

April 2010
PRESS RELEASE

The Kebabman Cometh
Written and Directed By
Alan Mehdizadeh
Thursday 13 May 7.45pm

*A story of love, comedy, tragedy and Kebabs (with chilli
sauce, salad!)*

Canolfan y Celfyddydau
Aberystwyth Arts Centre



On the 13th May 2010 Aberystwyth Arts Centre will host the Premiere of a new play *The Kebabman Cometh* created by former Aberystwyth University students Alan Mehdizadeh & Chris Storozynski.

The Kebabman Cometh is inspired by the two kebabmen. It is a heart-wrenching, romantic comedy that will get you laughing, crying and very hungry. The story is adapted from a short mockumentary about the Mehti Brothers - two illegal immigrants running their own kebab shop - created by Alan Mehdizadeh & Chris Storozynski in 2005. The play features several professional actors (comprising of several Aberystwyth University Alumni) and will feature the original 'brothers'.

"What makes the *Kebabman* special" says Writer and Director Alan Mehdizadeh, "is the origin of the story and the recent history of the cast and creative team (they are also the reasons for a premiere in Aberystwyth). The play is centred around two characters original created for a short film as part of a first year project in the Aberystwyth University Theatre, Film & Television Department, and was shot entirely on location in Efe's Kebab shop in the town itself. As for the cast and crew, they nearly entirely comprise of Aberystwyth Alumni (7 of the 9 actors graduated between 2004 and 2005)."

Alan Mehdizadeh may be familiar to theatre goers of Aberystwyth after working on several community productions including the Wardens Pantomime, Aberystwyth Arts Centre Community Theatre productions, and directing & producing productions of *Godspell*, *Jesus Christ Superstar* and producing *Little Shop of Horrors* for his own company: What Was That? Productions and the student theatre company Curtain Call which he originally founded and presided over in its initial two years. "I was fortunate enough to work with well known local directors Harry Durnall, Richard Hull and Richard Cheshire during my four years in Aberystwyth." Alan recalls. "My first appearance in Aberystwyth was in Hull's *Pygmalion* as Alfred Doolittle at the Arts Centre and this is one of the main reasons I was so keen to see *The Kebabman Cometh* have it's first ever appearance take place at the Arts Centre."

Alan is joined by co-star Chris “Stoz” Storozynski who co-wrote and starred in the original short-film, and may be recognisable as the former lead singer of popular band The Confused Blues. Stoz has appeared in several plays in Aberystwyth and continues to act in his home town of Southend-on-Sea.

Becky Renton plays one of the two leading actress’ in the piece. Becky played Judas in Mehdizadeh’s *Jesus Christ Superstar*, played the lead in *Return to the Forbidden Planet* and is the inspiration behind the character of Donna.

Adam Lacey is also well known in theatre circles in Aberystwyth, again an ex-Wardens Panto performer and director of *Little Shop of Horrors* at the Morlan Hall in 2007. Adam is also Assistant Director of the piece as well as production coordinator.

Cast members Amy Ross, Steve Humpherson and Sam Keogh are also Aber alumni and have previously worked with Alan on *Godspell*. Amy has acted in several plays in and around the town, and again has been a member of the Wardens. Steve may be recognised from his days drumming in several musicals in Aber. Sam will always be fondly recognised for his roles in *Curtain Call*, *The Complete Female Stage Beauty* and *A Winter’s Tale*.

“We are also very excited to introduce two new actresses to the Aberystwyth stage” says Alan. Rebecca Black (who trained at Mountview Theatre School) has worked as far afield as Mexico in her career thus far and even turned down a contract offer to be in the sunshine abroad so she could make the long trip to Aberystwyth to appear in the first ever performance of the play. Clara Stephens appears after a role was specially created just for her. “She was so impressive in the auditions that a role had to be written in just so she would be part of the project. She is a very funny actress who will bring smiles to the audience.” says Alan.

“The play is centred on two illegal immigrants who come to the country to flee war in their homeland, the fictional Bulsek” Alan explains. “They work in a Kebab shop which later, they inherit and use to form their own unique partnership. You have all manner of human life here, from hard of hearing elderly folk to a begging flasher who loves his food. The brothers themselves will provide laughs and hopefully tears with their memories and stories. And a huge thanks to the Open Platform Scheme run by the Arts Centre which enables new companies like ours to realise our ambitions for performing new theatre.”

Tickets for this performance are £5 (£3) and can be booked by contacting the Arts Centre Box Office on 01970 62 32 32 or online at www.aber.ac.uk/artscentre

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Notes to editors:

Please visit [youtube.com](https://www.youtube.com) for the original short film

Further information is available from Rachel Taylor on 01970 622894 email rst@aber.ac.uk

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