

[Register](#)[Sign In](#)[Sitemap](#) [Help](#) [Drag this link onto your Home button to make us your homepage](#)

Sponsored by

Lumley Castle Hotel.

Chester le Street, County Durham, DH3 4NX

[jobs today](#) [property today](#) [motors today](#)[Audio & Video](#) | [Bingo](#) | [Cookson Country](#) | [Great North Run](#) | [Entertainment](#) | [Photos Today](#) | [Traffic Information](#) | [Your Weddings](#)

Thursday, 30th August 2007

Published Date: 30 August 2007 Location: South Tyneside

Bard of Barking backs new play

By **Paul Myles-Kelly**

A PAIR of Tyneside playwrights have plenty to brag about after a legendary troubadour endorsed their latest work.

Rock poet Billy Bragg has given his backing to the new political satire from Ed Waugh and Trevor Wood.

Maggie's End, which starts with the death of Margaret Thatcher, will have its world premiere at the Gala Theatre in Durham in October, and is influenced by the music of Billy Bragg and The Clash.

And the "Bard of Barking" has included a photo of the Maggie's End leaflet and a write-up about the play on his website, which is hugely popular with his many fans worldwide.

Both writers are life-long Bragg fans, and Mr Wood said: "We estimate between us we've seen Billy live about 35 times since he burst on the music scene like a breath of fresh air in the 1980s.

"He's not just a gifted singer/songwriter he's also very personable – and passionate about the same things that interest Ed and I – music, politics, theatre and cinema.

"Billy invited us to the soundcheck and then backstage after the gig when he played The Sage in Gateshead last May.



Writers...Wood and Waugh



Backing...Billy Bragg

"We found we all shared a similar taste in music, politics, theatre and cinema – it was a meeting of minds.

"He liked the idea of Maggie's End so much, he took away a script and promised us he'd put an endorsement on his website."

Mr Wood added: "Unfortunately he's touring in the USA when Maggie's End premieres but he said he'd be there in spirit."

Maggie's End runs from Tuesday, October 16, to Saturday, October 20, at the Gala Theatre in Durham. Tickets cost from £10 – contact the box office on 332 4041.

Last Updated: 30 August 2007 11:17 AM