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METRO LIFE

THEATRE

john paul jones

Until Sat, Church Hill Theatre, Morningside Road, Edinburgh, 7.30pm (2pm Sat), £7.50 tonight, £9.50 (£7.50) Tue to Sat. Tel: 0131 228 1155. www.thefreedomcompany.co.uk

Edinburgh composer Julian Wagstaff (below) believes he's following in the footsteps of musical theatre idols Boubil, Schönberg and Sondheim with his debut musical drama, John Paul Jones, opening at the Church Hill tonight.



The 31-year-old musician is about to embark on Edinburgh University's prestigious Masters in Composition, and came across the the story of John Paul Jones – the Scottish seaman and freedom fighter credited with founding the American Navy

in the 18th century – and was fired to write this historical piece.

'It was shortly after Braveheart came out,' he explains, 'and I was influenced to an extent by that; by the forgotten heroes scattered throughout Scotland's history.'

Wagstaff has high ambitions for his musical which combines Scots and English folk music, Italian

opera, Victorian operetta and modern-day orchestral rock. He aspires for the story of John Paul Jones to have the success of bigger shows. 'Les Misérables plays all over the world

in different languages, to packed houses, because its themes are relevant to everyone. To see my show go to the West End would be a dream come true.'

Shona Craven

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