****

**The National Theatre of Scotland, in association with Dundee Rep Theatre and Live Theatre, Newcastle presents**

***The Cheviot, The Stag, and The Black, Black Oil***

by **John McGrath**

Directed by **Joe Douglas**, designed by **Graham McLaren**, musical direction by **Aly Macrae,** sound designed by **MJ McCarthy** and lighting designed by **Kate Bonney.**

**The full tour includes: Pavilion Theatre, Glasgow; Coigach Hall, Achiltibuie; Pittentrail Hall, Rogart; The Byre Theatre, St Andrews; Brunton Theatre, Musselburgh; Eastgate Theatre, Peebles; Dumfries & Galloway Arts Festival; Dundee Rep Theatre; Dalmally Community Centre, Lochawe; Southend Community Hall, South Uist; Tarbert Community Hall, Isle of Harris; Latheron Village Hall, Caithness; Edderton Village Hall, Tain; Universal Hall, Findhorn; Craigmonie Centre, Drumnadrochit; Sunart Centre, Strontian; Ballachulish Village Hall, Glencoe and Gartmore Village Hall, Gartmore from 30 April to 20 June 2020 .**

**Opening performance at the Pavilion Theatre, Glasgow on 01 May 2020**

Full cast is **Stephen Bangs, Cameron Barnes, Jo Freer, Christina Gordon,** **Calum Macdonald**, **Billy Mack, Sally Swanson**, and **Charlie West**

*“It’s a story that has a beginning, a middle, but, as yet, no end…”*

Following the sold-out success of its 2019 tour, John McGrath’s legendary *T****he Cheviot, The Stag, and the Black Black Oil***returns for a new Scottish tour in 2020.

One of the country’s most iconic and influential plays, ***The Cheviot, The Stag, and the Black Black Oil*** was first staged by the 7:84 Theatre Company in the 1970s, becoming a cornerstone of contemporary Scottish theatre. Successfully restaged by director Joe Douglas in 2015, the show was produced by the National Theatre of Scotland in 2019, visiting art centres and rural communities across Scotland before the play’s English premiere at Newcastle’s Live Theatre.

The 2020 tour will open in Glasgow with a two-week engagement at the city’s famous Pavilion Theatre. It marks the first time that a National Theatre of Scotland production has visited the historic venue, one of the oldest theatre buildings in the city.

The production will then embark on the first leg of a rural tour, visiting venues in Achiltibuie, Rogart, St Andrews, Musselburgh, Peebles, and Dumfries, as well as returning to Dundee Rep Theatre, where director Joe Douglas’s revived production broke box office records in 2015. It will then tour across the Highlands and Islands, including visits to Lochawe, Uist, Tarbert, Caithness, Tain, Findhorn, Drumnadrochit, Strontian, Ballachulish, and Gartmore.

Cast members from the successful 2019 revival **Stephen Bangs, Jo Freer, Christina Gordon**, and **Billy Mack** are reunited and joined by **Cameron Barnes** and **Charlie West** for the 2020 tour. Returning cast member Calum MacDonald will also perform as part of the ensemble for the first half of the tour, from 30 April to 29 May, before Sally Swanson joins for tour dates from 01 to 20 June.

“*a quintessentially Scottish piece of theatre*”- The Guardian

*“arguably the single most important show in the history of Scottish theatre”-* The Scotsman

More than forty-five years on from its original tour, John McGrath’s pivotal political play has lost none of its vitality and relevance. A multi-talented ensemble cast of actor/musicians chart a rousing and rollicking course through Scotland’s history, expertly weaving, songs, poems, scenes and sketches into a piece of theatre with the feel of a freewheeling Highland ceilidh.

From the ruthless croft clearances of the 18th century to the fashionable Victorian game hunts, and the scars left by the ‘70s North Sea oil boom right up to the political upheaval of the current day, ***The Cheviot, The Stag, and the Black, Black Oil*** presents the stories and experiences of Scotland’s land, sea, and the people that work on them across the centuries.

***The Cheviot, the Stag and the Black, Black Oil*** is the most famous production of the 7:84 company, set up by John McGrath alongside his wife Elizabeth MacLennan and her brother David in 1971. Avowedly socialist in its outlook, its aim was to take popular, political theatre to the working classes and they performed in alternative venues throughout Scotland, England and Wales. The title of the company derived from a 1966 statistic that 7% of the population of Great Britain owned 84 % of the wealth.

