



National Theatre of Scotland presents

Car a' Mhuiltein | Somersaults

By Iain Finlay Macleod

A new Gaelic short film

Car a' Mhuiltein | Somersaults will premiere on National Theatre of Scotland digital channels on 20 February 2023 to mark World Gaelic Week.

National Theatre of Scotland presents ***Car a' Mhuiltein | Somersaults***, a new Gaelic short film by Gaelic playwright Iain Finlay Macleod. The short film is part of the Company's ongoing commitment to Gaelic artists and to the creation of short digital artworks and will be released on 20 February to mark World Gaelic Week.

"I sometimes wonder what it would be like to be the last speaker of a language.

All your jokes would be private jokes. All your secrets would go to the grave with you."

Questions of identity, belonging and a sense of self are universal, no matter what language you speak. Our mother tongue links us to our past, it connects us to our families, it echoes around the buildings we inhabit, and it is interwoven into our identities. But what happens if that link disappears?

Shot on the Isle of Lewis and featuring archive footage from his family's traditional weaving craft and home movies, this new deeply personal digital artwork is inspired by Iain Finlay Macleod's 2011 stage production for the National Theatre of Scotland. ***Car a' Mhuiltein | Somersaults*** is a poetic exploration of language and how it defines who we are.

Iain Finlay Macleod is from the Isle of Lewis in the Western Isles of Scotland. His work for National Theatre of Scotland includes the award-winning, short film *Danni the Champion*, directed by Laura Cameron-Lewis. Produced in association with An Lanntair and Studio Fir Chlis which won acclaim at a host of international film festivals, picking up a nomination as well in the Celtic Media Awards. The international festivals include: 30th Flickerfest International Short Film Festival 2021, Venice Shorts 2020, Chicago Indie Film Awards 2020, Breakout Film Festival 2020 & 2021, Short to the Point October 2020, 59th Ann Arbor Film Festival and Tokyo International Short Film Festival 2021. Stage work for the Company includes *Whisky Galore/Uisge-Beatha Gu Leòr* and *Somersaults*, the 2011 stage production on which this short film is based.

The National Theatre of Scotland works in partnership with Gaelic led organisations (including partnering Glasgow Life's Gaelic arts programme GUR), to create artistic development opportunities for Gaelic artists. Gaelic language, along with Scotland's other indigenous languages (Scots and BSL), regularly features in English language productions as well as in bi-lingual stage/screen works.

Previous National Theatre of Scotland productions featuring Gaelic and exploring Gaelic cultural history include: *The Cheviot, The Stag, and The Black Black Oil* and *Rocket Post*.

Rocket Post was filmed at a special performance in Harris, and subsequently toured with the Screen Machine to small communities, and was broadcast at Gaelic schools for a special series of screenings with workshops, as well as part of Mòd Ghlaschu at Glasgow's CCA.

Company work with Gaelic artists in lockdown included: two short films as part of the acclaimed Scenes for Survival series with BBC Scotland and BBC Arts: *Dirlo - Am Fear Maireann / Dirlo - The Survivor*, a haunting Gaelic-language short from writer Iain Macrae, directed by Liz Caruthers, produced in association with Theatre Gu Leòr; and *Danni the Champion*, a powerful short from writer Iain Finlay Macleod, directed by Laura Cameron Lewis, produced in association with An Lanntair and Studio Fir Chlis.

***Car a' Mhuiltein | Somersaults* will premiere on National Theatre of Scotland digital channels on 20 February 2023 (at 11am) and will be free to watch.**

**To access a private press preview of the film, contact
jack.oliver@nationaltheatrescotland.com**

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Lead Artist Biography

Iain Finlay Macleod – writer and film-maker

Iain Finlay Macleod is from the Isle of Lewis in the Western Isles of Scotland. Some of his plays include *Whisky Galore*, *Somersaults* (National Theatre of Scotland), *Archipelago* (Eolie Soge Theatre Company, France), *The Bends* (RSAMD), *The Devil Masters*, *The Pearlfisher*, *I was a Beautiful Day*, *Broke* and *Homers* (Traverse Theatre). Iain Finlay wrote *St Kilda - The Opera*, a large scale multi-discipline theatre piece which was shown at the Edinburgh International Festival in 2009. This was shown simultaneously in five different countries in 2008. Iain Finlay was an Associate Artist at the National Theatre of Scotland from 2013-2015. He was the Robert Louis Stevenson Fellow in 2009-2010. He was writer-in-residence at Sabhal Mor Ostaig, the Gaelic College in Skye, for two years. He was also Associate Playwright at the Scottish Playwright's Society for two years

NOTES TO 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

Theatar Nàiseanta na h-Alba a' taisbeanadh

Car a' Mhuiltein | Somersaults

Iain Fionnlagh MacLeòid

Film ghoirid ùr Ghàidhlig

Chithear *Car a' Mhuiltein | Somersaults* airson a' chiad uair air sianalan didseatach Theatar Nàiseanta na h-Alba air 20 Gearran 2023 gus Seachdain Ghàidhlig na Cruinne a chomharrachadh.

