



Press release **Scottish Storytelling Centre**

2 July 2007

Garibaldi! – Compleanno a te! Happy Birthday, Giuseppe!

Fringe Theatre at the Scottish Storytelling Centre

Garibaldi! *Mike Maran Productions*

Fringe Venue 30: Scottish Storytelling Centre, The Netherbow, 43-45 High St, Edinburgh, EH1 1SR

Sat 4 – Sun Aug (not Mondays). 3.30pm (1hr 20mins)
(The performance Wed 15 Aug will be audio described)

Tickets £10 (£8) from:

Scottish Storytelling Centre – 0131 556 9579 or www.scottishstorytellingcentre.co.uk

The Fringe Box Office – 0131 226 0000 or www.edfringe.com

This Wednesday is the bi-centenary of Giuseppe Garibaldi, who was born on July 4th 1807. Compleanno a te! Happy Birthday, Giuseppe!

As part of the Scottish Storytelling Centres outstanding programme of Fringe theatre, Mike Maran Productions presents Garibaldi!: a romantic, swashbuckling adventure about a Scottish soldier who joins the 1,000 red-shirted poets and idealists who marched with Garibaldi to form a new nation – Italy!

Garibaldi! is a fully staged storytelling musical with live music by David Vernon on accordion and bagpipes. Mike Maran used to open rock concerts for Emerson Lake & Palmer, Steeleye Span, and Uriah Heep. Now he brings his wealth of musical experience to the theatre and produces award winning shows. Mike Maran's production of 'Captain Corelli's Mandolin' attracted widespread critical acclaim and huge audiences throughout the UK. 'Did You Used to be R.D.Laing?' won a Herald Angel at the Edinburgh Fringe in 2000 and opened off Broadway in April 2007 where a short run sponsored by The Scottish Executive sold out all ten performances. 'Mahler: Song & Dance Man' won another Herald Angel in 2003 for its 'outstanding contribution to the Edinburgh Festival.'

Garibaldi! is a Mike Maran Productions in association with the Scottish Storytelling Centre, The Italian Cultural Institute and Valvona & Crolla.

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SCO: 11353 VAT no: GB671 0989 13



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Garibaldi

In 1860 Giuseppe Garibaldi led a thousand red-shirted volunteers in a campaign of extraordinary military genius and incredible good luck to defeat the might of the Bourbon army in Sicily and Naples and unite Italy. We congratulate Garibaldi on his achievement and remember the Scottish contribution.

Working men in Glasgow gave up one afternoon a week to manufacture munitions for Garibaldi's campaign. Reform societies and masonic lodges collected huge sums of money to send to the 'red-shirts'. Fifty Scottish soldiers, the *Garibaldi Excursionists*, joined the campaign. By all accounts they acquitted themselves well, but, overwhelmed by the availability of cheap wine, they drank Naples dry and many Neapolitan bars had to close.

In 1864 Garibaldi came to thank his British supporters. A million people thronged the streets of London to welcome him and he was on his way to Glasgow to say a special thank you to his Scottish supporters when Gladstone's medical adviser, Dr. Ferguson (since knighted) advised Garibaldi that he was not well enough to travel. Garibaldi felt fine so he assumed, perhaps rightly, that his presence was an embarrassment to the British Government. Since Garibaldi knew how true Britain, and Mr. Gladstone in particular, had been to the Italian people, he cancelled his trip to Glasgow and went straight home. The 200,000 applicants for tickets to Garibaldi meetings in Glasgow were, of course, very disappointed.

The Scottish Storytelling Centre hopes that similar numbers will turn up for, but not be disappointed by Mike Maran's Edinburgh Fringe show, *Garibaldi!* at their newly refurbished theatre on the Royal Mile in Edinburgh.

ENDS

Notes to editors:

This show was conceived by Mike Maran and Dr. Ennio Troili, the director of the Italian Cultural Institute in Edinburgh. Mike wishes to thank the Italian Cultural Institute for its generous support for this project which continues the relationship between Scotland and Italy which is as warm today as it was during the years of the *risorgimento* and Garibaldi's campaign to unite Italy

Garibaldi! images and full background/briefing notes on Mike Maran Productions and Garibaldi are available on request.

Garibaldi! is just one of many outstanding Fringe theatre shows taking place at the Scottish Storytelling Centre during August.

For more information about events at the Scottish Storytelling Centre visit www.scottishstorytellingcentre.com

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For more information about Mike Maran and Mike Maran Productions visit www.mikemaran.com

For further information contact

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