



NATIONAL THEATRE OF SCOTLAND

**ANNUAL REVIEW
2020/21**



**A HUGE THANK YOU TO OUR INDIVIDUAL, TRUST AND FOUNDATION,
CORPORATE SUPPORTERS WHO HAVE STOOD ALONGSIDE US AS WE
NEGOTIATED THIS UNPRECEDENTED TIME. WE ARE SO GRATEFUL AND
VALUE THEIR SUPPORT AND CONFIDENCE IN OUR WORK VERY, VERY
MUCH.**

IN 2020/21 WE HAVE...

...CREATED MEANINGFUL (DIGITAL) THEATRE



SCENES FOR SURVIVAL

“What the NTS has achieved... is to raise the bar decisively in terms of the sheer artistry that can be brought to bear on that short-format screen form... already creating a body of work that fairly takes the breath away in the range of themes and concerns it explores, and the depth of acting, writing and film-making talent on which it draws.”

The Scotsman

55 short pieces of digital theatre created remotely by Scottish performers, writers, and directors' from their personal spaces of isolation, released online for audiences to enjoy for free.

New films broadcasted weekly on National Theatre of Scotland and BBC channels from May to September 2021 – still available to view online.

RNIB SEE DIFFERENTLY AWARDS 2020

**CORONAVIRUS HEROES
BEST CORPORATE RESPONSE WINNER**

National Theatre of Scotland
(Scenes for Survival)

BAFTA SCOTLAND 2021

NOMINATED FOR BEST PERFORMER

Peter Mullan in Fatbaws
(Part of Scenes for Survival)

BREAKOUT FESTIVAL 2021

MONTHLY AWARD

Danni the Champion
(Part of Scenes for Survival)

Produced by the National Theatre of Scotland in association with BBC Scotland, Screen Scotland, BBC Arts' Culture in Quarantine project, and Scotland's leading theatre venues and companies, with support from Hopscotch Films.

“The industry needed a champion to step up and show the world why it is not just important, but vital. The National Theatre of Scotland has done just that...”

★★★★★

The Stage

GHOST LIGHT

A 30-minute celebration of theatre on film made by award-winning film director Hope Dickson Leach. Premiered online as part of the Edinburgh International Festival's *My Light Shines On* series.

A love letter from the National Theatre of Scotland, evoking moments from Scottish theatrical performances past, present and future with works from writers including J.M. Barrie, David Greig and Jackie Kay, and original composition by Patricia Panther.

A National Theatre of Scotland film in association with Selkie Productions
Commissioned by Edinburgh International Festival.

MAKAR TO MAKAR

***“Beautiful poetry, singing and chat amongst friends.
I laughed and cried with you all. Thank you, very special.”***

Audience feedback

21 special guests brought together for poetry, music and conversation. A weekly half an hour of solace and joy, curated and hosted by the Scotland's Makar Jackie Kay.

Broadcast weekly on National Theatre of Scotland channels for 14 weeks from May 2020.

Produced by the National Theatre of Scotland in association with HOME Manchester, Edinburgh International Book Festival, School of Arts and Media, Salford and Glasgow Caledonian University.

LAMENT FOR SHEKU BAYOH

...CREATED MEANINGFUL
(DIGITAL) THEATRE

"Timely and necessary... both beautifully staged and unerringly brutal."

★★★★★

The Stage

An artistic response to the tragedy of a 31 year-old gas engineer, husband and father of two, dying in police custody on the streets of his hometown, Kirkcaldy in Fife in 2015. *Lament for Sheku Bayoh* explores the human behind the headlines and is a non-apologetic reflection on identity and racism in Scotland today.

Performed and filmed on the Lyceum's stage and streamed to audiences at home in November 2020.

Written and directed by Hannah Lavery.

A National Theatre of Scotland, Edinburgh International Festival and Royal Lyceum Theatre Edinburgh co-production written and directed by acclaimed spoken word artist and theatre-maker Hannah Lavery.

RAPUNZEL

"An exuberant musical box of treats."

★★★★★

The Guardian

A theatrical festive musical film filmed in the beautiful surrounds of Stirling Castle. A celebration of theatricality, music and storytelling led by Scottish Panto King Johnny McKnight.

Streamed online to audiences at home, schools, and care homes from 23 December 2020 to 4 January 2021 on the National Theatre of Scotland website. A specially made singalong version of the film was screened in January 2021.

Written by Apphia Campbell, Johnny McKnight, Uma Nada-Rajah, Morna Pearson, Stef Smith, Meghan Tyler and Anita Vettesse and directed by Johnny McKnight and Stewart Kyasimire.