Tha Theatar Nàiseanta na h-Alba a' toirt thugaibh ***Car a' Mhuiltein | Somersaults***, film ghoirid ùr Ghàidhlig leis an dràmadair Ghàidhlig Iain Fionnlagh MacLeòid. Tha am film ghoirid na pàirt de dhealas leantainneach a' chompanaidh a thaobh luchd-ealain Ghàidhlig is cruthachadh air obraichean-ealain didseatach goirid, agus thèid a sgaoileadh air 20 Gearran gus Seachdain Ghàidhlig na Cruinne a chomharrachadh.

“Bidh mi uaireannan a' smaoineachadh cò ris a bhiodh e coltach a bhith nam labhairtiche deireannach air cànan.

Bhiodh na h-abhcaidean agad uile nan abhcaidean dìomhair. Dheigheadh na rùintean-dìomhair agad uile don uaigh còmhla riut.”

Tha ceistean mu dhearbh-aithne, buntainneas agus faireachdainn de fèin-aithne, uile-choitcheann ge 'r bith dè an cànan a labhras tu. Tha ar cànan màthaireil gar ceangal ris an àm a dh'fhalbh, tha e gar ceangal ri ar teaghlaichean, tha e mar mhac-talla mu thimcheall nan togalaichean sa bheil sinn a' còmhnaidh agus air fhighe a-steach do ar dearbh-aithne. Ach dè thachras ma dh'fhalbhas an ceangal?

Air a chur air bhonn air Eilean Leòdhais agus a' nochdadh dhealbhan tasglainn bho dhealbhan dachaigheil mu fhighe traidiseanta a theaghlaich, tha an obair-ealain ùr dhidseatach fhìor phearsanta seo air a brosnachadh leis an riochdachadh stèidse 2011 aig Iain Fionnlagh MacLeòid do Theatar Nàiseanta na h-Alba. Is e rannsachadh bàrdachdail air cànan a th' ann an ***Car a' Mhuiltein | Somersaults*** agus mar a tha e a' dearbhadh cò sinn.

Tha Iain Fionnlagh MacLeòid à Eilean Leòdhais ann an Eileanan Siar na h-Alba. Tha an obair aige do Theatar Nàiseanta na h-Alba a' gabhail a-steach an fhilm ghoirid is buannaiche dhuaisean, *Danni the Champion*, air a stiùireadh le Laura Cameron-Lewis. Riochdaichte ann an co-bhonn leis An Lanntair agus Stiudio Fir Chlis, a' buannachadh moladh aig grunn fhèisean film eadar-nàiseanta, a' togail ainmeachadh sònraichte a thuilleadh air aig Duaisean nam Meadhanan Ceilteach. Am measg nam fèisean tha: 30mh Fèis Film Ghoirid Eadar-nàiseanta Flickerfest 2021, Venice Shorts 2020, Duaisean Film Indie Chicago 2020, Fèis Film Breakout 2020 is 2021, Short to the Point san Dàmhair 2020, 59mh Fèis Film Ann Arbor agus Fèis Film Ghoirid Eadar-nàiseanta Tokyo 2021. Tha obair stèidse don Chompanaidh a' gabhail a-steach *Whisky Galore/Uisge-Beatha Gu Leòr agus Somersaults*, an riochdachadh stèidse 2011 air a bheil an fhilm ghoirid seo stèidhichte.

Tha Theatar Nàiseanta na h-Alba ag obair ann an com-pàirteachas le buidhnean an sàs ann an Gàidhlig (a' gabhail a-steach com-pàirt le prògram ealain GUIR Ghlaschu Beò), airson cothroman leasachaidh ealanta do luchd-ealain Ghàidhlig. Tha a' Ghàidhlig, còmhla ri cànanan tùsail eile na h-Alba (Albais is BSL), a' nochdadh gu cunbhalach ann an riochdachaidhean Beurla a thuilleadh air obraichean stèidse / sgriona dà-chànanach.

Am measg riochdachaidhean eile le Theatar Nàiseanta na h-Alba san robh Gàidhlig a' nochdadh agus eachdraidh chultarach Ghàidhlig ga rannsachadh, tha: *The Cheviot, The Stag, and The Black Black Oil* agus *Rocket Post*. Chaidh *Rocket Post* fhilmeadh aig gnìomhadh sònraichte anns na Hearadh, agus às dèidh sin chaidh e air chuairt leis an Screen Machine gu coimhearsnachdan beaga, mus deach a chraobh-sgaoileadh ann an sgoiltean Gàidhlig airson sreath shònraichte de sgrionaidhean le bùithtean-obrach, a thuilleadh air pàirt de Mhòd Ghlaschu anns an CCA ann an Glaschu.

