



SPOTLIGHT

on your
National Theatre of Scotland

A Quarterly Update
For Donors and Supporters
April 2023



WELCOME

Hello again, dear donors and supporters, and welcome to the latest edition of Spotlight. Spring is here! It's getting lighter, warmer and another National Theatre of Scotland programme is up and running.

By the end of April, NTS productions, co-productions, projects and presentations will have reached audiences in Golspie, Greenock, Tain, Inverness, Springburn, New York City, Pumpherston, Montrose, Musselburgh, Edinburgh, Busby, Alexandria, Dumbarton, Livingston, Newton Mearns, Livingston, Dundee and Berkeley, California.

And that's just the beginning.

By the end of the year we'll have taken our work to 40 venues across Scotland and beyond, from the Edinburgh Festival Theatre to the Strathpeffer Pavilion, Nairn Community & Arts Centre to the Heart of Hawick.



We'll be following the Highland Games circuit, presenting our new all-female backhold wrestling drama *Thrown*.

We'll play the country's grandest stages and its smallest community halls. We'll be in schools and shopping centres, in cinemas, museums and on the radio.

We're expanding our online Portal, an incredible free resource for schools and youth theatres. We're bringing you comedy, horror, adventure, football, politics and much more.

We'll be working to support new artists, help teachers and inspire young people about the possibilities of a career in the creative arts.

We'll be loaning out free rehearsal space and technical equipment.

And we'll be using our resource to enable national touring of some incredible existing work.

The guiding mission behind all this work is to make extraordinary, relevant theatre by, with and for contemporary Scotland. This is our commitment each and every year.

Putting together each season of work is a wonderful challenge that the team here relishes.





There's never quite enough resource to do everything we'd like to do – difficult choices have to be made - but we are so grateful to have you beside us, helping to make it possible for us to realise so many ambitions from one year to the next.

I hope you're looking forward to our 2023 season – thank you all very much for helping to make it happen.

Best wishes,

Jackie

Artistic Director and Chief Executive



PROGRAMMING THE 2023 SEASON

Artistic Director and CEO Jackie Wylie talks us through the process and principles behind the programming of a season of work at National Theatre of Scotland.

WATCH HERE



KIDNAPPED: A SWASH-BUCKLING ROM-COM ADVENTURE

Audiences across the country have had their hearts warmed and their swashes buckled by Kidnapped. It's touring until 20th May – dates and tickets available [here](#)



Kidnapped – Mihaela Bodlovic



"KIDNAPPED IS A PIECE OF THEATRICAL BRILLIANCE"

Theatre Scotland



"SCOTTISH THEATRE AT ITS ABSOLUTE FINEST"

Broadway World



"THE WHOLE THING IS SUCH A LAUGH"

The Stage

WATCH THE TRAILER [HERE](#)



Kidnapped – Mihaela Bodlovic



Kidnapped – Mihaela Bodlovic

Some are born great, some achieve greatness... and then there's Davie Balfour.

19-year-old Davie has never left home, never been kissed and never fired a gun. Armed with nothing but a hand-drawn map, he heads off on an adventure like no other – quickly realising that he has a lot of catching up to do...

This riotous re-telling of Robert Louis Stevenson's adventure novella is jam-packed with 20th century pop music and 18th century romance. Performed by a dynamic ensemble of actor-musicians, Kidnapped is a colourful coming-of-age story - shot-through with Stevenson's trademark blend of poetry, humour and heart.

Join Davie as he navigates murderous foes, Jacobite outlaws and the most inept crew of pirates this side of the Atlantic on a journey of eye-opening discovery and treasures untold.

 **Alan Greenwood**
@AlanGreenwood_ · Follow

Took elder daughter to see fun, vibrant, smart #NTSKidnapped at @lyceumtheatre today. She was transfixed from start to finish. Would recommend to anyone hoping to inspire love of theatre in young persons. It's touring Scotland - go, go, go!

