

## **After the applause dies down**

Thousands of people descend on Edinburgh each August with shows to perform. Some are seeking TV deals or overseas tours, some seek professional recognition or a platform for experiment. But the hope in the heart of most performers is that there might be an award in it. Among the most coveted awards is the Perrier prize for comedy and the acting gongs presented by The Stage. But the longest-running and most prestigious is The Scotsman's Fringe First, awarded for new writing. But beyond the plaque and the moment of glory, what does the award confer?

## **The Winners: one year on**

### **Toa Fraser for No 2**

Several members of a Fijian family are portrayed by a single actress, Madelaine Sami, in this darkly comic tour de force. Fraser was born in London to a British mother and a Fijian father. In his teens he moved to New Zealand, where he still lives. "Mt Roskill is an area of Auckland with a certain degree of deprivation, and it was here that No 2 was born," he says. "The standard answer to questions about Fringe First was to say, "Who gives a f\*\*\* about a fringe First in Mt Roskill?" The play has toured to Jamaica, New Zealand, Tasmania, Salisbury, New York and, most recently, Fiji.

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