Opening at the **Pavilion, Glasgow** (30 April to 09 May); **Coigach Hall, Achiltibuie** (12 May); **Pittentrail Hall, Rogart** (14 May); **The Byre, St Andrews** (16 May); **Brunton Theatre, Musselburgh** (19 May); **Eastgate Theatre, Peebles (**20 May); **Dumfries & Galloway Arts Festival** (22 & 23 May); **Dundee Rep Theatre** (26 to 29 May); **Dalmally Community Hall, Lochawe** (01 June**); Southend Community Hall, South Uist** (03 June); **Tarbert Community Centre, Isle of Harris** (05 & 06 June); **Latheron Village Hall, Caithness** (09 June); **Edderton Village Hall, Tain** (10 June); **Universal Hall, Findhorn** (12 &13 June); **Craigmore Centre, Drumnadrochit** (15 June); **Sunart Centre, Strontian** (17 June); **Ballachulish Village Hall,** **Glencoe** (18 June); **Gartmore Village Hall, Gartmore** (20 June)

Join the conversation: **#Cheviot**

**Listing Information:**

**The Pavilion, Glasgow** - Thursday 30 April – Saturday 02 May; Thursday 07 – Saturday 09 May @ 7.30pm; Saturday 02 & 09 May @ 2pm & 7.30pm

**Tickets** - £17.50-£21.50

**Access Information:**

Thursday 07 May @ 7.30pm BSL interpreted & captioned performance

**Coigach Hall, Achiltibuie -** Tuesday 12 May @ 7.30pm

**Tickets:** £10 - £12

**Pittentrail Hall, Rogart –** Thursday 14 May @ 7.30pm

**Tickets:** £10 - £12

**The Byre, St Andrews –** Saturday 16 May @ 7.30pm

**Tickets**: £16 - £18

**Brunton Theatre, Musselburgh** – Tuesday 19 May @ 7.30pm

**Tickets:** £16 - £18

**Eastgate Theatre, Peebles**- Wednesday 20 May @ 7.30pm

**Tickets:** £16 - £18

**Dumfries & Galloway Arts Festival**

Friday 22 May @ 7.30pm and Saturday 23 May @ 7.30pm

**Tickets:** £16

**Dundee Rep** – Tuesday 26-Friday 29 May @ 7.30pm; Tuesday 26 & Thursday 28 May 2.30pm & 7.30pm

**Tickets:** £22-£12 (£20-£9)

**Access Information:**

Wednesday 27 May @ 7.30pm BSL interpreted, audio described & captioned performance

**Dalmally Community Hall, Lochawe** – 01 June @ 7.30pm

**Tickets:** £10 - £12

**South End Community Hall, South Uist** – Wednesday 03 June @ 7.30pm

**Tickets:** £10 - £12

**Tarbert Community Centre, Isle of Harris** – Friday 05 & Saturday 06 June @ 7.30pm

**Tickets:** £10 - £12

**Latheron Village Hall, Caithness** – Tuesday 09 June @ 7.30pm

**Tickets:** £10 - £12

**Edderton Village Hall, Tain** – Wednesday 10 June @ 7.30pm

**Tickets:** £10 - £12

**Universal Hall, Findhorn** – Friday 12 & Saturday 13 June @ 7.30pm

**Tickets**: £12 - £14

**Craigmonie Centre, Drumnadrochit -** Monday 15 June @ 7.30pm

**Tickets:** £10 - £12

**Sunart Centre, Strontian** – 17 June @ 7.30pm

**Tickets** – £10 - £12

**Ballachulish Village Hall, Glencoe** – Thursday 18 June @ 7.30pm

**Tickets:** £10 - £12

**Gartmore Village Hall, Gartmore** - Saturday 20 June @ 7.30pm

**Tickets:** £10 - £12

**Box Office information**

**Box Office Brunton Theatre:** thebrunton.co.uk

**Box Office Dundee Rep Theatre**: dundeerep.co.uk

**Box office Byre Theatre:** byretheatre.com

**Box office Pavilion Theatre**: paviliontheatre.co.uk

**Box office for all other dates:** nationaltheatrescotland.com

Recommended Age Guide: 14+

All performances are autism friendly and all venues are fully accessible.