2:03 AM · Apr 16, 2023

[Read the full conversation on Twitter](#)

11 · Reply · Share

[Read 1 reply](#)

 **DEBORAH BEVERIDGE**
@Mrsbee0607 · Follow

@NTSONline - loved Kidnapped today. Congratulations to all on stage and behind the scenes. Isobel McArthur - bravo - again. 🎉🎉

Ends 22 April - get your tickets.

8:53 PM · Apr 19, 2023

1 · Reply · Share

[Read more on Twitter](#)

 **Sandra Bagnall**
@BagnallSandra · Follow

@lyceumtheatre @NTSONline Kidnapped- what a treat. Absolutely loved it 🍷🍷🍷

11:15 PM · Apr 19, 2023

2 · Reply · Share

[Read more on Twitter](#)

BLACK WATCH TARTAN

It's been 17 years since Black Watch first wowed audiences at the Edinburgh International Festival. Since then it's gone on to tour the world, winning hearts and minds, and plenty of awards along the way, and establishing itself as part of the rich fabric of Scottish cultural life. An iconic excerpt from the show has been featured as part of the V&A Dundee's Tartan exhibition, open now until January 2024.

The 'Fashion' sequence shows the dressing of the young soldier Cammy, by the rest of the company, with a chronology of Black Watch uniforms from 1739 up until 2004. This scene is choreographed by Associate Director Steven Hoggett and staged as a catwalk-meets-history lesson. The centuries old Black Watch tartan and the red hackle are globally recognised and are vital and significant parts of the regiment's identity.

As part of this, in March, students from Dundee's Morgan Academy had the chance to present questions to the show's writer Gregory Burke and director John Tiffany. Both were asked if they thought Black Watch could ever have been made if weren't a publicly subsidised National Theatre of Scotland production, where the process could be given the time, space and resource it needed to become such a huge success.

WATCH [HERE](#)





THE PORTAL

Black Watch is one of the latest titles to be added to the National Theatre of Scotland online Portal, a fantastic free hub of resources designed to support teachers and secondary school students, youth theatres and home educators to watch and study selected productions from our programme.

Later this year we'll be adding new captures of Kidnapped, Thrown and Dracula: Mina's Reckoning.

PRODUCTION RESOURCES



BLACK WATCH

Hurling from a good room in Fife to an armoured wagon in Iraq, *Black Watch* is based on interviews conducted by Gregory Burke with former soldiers.

[FIND OUT MORE](#)



ENOUGH OF HIM

From writer Nig Sinnerweycombe, a striking study of the dynamics of power: between slaves and free men, servants and masters, and husbands and wives.

[FIND OUT MORE](#)



JAMES IV: QUEEN OF THE FIGHT

With wit and theatricality, playwright Fiona Murray and director Laura Sammon take us back to a thrilling and uncharted period of Scottish history.

[FIND OUT MORE](#)



EXODUS

How far will a politician go?

[FIND OUT MORE](#)



MEDEA

A powerful, visceral production of Liz Lochhead's award-winning adaptation of a classic.

[FIND OUT MORE](#)



THE STRANGE CASE OF DR Jekyll AND MR HYDE

A thrilling new hybrid version of Robert Louis Stevenson's classic story, conceived and directed by Hope Dickson Leach.

[FIND OUT MORE](#)

COMING SOON



THROWN

A politically powerful and playful new production about Scottish Brexiters. Wrestling led by Neil McCleary and directed by Johnny McKnight.

[COMING SOON](#)



DRACULA: MINA'S RECKONING

A thrilling new version (after Bram Stoker) by Mirra Pearson directed by Sally Cookson, relocated to Aberdeen.

[COMING SOON](#)



KIDNAPPED - A SWASHBUCKLING ROM-COM ADVENTURE

Some are born great, some achieve greatness... and then there's David Ballou.

[COMING SOON](#)

ARTIST RESIDENCIES

One crucial part of the National Theatre of Scotland's remit is to nurture and support emerging theatre artists, to make sure that the next generation is in safe hands, and to make sure that opportunities exist for a diverse range of artists to ultimately influence a programme that is truly national and truly representative of contemporary Scotland.

Across 2022 and 2023, our Discover and Develop Artists Residencies offered artists and artist collectives the opportunity to develop new work, supported with an increased budget, access to studio space, equipment, technical advice, NTS staff and networks, alongside producing and dramaturgical support.

