

**National Theatre of Scotland celebrates the success of innovative digital lockdown project *Scenes for Survival* as online series comes to an end over the next six months**

* **Award-winning series with over 22 million views across all platforms**
* **National Theatre of Scotland project, delivered in association with BBC Scotland, Screen Scotland, BBC Arts’ Culture in Quarantine project, with support from Hopscotch Films, saw 55 films released in total and contributions from over 200 artists and theatre freelancers**
* **Most watched films announced, all attracting over a million views**
* **Last chance to view Scenes for Survival Films available to watch here**

[www.bbc.co.uk/scenesforsurvival](http://www.bbc.co.uk/scenesforsurvival)

[www.nationaltheatrescotland.com/scenesforsurvival](http://www.nationaltheatrescotland.com/scenesforsurvival)

* **Press Images: *Scenes for Survival* images available via** [**dropbox**](https://www.dropbox.com/sh/m5k4kdfq3riips8/AAAReG7CCDmhMTr0wrlI_j0Ba?dl=0)

“.. *and what the NTS has achieved…is to raise the bar decisively in the terms of the sheer artistry that can be brought to bear on that short format screen form…and already creating a body of work that fairly takes the breath away…”* Scotsman

*Scenes for Survival*, the innovative digital series created by National Theatre of Scotland in response to the COVID-19 outbreak, will draw to a close over the next six months. Each film will be taken down two years after it was premiered, with audiences being offered the last chance to view.

Launched with six films on the 27 May 2020, the programme saw new short artworks released online each week until the week of the 14 September 2021. To date, the programme has garnered over 22 million views across all platforms.

Five of the films achieved more than one million views – *The Longest Summer*, performed by Richard Rankin, written by Noisemaker and directed by Jemima Levick; Janey Godley’s *Alone* series Part I and II directed by Caitlin Skinner and featuring Jack Lowden; Peter Mullan’s *Fatbaws* written by Douglas Maxwell, with the most viewed single film*,The* *Domestic* by Uma Nada-Rajah, performed by Kristi McDonald reaching 4.5 million people. This film was shared widely on social amongst hospital workers. The writer, Uma Nada-Rajah was herself working as nurse during the pandemic.

Uma Nada-Rajah, writer of *The Domestic* said

*“I was on shift as a nurse in an acute area the day that the NHS rolled out the ‘no visitors' directive. It was in those murky, early days of the pandemic- no one had a clue what was going on. I went home shaken and the following day wrote The Domestic in one sitting. I'm really pleased that it seems to have touched people”*

Audience response

“*Lovely! A thank you to all the hospital domestic staff who are the human face we all need at times*”

“*Wonderful, moving performance giving a thanks to all the fab domestic workers out there*”

“*You had me hen! I was riveted. Reminded me of so many domestics who do such great work*”

“*This brought me right back to the Southern General Hospital. Your performance makes me vividly see some of the domestics and auxiliaries I used to work alongside. They done (still do) a fantastic job with very little recognition. It is absolutely brilliant*”

*Danni The Champion*, a powerful short drama from Iain Findlay Macleod shot on the Isle of Lewis, was selected for screening at seven international film festivals. The film was directed by Laura Cameron-Lewis and features Stornoway actor Francesca Taylor Coleman in her professional debut.

***Scenes for Survival*** won one of the 2020 RNIB See Differently - Coronavirus Heroes Awards, which celebrated making the series fully accessible with audio description, captioning and BSL introductions while *Fatbaws,* a surreal and hilarious short film written by Douglas Maxwell, directed and performed by Peter Mullan, was nominated for a Scottish BAFTA.

The audio described version of *Aleister Crowley Summons the Devil* by Denise Mina, directed by Amy Liptrott and performed by Gordon Houston is now the most watched National Theatre of Scotland YouTube video of all time.

The project was delivered 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, and saw a host of Scottish performers, writers, and directors create short pieces of digital theatre remotely from their personal spaces of isolation, with films released online for audiences to enjoy for free.

***Scenes for Survival*** served as an inventive alternative online season of short works, following the enforced cancellation of productions and performances from the National Theatre of Scotland, as well as by venues and theatre companies across Scotland.