**Full tour dates and booking info: natinaltheatrescotland.com**

**Theatre for a Fiver** –£5 ticket deals and discount codes for 14 to 26 year olds for many National Theatre of Scotland production. Full info [here](https://www.nationaltheatrescotland.com/about/what-we-do/theatre-for-a-fiver/)

**NATIONAL THEATRE OF SCOTLAND PRESS OFFICE CONTACTS:**

**Joe Blythe – Media Officer** – [joe.blythe@nationaltheatrescotland.com](mailto:joe.blythe@nationaltheatrescotland.com)

Tel: (0141) 227 9497 M: +44 (0)7500 258 404

**Jane Hamilton – Regional Press** – [jane.hamilton@nationaltheatrescotland.com](mailto:jane.hamilton@nationaltheatrescotland.com)

M: +44 (0)7967 742491

**Emma Schad – Head of Communications** – [emma.schad@nationaltheatrescotland.com](mailto:emma.schad@nationaltheatrescotland.com)

Tel: (0141) 227 9016 M: +44 (0)7930 308018

**Press Images:** [**images available via dropbox**](https://www.dropbox.com/sh/eccu42i8g5700q6/AABNKvQ5lxgrBLnNXR_LH9fMa?dl=0)

**Creative biogs**

* **Joe Douglas** has been Artistic Director of Live Theatre since April 2018, where he recently directed *Clear White* *Light*, a play by Paul Sirett with the songs of Alan Hull of Lindisfarne. Previously he was Associate Artistic Director at Dundee Rep, where he directed *Death of a Salesman, Spoiling, The BFG, George’s Marvellous Medicine, The Resistable Rise of Arturo Ui* and John McGrath’s *The Cheviot, the Stag and the Black, Black Oil.* He was also Co-Artistic Director of touring company Utter, where he directed *Stand By, Bloody Trams* and wrote and performed *Educating Ronnie.* Other work includes: *Our Teacher’s a Troll, The Last Polar Bears, Dear Scotland* (National Theatre of Scotland), *The Red Shed, Showtime from the Frontline* (Mark Thomas), *Arabian Nights* (Lyceum), *Letters Home* (Grid Iron), *Dr Stirlingshire’s Discovery* (Lung Ha/Grid Iron) and many productions for A Play, A Pie & A Pint. His production of *Death of a Salesman* won Best Production, Best Actor and Best Ensemble at The Cats Awards 2017. His work has won four Fringe First Awards for *Educating Ronnie* (2012), *Letters Home* (2014), *The Red Shed* (2016) and *Stand By* (2017). Joe was Trainee Director at the National Theatre of Scotland 2007-8, under the Regional Theatre Young Director Scheme.
* **John McGrath:** The late John McGrath (1935-2002) was a playwright and theatre theorist. He made his name as a playwright, television writer and director, founding theatre company 7:84, as well as writing the hit TV series Z-Cars. He wrote over 50 plays for theatre and numerous feature film screenplays, and ran his own film production company, Freeway Films. He was Visiting Fellow in Theatre at the University of Cambridge, and Visiting Professor in Media Studies at Royal Holloway, University of London.

**Cast Biogs**

* **Stephen Bangs:** Theatre credits include: *Much Ado About Nothing* (Dundee Rep); *Eric the Elf's Chaotic Christmas* (Macrobert Arts Centre); *Rapunzel* (Platform); *Gagarin Way* (Mindframe TC/New Celts Productions); *Osama the Hero* (New Celts Productions); *Other* (National Theatre of Scotland); *The Speculator, The Caucasian ChalkCircle, The Sea* (all Dundee College); *Dirty Hands* (DBS Productions).
* **Cameron Barnes:** Cameron Barnes trained at the Aberdeen City Music School and the National Centre of Excellence, Plockton. As a multi-instrumentalist he has toured the world, teaching and performing with the Red Hot Chilli Pipers. He recently founded his own folk/rock band, *Break The Butterfly*, which he fronts. He made his theatre debut in *Black Watch* for the National Theatre of Scotland in 2010 and returned to appear in the James Plays trilogy in 2014. He is also a successful recording musician, his singles *Chasing Love* & *Just Smile* featured in the UK Top 50 and #1 in the World Music iTunes charts.
* **Jo Freer:** Previous productions with National Theatre of Scotland include: *Let The Right One In, House Of Bernarda Alba, Mary Queen Of Scots Got Her Head Chopped Off, Our Teacher’s a Troll and Submarine Time Machine.*

Other Theatre Credits Include: Bingo! The Musical (Stella Quines/Grid Iron), *The Twelve Pound Look* (Rapture), *The First Dance, The Company will Overlook a Moment of Madness* (Play, Pie and a Pint), *Alice in Weegieland* (Tron Theatre), *Seanmhair* (The Other Room), *Much Ado about Nothing, The Witches, Midsummer, The Cheviot, The Stag and The Black, Black Oil and Sunshine on Leith* (Dundee Rep), *Slick, How to Steal a Diamond* (Vox Motus), Communicating Doors, Little Shop of Horrors, Amadeus, Absurd Person Singular (Pitlochry Festival Theatre)*, Trumpets and Raspberries, Too late for Logic, Cinderella* (Royal Lyceum, Edinburgh*), Liar* (Citizens), *The Vagina Monologues* (Michael Harrison Productions*), Trainspotting* (York Theatre Royal). TV includes: *Scot Squad* (BBC Scotland), *Doctors* (BBC), *River City* (BBC Scotland), *Mighty Midge* (CBBC), *Emmerdale* (ITV), *Taggart* (SMG).

