

MARTIN O'BRIEN – Writer and Producer

Originally from Runcorn in the north-west, Martin now lives in North London. He became an actor at the age of 18 when he unexpectedly took a year out of university to take a lead role in the West End musical **BLOOD BROTHERS**. He has worked extensively as an actor both in TV and on stage. A few years of an Open University degree in psychology led to a sideline in schools/youth work. It is through this work that Martin developed his passion for writing. He has a unique reputation for writing accessible and popular drama which gets to the heart of matters of faith and morality in an entertaining and engaging form. Writing credits include:

Television

DOCTORS - 3 episodes of BBC1's popular daytime soap (2005-2007).

THE KINGS - 2-part television drama, developed through PAL television writing course (2003). Finalist for BBC Northern Ireland's Tony Doyle Bursary (2004).

RISK - 26-part teen drama (Risk Television/Five, 2000). Invited to write trial script and attend storyline meetings.

Radio

LOST IN LIVERPOOL - 90-minute play for BBC Radio 3, commissioned through the BBC New Writing Initiative's *Northern Exposure* scheme and team-written with five other writers (2006).

ON THE SEVENTH DAY WE WILL EMERGE - BBC Radio 7 (2004). Producer Anne Edyvean.

IN THIS LIFE - 45-minute radio play (2003, unproduced). Developed with Jessica Dromgoole, BBC New Writing Coordinator.

Theatre

THE JEWELLER – a modern adaptation of **THE JEWELLER'S SHOP** by Karol Wojtyla. London showcase production, Leicester Square Theatre, June 2011

167 HOURS – Birmingham National Indoor Arena.

ON EAGLE'S WINGS - Developed with Suzanne Bell, Literary Manager, Liverpool Playhouse for script-in-hand performance at Liverpool Everyman Theatre (2002). Subsequently developed for the BBC Radio 4 *Friday Play* slot with Tanya Nash (BBC Northern Ireland). BBC Northern Exposure Award (2002).

Martin is also a producer through his Theatre-in-Education company Ten Ten Theatre, set up in May 2007 to bring drama on social, moral and faith issues to schools and other educational institutions, young offender institutions and prisons around the UK. Ten Ten work includes: **ON EAGLE'S WINGS** at Feltham young offenders' institution, directed by Paul Jepson (2008) and **THE SAFER STREETS DRAMA PROJECT** (2009-2011) a holistic resource aiming to raise self-esteem and aspiration, give young people the tools to manage their lives effectively and to reduce self-destructive and anti-social behaviour.

MARTIN O'BRIEN – page 2

Ten Ten Theatre's latest productions are suitable for the whole family and have been presented at the Leicester Square Theatre, London in showcase productions:

CALLED UP (December 2011), co-written by Marc Norris and Martin, is set in World War 2 and explores important issues for our time: Who am I? What is my purpose in life? How do I discern my vocation?

NINE MONTHS (March 2012) "I thought about not telling you. I mean, I thought, it's my own stupid fault, just go off to the doctor's and have done with it. But then I thought I should tell you, cos, like, you're my best mate, innit?" was a sellout success.

May 2012