Am measg obair don Chompanaidh le luchd-ealain Ghàidhlig aig àm a' ghlasaidh-sluaigh, tha: dà fhilm ghoirid mar phàirt den t-sreath chliùiteach *Scenes for Survival* le BBC Scotland agus BBC Arts: *Dirlo - Am Fear Maireann / Dirlo - The Survivor*, film ghoirid dhrùidhteach ann an Gàidhlig bhon sgrìobhaiche Iain MacRath, air a stiùireadh le Liz Carruthers, riochdaichte ann an co-bhonn le Theatre Gu Leòr; agus *Danni the Champion*, film ghoirid chumhachdach bhon sgrìobhaiche Iain Fionnlagh MacLeòid, air a stiùireadh le Laura Cameron Lewis, agus riochdaichte ann an co-bhonn leis An Lanntair agus Stiudio Fir Chlis.

Bidh Car a' Mhuiltein | Somersaults a' nochdadh airson a' chiad uair air sianalan didseach Theatar Nàiseanta na h-Alba air 20 Gearran 2023 (aig 11m) agus bidh e an-asgaidh a choimhead.

Gus cothrom fhaighinn air lèirmheas phrìobhaideach mheadhanan den fhilm cuiribh fios gu jack.oliver@nationaltheatrescotland.com

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Eachdraidh-beatha a' Phrìomh Neach-ealain

Iain Fionnlagh MacLeòid – sgrìobhadair is dràmadair

Tha **Iain Fionnlagh MacLeòid** à Eilean Leòdhais ann an Eileanan Siar na h-Alba. Am measg cuid de na dealbhan-cluiche aige, tha *Whisky Galore*, *Somersaults* (Theatar Nàiseanta na h-Alba), *Archipelago* (Companaidh Theatar Eòlie Sòge, An Fhraing), *The Bends* (RSAMD), *The Devil Masters*, *The Pearlfisher*, *I was a Beautiful Day*, *Broke and Homers* (Theatar an Traverse). Sgrìobh Iain Fhionnlaigh *St Kilda - The Opera*, pìos theatair ioma-chuspaireil mòr-sgèile a chaidh a thaisbeanadh aig Fèis eadar-nàiseanta Dhùn Èideann ann an 2009. Chaidh seo a thaisbeanadh aig an aon àm ann an còig diofar dhùthchannan ann an 2008. Bha Iain Fhionnlaigh na Cho-Neach-ealain aig Theatar Nàiseanta na h-Alba bho 2013-2015. B' e esan Co-phàirtiche Robert Louis Stevenson ann an 2009-2010. Bha e na sgrìobhaiche air mhuinntearas aig Sabhal Mòr Ostaig, a' Cholaiste Ghàidhlig san Eilean Sgitheanach, airson dà bhliadhna. Bha e cuideachd na Cho-Dhràmadair aig Comann Dràmadairean na h-Alba airson dà bhliadhna.

NOTAICHEAN DO LUCHD-DEASACHAIDH

Tha **Theatar Nàiseanta na h-Alba** coisrigte do chluich air na stèidsichean mòra, ionadan ealain, tallachan baile, sgoiltean agus àiteachan làrach-shònraichte na h-Alba, an RA agus gu h-eadar-nàiseanta. A thuilleadh air riochdachaidhean gun choimeas a chruthachadh agus a bhith ag obair leis na dèanadairean theatair as tàlantaiche, tha Theatar Nàiseanta na h-Alba a' toradh phròiseactan cudromach an lùib choimhearsnachdan, ag ùr-ghnàthachadh gu didseatach agus ag obair an-còmhnaidh gus tàlant ùr a leasachadh. Aig teis-meadhan seo, 's e a bhith a' lorg dhòighean air luchd-èisteachd làithreach agus ùra a ruighinn agus làn chom-pàirteachadh dhaoine a bhrosnachadh ann an obair a' Chompanaidh. Às aonais togalach gnìomhaidh dhaibh fhèin, tha an Companaidh ag obair le ionadan-cruinneachaidh agus companaidhean a th' ann a-cheana agus feadhainn ùra gus theatar den chàileachd as àirde a chruthachadh agus a thoirt air chuairt. Stèidhichte ann an 2006, tha an Companaidh na bheatha ghoirid, air a thighinn gu bhith na chluicheadair theatair cudromach air feadh na cruinne le stòras de dh'obair a bhuannaich duaisean.

Tha Theatar Nàiseanta na h-Alba a' faotainn taic bho Riaghaltas na h-Alba.

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