* **Christina Gordon:** Film & TV credits include: *Make Me Up* (Hopscotch Films); *Princess Emmy* (Studio 100 & Red Kite Animations); *Last Night Stand* (DFTV); *Starcrossed* (Tripswitch Productions); *Traffic Lights* (Breaking Point Flix); *12 Hours* (SHMU) and *Fake it Til'* *You Make it* (LoneLara); *In Plain Sight* (ITV). *McWhittington* (Glasgow Life); *Aladdin* (Glasgow Rep); *Our House, West Side* *Story* and *Godspell* (Royal Conservatoire of Scotland).
* **Calum Macdonald:** Calum Macdonald, a native Gaelic speaker from North Uist has been acting since graduating from Glasgow University in 2010. His theatre debut was in the National Theatre of Scotland's production of *Uisge Beatha gu Leor/ Whisky Galore* and he has since appeared in both of Dundee Rep’s productions of *The Cheviot, the Stag and the Black Black Oil*. He has also previously worked with Theatre gu Leor on *Shrapnel* and *Ceilidh*. As a freelance artist he presents CBBC Alba and also works as a voice over artist.
* **Billy Mack:** Billy won Best Male Performance at the Critics' Award for Theatre in Scotland 2017 for his role as Willy Loman in Dundee Rep's production of *Death of a Salesman.* He was also awarded Best Actor in *The Stage Awards 2011*for his performance in *The Overcoat*, which makes him the only performer in the history of the awards to win it twice (he also won in 2009 for his role in *The Sound of My Voice*).

Television and film credits include: the recent feature *Outlaw King* (Netflix/Loudon Productions); *Rab C Nesbitt* (Comedy Unit/BBC); *Bob Servant Independent* (BBC); *Garrow's Law* (Shed Productions/BBC); *Scottish Killers* (STV); *The 39 Steps*, *Hope Springs*, *Dear Green Place*, *Empty*, *Legit*, *Still Game*, *Monarch of the Glen* (all BBC); *Taggart*: *Pinnacle*, *The Royal*, *Taggart*: *Sins & Sinners* (all ITV); and *Orphaned* and *Toll* (Independent Films).

Theatre credits include: *The 39 Steps; Death of A Salesman; The Cheviot, the Stag and the Black Black Oil; The Resistible Rise of Arturo Ui; Much Ado About Nothing; Little Red and the Wolf; Witness for the Prosecution; Midsummer; The Winter's Tale; Mince*and *Cabaret*(All Dundee Rep); *A Streetcar Named Desire (Rapture TC); Flameproof*(Traverse Theatre/Oran Mor/Aberdeen Performing Arts); *White Gold*(Iron Oxide); *Now I Am*, *The Adventures of Robin Hood*and *The Hunted*(all Visible Fictions); *Blithe Spirit* (Perth Theatre); *The Overcoat, Continuous Growth*, *The Year of the Hare*and *Preen Back Yer Lugs!*(all Ace Productions); *Some Other Mother*(AJ Taudevin/Glasgow Tron); *Skewered Snails*(Iron Oxide/London Southbank); *A*  *Clockwork Orange*, *Othello*, *Ghosts, The Sound of My Voice (winner of 'Best* *Actor' in The Stage Awards 2009, nominated for CATS Awards 2009), Peter Pan,* *Hamlet, Wee Fairy Tales, No Mean City*and *The Twits*(all Glasgow Citizens'); *Cargo*(Iron Oxide); *The Scurvy Ridden Whale Man; Flower, Bird, Wind, Moon,* *Divided*; *The Book of Love, Short Spin*and *Wheesht!*(all Glasgow OranMor); and *Look Back in Anger, Virginia Woolf*and *Romeo and Juliet*(Stray Theatre). Billy is also a regular panto Dame!

