scott & Co. Two pupils from every secondary school in the city were invited to form the cast and by doing so, this production reflects the novel’s message of tolerance and friendship.

### **About the book**

This is the first stage version of the novel which explores religious tension in Glasgow through a gripping tale about two boys, one Celtic fan, one Rangers fan, who must find their own answers in a divided world. DIVIDED CITY has been shortlisted for 10 different children’s book awards and is studied widely by school children.

### **Creative Team**

Written by Theresa Breslin

Adapted by Martin Travers

Directed by Guy Hollands and Elly Goodman

Original music by Claire McKenzie

Designed by Carter Ferguson