*“Scenes for Survival are short, sharp missives that are sure to strike a chord during the current crisis… an intriguing, thought provoking theatrical fix”* Scottish Daily Mail

“*Over the last year NTS have gathered a lush array of creatives … to build a sparkling online theatre space which can be accessed from the comfort of your home.”* Artmag

The ***Scenes for Survival*** short dramatic works have been online, and free for audiences to view, for two years. A selection of ***Scenes for Survival*** films was also released on BBC iPlayer, as well as being broadcast on the BBC Scotland channel in August 2021.

The 55 short pieces of digital theatre were created by some of Scotland’s most exciting performers, writers, directors, and other creatives working remotely from their personal spaces of isolation. These were filmed from locations across Scotland and the UK, including Ayrshire, Brighton, Dundee, Edinburgh, Fife, Glasgow, Hertfordshire, Liverpool, London, Midlothian, Motherwell, Paisley, Perthshire, Stirling and Stornoway, as well as international locations as far-flung as Dublin, New York and Seoul, South Korea. The season has been viewed by audiences from 52 countries.

*Scenes for Survival* served as a conduit for continuing to offer paid opportunities to artists, performers, and other theatre freelancers during a uniquely challenging time. Over 200 creatives and freelancers worked on the project. More than a third of artists involved in *Scenes for Survival* were working with National Theatre of Scotland for the first time, including over half of the writers commissioned for the project.

The season of works also acted as a platform to raise money for a new hardship fund for artists and those in the theatre industry who had been hardest hit financially by the current crisis. Launched by National Theatre of Scotland in association with the Federation of Scottish Theatre, the McGlashan Trust, and leading Scottish Theatre organisations, all donations to the fund went directly to providing support for Scottish theatre workers most impacted by the current crisis.

All *Scenes for Survival* films can be found and watched here:

* [www.bbc.co.uk/scenesforsurvival](http://www.bbc.co.uk/scenesforsurvival)
* [www.nationaltheatrescotland.com/scenesforsurvival](http://www.nationaltheatrescotland.com/scenesforsurvival)

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

**Jane Hamilton – Media and Communications officer –**[**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: +44 (141) 227 9016 M: +44 (0)7930 308018

**Notes for Editors**

**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)

**About Culture In Quarantine**

BBC Arts’ Culture in Quarantine initiative was an essential arts and culture service across BBC platforms that started during the pandemic, which kept the arts alive in people’s homes, focused across BBC Radio 3, BBC Radio 4, BBC Two, BBC Four, BBC Sounds, BBC iPlayer and www.bbc.co.uk/bbcarts. Culture in Quarantine was created in consultation and collaboration with organisations like Arts Council England and other national funding and producing bodies.

**Scenes for Survival information**

Scottish theatre organisations supporting *Scenes for Survival* include: Aberdeen Performing Arts, An Lanntair, The Gaiety, Birds of Paradise, the Beacon Arts Centre, the Byre Theatre, Citizens Theatre, Cumbernauld Theatre, Curious Seed, Dumfries & Galloway Arts Festival, Dundee Rep Theatre, Eden Court Highlands, Imaginate, Lyth Arts Centre, Macrobert Arts Centre, Magnetic North, Perth Theatre, Pier Arts Centre, Playwrights Studio, Pitlochry Festival Theatre, Queen Jesus Productions, Royal Lyceum Theatre Company, Shetland Arts, Solar Bear, Studio Fir Chlis, Summerhall, Stellar Quines, Theatre Gu Leor, the Tron Theatre and the Traverse Theatre.

Artists involved in the Scenes for Survival project have included:

**Performers**: Moyo Akandé, Saskia Ashdown, Jasmin Ewing Asname, Victoria Balnaves, Maureen Beattie, Oliver Bennett, Cora Bissett, Mark Bonnar, Ronan Burns, Neshla Caplan, Morven Christie, Andy Clark, Jo Clifford, Francesca Taylor Coleman, Amy Conachan, Nicole Cooper, Brian Cox, Alan Cumming, Kate Dickie, Martin Donaghy, Brian Duffy, Liz Ewing, Kirsty Findlay, Gilly Gilchrist, Julie Graham, Douglas Henshall, Dani Heron, Ava Hickey, Gordon Houston, Katherine Howden, Isabella Jarrett, Emma King, Eilidh Loan, Laura Lovemore, Jack Lowden, Thierry Mabonga, Natalie MacDonald, Ross Mann, Patrick Martins, James McArdle, Martin McCormick, Kristi McDonald, Lorraine Mcintosh, Brooklyn Melvin, Afton Moran, Natalie Moore Williams, Ashleigh More, Gerry Mulgrew, Taqi Nazeer, Julie Wilson Nimmo, Jatinder Singh Randhawa, Richard Rankin, David Rankine, Annie Louise Ross, John Scougall, Elaine C Smith, Lawrence Smith, Molly Vevers, Daibhidh Walker, Jonathan Watson, Tracy Wiles, and Natalie Moore Williams.

