

LISTINGS

Theatre highlight

Julian Wagstaff, right, is fed up with what he calls "the parochialism of Scottish musicals". His response was to write and direct a musical biography that traverses 14 years, thousands of miles, a multicultural sweep of scores, and takes as its subject the Scots emigre who fathered the US navy – John Paul Jones.

An Edinburgh-born politics graduate, 30-year-old Wagstaff formed his own theatre company, The Freedom Company, after his project was rejected for funding by three separate arts councils. To reconstruct events accurately, he sifted through Jones's correspondence, which remains stamped and still intact at the National Library of Scotland. The play's opening moments, set in 1792, jump across factual gaps by having Jones's sister in conversation with Dumfries's other chief export to America, Robert Burns. As Wagstaff



observes, there are parallels between the two men. Both were Scots and supporters of revolution: but where Burns was content to lyricise the War of Independence, Jones actually fought in it.

"He was a deeply ambiguous person who could be seen as an Enlightenment revolutionary and as a kind of mercenary," says Wagstaff, who was directed towards the figure of Jones by a friend in 1996. The play aims to give his story a Shakespearean pattern, from the rising patriotism of youth – Jones's

guerrilla attacks with the rebel navy – to a fall that tarnishes the earlier ideals. In later life, Jones touted his services to the highest bidder before dying amid the French Revolution. Once he even tried to besiege and ransom Leith with the US fleet.

Wagstaff says he was attracted to his subject as a means of probing ideas of nationality without being confined by them – hence the play's attempt to balance local humour with its geographical sprawl and orchestral eclecticism, from Victorian operatta to rock-infused modern numbers. An ambitious man, Wagstaff hopes his work will not only re-invent the musical genre in Scotland as a dynamic cultural force, but lead it to success in the States. "No-one else in Scotland is writing on this scale in musical theatre," he insists.

● *John Paul Jones*, Church Hill Theatre, Morningside, 9-14 July. Tel: 0131-447 7597.

GRANT SMITH

Galleries

Artist Of The People – Kathe Kollwitz East Kilbride Arts Centre, Old Coach Road (01355-261000).

Sat 10am-5pm, until 21 Jul, free.
Paolozzi And Music Dean Gallery, Belford Road (0131-624 6200).

FALKIRK

Summer Exhibition The Park Gallery, Callendar Park (01324-503770). Multi-disciplinary work by local artists, Mon-Sat 10am-5pm, Sun 2pm-5pm, until 12 Aug, free.

GLASGOW

John Bellany Glasgow Print Studio, King Street (0141-552 0704). Paintings, drawings and prints, Tue-Sat 10am-5.30pm, until 23 Aug, free.

Helen Fay Glasgow Print Studio, King Street (0141-552 0704). Drypoint print images exploring the wildlife of Scotland and Northern England, Tue-Sat 10am-5.30pm, until 23 Aug, free.

Diana Ferrari Glasgow Print Studio, King Street (0141-552 0704). Sculpture and ceramics, Tue-Sat 10am-5.30pm, until 23 Aug, free.

Hidden Treasures Hunterian Art Gallery, University of Glasgow (0141-330 5431). Specially selected pieces chosen to show the wealth of the graphics collection at the Hunterian Art Gallery, Mon-Sat 9.30am-5.30pm, until 1 Sep, free.

Mackintosh House The Mackintosh House Gallery, University of Glasgow (0141-330 5431). Permanent display of rooms designed by Glasgow's most noted architectural son, Mon-Sat 9.30am-12.30pm & 1.30pm-5pm, free.

That I Might Often See The Face Of The Ocean – Anna Strachan Glasgow Print Studio, King Street (0141-552 0704). Multiples and wall based work derived from time spent on the island of Boreary, Tue-Sat 10am-5.30pm, until 23 Aug, free.

A Treasure Trove Of Creating, Making, Manufacturing Collins Gallery, University Of Strathclyde, Richmond Street (0141-548 4145). Collaboration between two