

Top award for play on human trafficking

Robert Dawson Scott

A show about prostitution and human trafficking that rocked last year's Edinburgh Fringe has been judged the best overall theatre production in Scotland over the past 12 months at the Ninth Critics Awards for Theatre in Scotland.

Roadkill, which has already won several awards, also won in the Best Actress category in a ceremony at the Festival Theatre, in Edinburgh, yesterday, where the awards were presented by the actress and singer Clare Grogan.

Cora Bissett, who created the show in the light of her own experience giving shelter to a trafficked Nigerian girl, and Mercy Ojelade, who played the

trafficked girl Mary in the play, were both present to collect their awards.

Bissett said: "This show has been a baby in my head for five years, from when I first met the real person that Mercy brought to life. I wanted to create a show that had the impact that hearing her story had on me.

"It's nice to have this recognition that if you really believe a story is worth telling it is worth staying with it to the bitter end."

The most successful show of the year, winning three of the ten awards, was designed for children under four. *White*, devised by Andy Manley and produced by the award-winning children's company Catherine Wheels, won



Cora Bissett, who created *Roadkill*

the Best Show for Children category, the Technical Excellence category and the Design category.

Manley said: "We're absolutely thrilled to have a show for two to four-

year-olds recognised alongside mainstream shows".

The other big winner was Chris Hannan's alternative Christmas show at the Traverse in Edinburgh, *The Three Musketeers and the Princess of Spain*, which not only won the Best New Play category, but also picked up the Best Ensemble performance category.

Other winners were Muriel Romanes (Best Director), for her revival of the Canadian play *Age of Arousal*, and David Birrell, who won Best Male Performance for his portrayal of Sweeney Todd in the Stephen Sondheim musical at the Dundee Rep. **Edinburgh, Times2Arts, pages 10, 11**