The National Theatre of Scotland in partnership with Historic Environment Scotland.

ADAM

...CREATED MEANINGFUL
(DIGITAL) THEATRE

“Stirring and emotive TV adaptation
of an important global story about
identity and belonging.”

★★★★★
The List



Inspired by the life of Adam Kashmiry, *Adam* tells the remarkable story of a young trans man and his struggle across genders and borders to be himself. Adam Kashmiry made his TV debut playing himself.

Premiered on BBC Scotland and then broadcast as part of the BBC4 Lights Up season in March and April 2021. Still available to view on BBCiPlayer.

Co-directed by Cora Bissett and Louise Lockwood and written by Frances Poet.

Produced by the National Theatre of Scotland in association with BBC Scotland, Screen Scotland, BBC Arts' Culture in Quarantine project, and Scotland's leading theatre venues and companies, with support from Hopscotch Films.

BAFTA SCOTLAND 2021

WINNER OF BEST TELEVISION SCRIPTED

Adam
National Theatre of Scotland

VANCOUVER QUEER FILM FESTIVAL

WINNER OF AUDIENCE AWARD

Adam
National Theatre of Scotland

OTHER DIGITAL PROJECTS

We released two albums of music in 2020 on digital platforms
and one as a special CD and a podcast series.

RAPUNZEL

Soundtrack
with music by
Novasound.

LOST LIGHT - MUSIC FROM THE 306

A new stream /CD of music
from the World War One
trilogy of musical plays
created by Oliver Emanuel
(playwright) and Gareth
Williams (composer).

THE PORTAL

A twelve-part
dramatic podcast
about love, music,
drugs and deceit
created by Martin
Green, Wils Wilson
and David Greig.

THE LONGEST SUMMER

New Scenes for
Survival fundraising
single. Performed
by Richard Rankin
and composed by
Noisemaker.



IN 2020/21 WE HAVE...

...REACHED AND ENGAGED THE
BROADEST POSSIBLE AUDIENCE

Digital Artworks and Episodes - free online access

20,030,011 views

in more than 50 countries across the world

63 short films
(15 min or less)
16 episodes of
Poetry and Music (60 min +)
1 film commissioned by Edinburgh
International Festival (30 min)

Digital Artworks - ticketed access

43,122 people viewed

(including at 20 film festivals, and free screenings
at schools, hospitals and care homes)

7 long form films
6 short films

Broadcast

112,342 views

1 screen
adaptation
of a play (60 min)
18 short films

Music

57,951 downloads
and streams

2 albums
1 single

Podcasts

15,626 listens

12 episodes

OTHER AWARDS

...REACHED AND ENGAGED THE
BROADEST POSSIBLE AUDIENCE

CRITICS' AWARDS FOR THEATRE IN SCOTLAND 2020

BEST FEMALE PERFORMANCE

Anna Russell Martin
(The Panopticon)

BEST MUSIC AND SOUND

Matthias Hermann
(Thank You Very Much)

BEST ENSEMBLE

Thank You Very Much



IN 2020/21 WE HAVE...

...HAD A SIGNIFICANT POSITIVE IMPACT ON SOCIETY

PLAY DATES

A fun, interactive digital programme of free online participatory activities and workshops for children at home during lockdown.

35 episodes were released free online, including how to create and tell stories, how to use videos to tell stories and 'Unicorn dance parties', connecting with children and families at home while schools were off during the pandemic. All episodes are currently available to view on the National Theatre of Scotland website.

Created by a host of theatre makers and practitioners in Scotland.
Commissioned in association with Starcatchers and Imagineate.

THEATRE IN SCHOOLS SCOTLAND



Theatre in Schools Scotland, the schools touring programme produced by National Theatre of Scotland and Imagineate, continued to offer a creative programme to primary schools during lockdown. Shona Reppe created a new interactive digital version of her acclaimed show *Potato Needs a Bath* for 3 – 5 year olds supported by Orkney Islands Council Arts Development team with schools enjoying a livestream party in their classrooms. Catherine Wheels Theatre Company's *White: The Film* was offered to Scottish schools and Curious Seed went into development to explore new ideas around the themes of its dance theatre show *Chalk About*.

THE COMING BACK OUT BALL SOCIAL DANCE CLUBS

...HAD A SIGNIFICANT POSITIVE
IMPACT ON SOCIETY



“Being part of the social dance club really has been my greatest joy during lockdown.”

Social Dance Club participant

“It has made a tremendous difference to me coming to terms with being LGBTI+. And to feel less apprehensive about the challenges of getting older.”

