

**Brian Thunder** is an Irish theatre maker based in Edinburgh with over 25 years experience working in theatre, film, television and radio. He has been commissioned by Grid Iron theatre company to create a new site specific theatre piece examining the experiences of a Scottish gaelic speaker in a contemporary setting.

**Grid Iron** are an Edinburgh-based new writing theatre company best known for site-specific productions. For the past 21 years they have been creating award-winning productions in non-theatre locations all over Britain and beyond. Some of the more extraordinary places they have made shows for include, most recently, a massive oil-rig manufacturing warehouse in the Port of Dundee, a boat-builders island in a Norwegian fjord, the former General Security building in Beirut, a working cancer hospital in Jordan and the landside and airside areas of Edinburgh International Airport.

**Àirc/Hive** is a play in both English and Gaelic which will focus on the experience of minority language speakers in a world dominated by majority languages. Set in a library, it will tell the story of a Gaelic speaking father who is trying to explain to his English speaking son why he chooses to continue to speak a language in a society that can sometimes be hostile to it. The play will explore the way that knowledge is intimately connected with language and that, without that language, we have a poorer understanding of the world. Àirc/Hive expresses the experiences of being a minority speaker in a Scottish, European and global context.

The creation of this play has been aided by a relationship with the Intercultural Research Centre at Heriot-Watt University who, through the European funded research network *New Speakers in a Multilingual Europe*, have already supported the project by bringing speakers of 18 minority languages from all across Europe together in Edinburgh to relate their experiences.