**Writers:** Finn Anderson, Peter Arnott, Apphia Campbell, Rob Drummond, Philippe Ducros, Andy Edwards, Oliver Emanuel, Stewart Ennis, Jenni Fagan, Janice Galloway, Kevin Gilday, Catherine Grosvenor, Nelly Kelly, Aine King, Hannah Lavery, Ian Low, Iain Finlay Macleod, Iain Macrae, Douglas Maxwell, Nicola McCartney, Liam McCormick, Val McDermid, Andy McGregor, Kathy McKean, Alan McKendrick, Johnny McKnight, Linda McLean, Denise Mina, Rona Munro, Noisemaker ( Scott Gilmour & Claire McKenzie), Michael John O’Neill, Morna Pearson, Frances Poet, Lynda Radley, Uma Nada-Rajah, Ian Rankin, Corinne Salisbury, Stef Smith, Tena Štivičić, May Sumbwanyambe, Luke Sutherland, Meghan Tyler, Bea Webster, and Irvine Welsh

**Writer-performers**: Richard Conlon, Janey Godley, Liz Lochhead, and Gail Watson.

**Director/performers**: Peter Mullan and Tam Dean Burn

**Writer/Director/Performer:** Sanjeev Kohli & Greg McHugh

**Directors**: Davey Anderson, Andy Arnold (Artistic Director of the Tron Theatre), Justin Audibert, Cora Bissett, Jordan Blackwood, Nick Bone, Liz Carruthers, Christine Devaney and Tam Dean Burn, Graham Eatough, Julie Ellen (Artistic Director of Macrobert Arts Centre), Morag Fullarton, Heather Fulton, Leonie Rae Gasson, Nic Green, Debbie Hannan, Ben Harrison, Finn den Hertog, Dominic Hill (Artistic Director of the Citizens Theatre), Shilpa T-Hyland, Natalie Ibu, Emily Ingram, Niloo- Far Khan, Nazli Tabatabai-Khatambakhsh, Muireann Kelly (Artistic Director of Theatre Gu Leòr), Lu Kemp (Artistic Director of Perth Theatre), Maggie Kinloch, Jemima Levick (Artistic Director of Stellar Quines Theatre Company), Laura Cameron Lewis, Amy Liptrott (Associate Director at Pitlochry Festival Theatre), Fiona MacKinnon, Morag McKinnon, Sarah McCardie, Peter McMaster, Beth Morton, Cameron Mowat, Katherine Nesbitt, Eve Nicol, Jack Nurse, Orla O’Loughlin, Andrew Panton (Artistic Director of Dundee Rep Theatre), Sally Reid, Stasi Schaeffer, Louise Shephard, Kolbrún Björt Sigfúsdóttir and Caitlin Skinner.

**Writer/directors**: Robert Softley Gale (Artistic Director of Birds of Paradise), David Greig, Zinnie Harris, Greg Hemphill, Isobel McArthur and Gerda Stevenson.

**Additional creatives**: Susan Bear, Matt Elliott, Lewis den Hertog, Dougal Gudim, Zoe Irvine, Fi Johnston, Danny Krass, Andrew Eaton Lewis, Simon Lidell, Rob MacNeacail, Michael John McCarthy, Kim Moore, Pippa Murphy, Shereen Nanjiani, Elizabeth Newman (Artistic Director of Pitlochry Theatre), Rab Noakes, Matt Padden, Patricia Panther, Tom Penny, Nick Powell, Travis Reeves, Carrie Skinner, Scott Twynholm, and Tom Urie.