Social Dance Club participant

A glorious celebration of Lesbian, Gay, Bisexual, Trans and Gender Diverse, and Intersex elders in Scotland, the LGBTI+ Elders Social Dance Clubs took place at venues around Scotland from 2019 and moving online in 2020. The project aimed to strengthen the LGBTI+ over 50s community and promote their visibility.

A series of online monthly dance clubs from April 2020 to June 2021.

A National Theatre of Scotland and All The Queens Men co-production, in partnership with Eden Court and Luminate and in association with Glasgow City Council.

BEHIND THE THEMES

A series of online discussions and post show events taking audiences “*Behind the Themes*” with lead artists and thinkers involved in National Theatre of Scotland digital projects including a special event around the *And Land Lay Still*, James Robertson’s state of the nation novel, co-produced with the Royal Lyceum Theatre, Edinburgh.

CARE IN CONTEMPORARY SCOTLAND – A CREATIVE ENQUIRY

“I’ve really enjoyed being a part of this work with NTS. As a Care Experienced person, it’s clear that so much of the representation of our lives doesn’t involve us. To be directly involved in speaking about my life through a creative process with NTS & Nicola McCartney has been really fulfilling. I’ve felt listened to, respected and understood. I’d like to commend the NTS for carrying out this project and doing so in an empowering way.”

Participant in *Holding/Holding On*, led by Nicola McCartney

Following a call out for artists, a creative six-month enquiry was launched to investigate the impact that the arts can make within a care context across Scotland. Lucy Gaizely and 21Common started engaging with learning disabled adults around their experiences within the care system during the pandemic and Nicola McCartney began her exploration of children in care, talking to care experienced adults and young people, community collaborators and sector professionals.

Supported by the Scottish Power Foundation, The Rayne Foundation, Scottish Children’s Lottery Chance to Connect, the Hugh Fraser Foundation and the John Mather Trust.

SUPPORT FOR FREELANCERS

The National Theatre of Scotland recognised the precarity of freelancers’ financial situation during the pandemic so created as many employment opportunities as possible for this community through the Company’s lockdown programme of digital work as well as well as looking at ways to improve working practices.

The National Theatre of Scotland also honoured contracts for all artists and freelancers who were due to be working with the Company when projects were cancelled from March 2020.

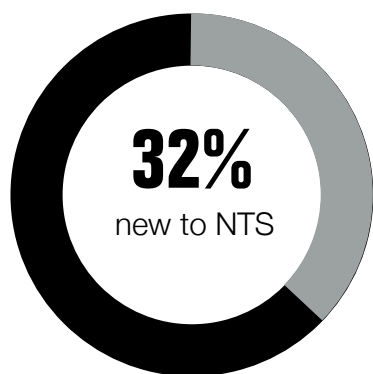
Initiatives included the setting up the *Scenes for Survival* Hardship Fund in association with the Federation of Scottish Theatre, the McGlashan Charitable Trust and leading Scottish theatre organisations, to raise money for theatre-workers; sponsoring three freelancers to join the UK Freelancer Task Force and establishing a National Theatre of Scotland internal working group to progress recommendations to improve the terms and conditions for the freelancers we work with.

FREELANCE EMPLOYMENT

...HAD A SIGNIFICANT POSITIVE
IMPACT ON SOCIETY

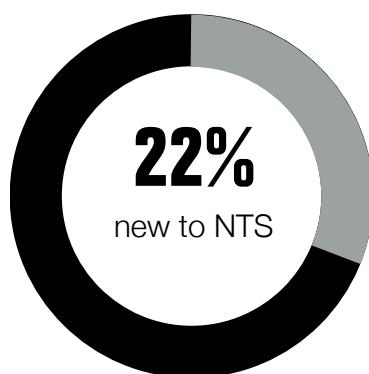
Directors

75 directors
employed



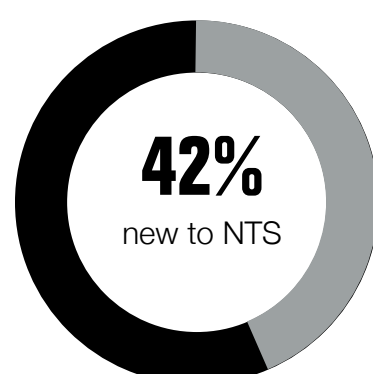
Writers

114 writers
employed



Actors

196 actors
employed
402 weeks of
employment



Stage Management

34 stage
managers
employed

162 stage
manager's
weeks

Technical Staff

47 technical
staff employed

In total, National Theatre of Scotland

contracted:

651 freelancers

and employed:

276 actors, stage managers
and technical staff

We made work with:

49 partners

Work was created in:

28 towns and cities

Across:

14 countries