* **Sally Swanson:** Sally Swanson is an actor-musician based in Glasgow. She has played the accordion and spoken Gaighlig since she was five years old and growing up the Highlands meant she was never far from a riotous ceilidh. Since graduating in 2018 from the MA Musical Theatre course at the Royal Conservatoire of Scotland she has been performing all over Scotland with gypsy jazz band The Old World News and swing group The Ragtime Dolls. Sally also works as musical director for the Voice of the Town choir and has recently finished a panto season in the *Jack and the Beanstalk* at the Gaiety Theatre in Ayr. She is delighted to be joining the cast of *The Cheviot, the Stag and the Black Black Oil*, especially since her family have a personal connection to the show: her grandparents’ farm- Kirkton Farm-, which has only recently been bought back from Sutherland estates, is mentioned by name in the show.
* **Charlie West:** Charlie West is an actor, singer and musician and recently performed in *Jock’s Jocks* at Celtic Connections. He trained in BA(Hons) Acting and English at Edinburgh Napier University. Other credits include: Sean in *Sea Changes* (Citadel Arts), Hans/Ruprecht in *A Night at Stobbs* (New Celts Productions), Macheath in *The Threepenny Opera* (The Attic Collective) and Angus in *A Time Travelling Panto* at Stirling Castle. Film/TV Credits include: Josh in *F.O.H. The Mockumentary* (Twist of Lime Productions).He performed as a musician in *A Field of Our Own* (Strange Town Theatre) at the Hibernian Stadium and in *Lysistrata* (The Attic Collective) at the Kings Theatre, Edinburgh. He also performed in and co-composed the score for the world premiere of *War in America* by Jo Clifford. Credits whilst training include: Lucius Bodkin in *The Clink.*

**Notes for Editors**

**Dundee Rep and Scottish Dance Theatre** Limited is the charity behind Dundee Rep Theatre and Scottish Dance Theatre. The organisation’s mission is to create unmissable experiences which engage, support and take risks. Dundee Rep and Scottish Dance Theatre sit at the cultural heart of Scotland and the City of Dundee.  Founded in 1939, the Rep is a centre of creative energy, a space for engagement with a wide range of art forms, whilst also playing a lead role in arts education and engagement across the city and beyond. Proud of its Scottish roots, the organisation looks outwards, creating and delivering work for a local audience, as well as on a national and international scale, for and with a diverse audience. At the heart of the Dundee Rep and Scottish Dance Theatre vision is the belief that artistic and creative experience of the highest quality should be open and available to all. Dundee Rep Ensemble was established in 1999 with the mission of bringing together a permanent full-time company of actors, the only company of its kind in Scotland. Dundee Rep Ensemble has created a number of award-winning productions, including *Death of a Salesman, Further than the Furthest Thing, Elephant Man, Who’s Afraid of Virginia Woolf* and many more; establishing a reputation as one of the UK’s foremost theatre companies. Scottish Dance Theatre is Scotland’s principal contemporary dance company and is fast becoming one of the foremost contemporary dance companies in Europe. The company is a research engine for dance and commissions the most exciting choreographers to make and bring original and exclusive works to Scotland and the world. The company is made up of an international team of dancers and staff who live and work in Dundee and tour extensively.

**Live Theatre** is dedicated to developing and producing new plays, by discovering, nurturing and championing new talent. It is the only English new writing theatre, outside London, to do this.For almost 50 years, Live Theatre has been creating compelling, award winning plays that speak to the people of the North East, with universal truths that appeal to a broad, national and international audience. Located on Newcastle upon Tyne’s Quayside, Live Theatre is based in a carefully restored complex of five Grade II listed buildings, combining state-of-the-art facilities in a unique historical setting with a flexible and welcoming theatre space, studio, rehearsal room and writers’ rooms.  Live Theatre draws on a broad portfolio of income streams and is recognised as a national leader in developing new strategies for increasing income and assets to support its work.Live Theatre, Broad Chare, Quayside, Newcastle, NE1 3DQ. Live Theatre is the trading name of North East Theatre Trust, a registered charity number 513771. For more information see [www.live.org.uk](http://www.live.org.uk/). Twitter & Facebook: @LiveTheatre Instagram @LiveTheatreNewcastle

**The National Theatre of Scotland** is dedicated to playing the great stages, arts centres, village halls, schools and site-specific locations of Scotland, the UK and internationally. As well as creating ground-breaking productions and working with the most talented theatre-makers, the National Theatre of Scotland produces significant community engagement projects, innovates digitally and works constantly to develop new talent. Central to this is finding pioneering ways to reach current and new audiences and to encourage people’s full participation in the Company’s work. With no performance building of its own, the Company works with existing and new venues and companies to create and tour theatre of the highest quality. Founded in 2006, the Company, in its short life, has become a globally significant theatrical player, with an extensive repertoire of award-winning work. The National Theatre of Scotland is supported by the Scottish Government. [www.nationaltheatrescotland.com](http://www.nationaltheatrescotland.com)

Scottish Government **** ****