We had the chance to sit down with two of those artists, as well as our Artist Development Producer Rhea Lewis.

IN CONVERSATION WITH THEO SEDDON AND CHINYANTA KABASO – WATCH [HERE](#)



MAYA AND THE WHALE

The pioneering Theatre In Schools Scotland (TISS) programme is a collaboration between National Theatre of Scotland and Imagine, Scotland's national organisation promoting, developing and celebrating theatre and dance for children and young people.

The project was initiated in 2016 to support and develop the touring of high quality theatre and dance performances to Scotland's schools and nurseries.

Since then TISS productions have toured to all 32 of Scotland's local authorities, delivering over 1,000 performances to just under 90,000 pupils and teachers.



The latest production to tour Scotland earlier this year was *Maya and the Whale*, the story of a young climate activist on the run, grappling for hope amid unfolding global disasters. Maya finds herself face to face with a dying whale and is confronted with the enormity of the task ahead. Her dad works in the oil industry and her mum just wants her to enjoy a childhood free of worry, but how can she go about business as usual when there's a Climate Emergency?

The audience plays the part of the dying whale in this darkly comic and provocative one woman show for a generation faced with unprecedented challenges.

The show toured sustainably across the country, with all performers travelling to schools by bike, supported by public transport.





THE BANK OF SPRINGBURN

As part of the National Theatre of Scotland's Neighbourhood Project - through which the company is getting to know its North Glasgow neighbours, award-winning poet and theatre-maker Kevin P. Gilday has been curating a fantastic, diverse range of free performances and activities at the Bank of Springburn, a pop-up arts space in a former bank unit within Springburn Shopping Centre.

Karen Dunbar dropped in last week for a special Q&A screening of her new documentary film Karen Dunbar's School of Rap, along with the five Springburn women who star in the film. The programme has included live hip-hop, acoustic and folk music, comedy, poetry, history talks, writers' workshops, tea and coffee drop-ins and cabaret.

Here's Kevin explaining what it's all about-

WATCH [HERE](#)



Connection is our Currency by Kevin P Gilday



Bank of Springburn – Robin Currie

DOGS OF NTS

In previous editions of Spotlight, we've got to meet some members of the NTS team.

An increasingly important and sizeable part of that team are the NTS pooches, who bring a great deal of joy and comfort to our Rockvilla headquarters.

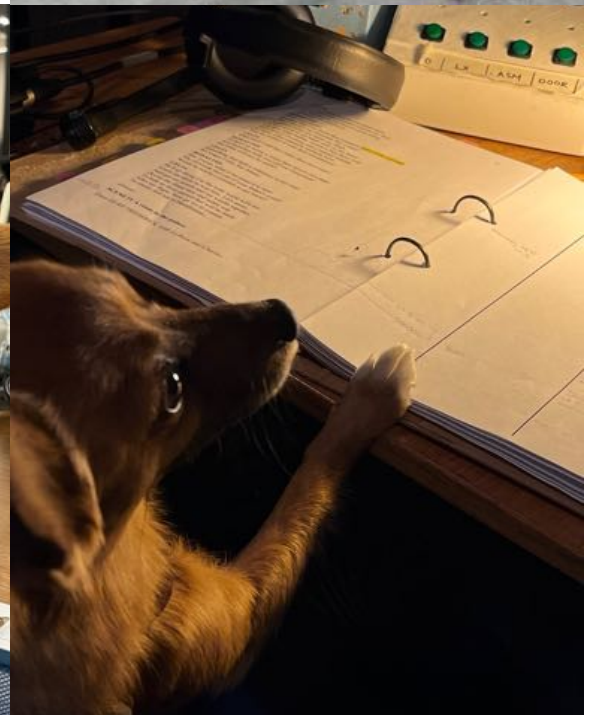
First up is the queen bee herself, Miss Jellybean.

NAME: Jellybean

DEPT: Audience & Media

SKILLS: Social media (check out her Instagram @jamminwithjellybean), desktop-compatible, interpersonal skills, fashion.

FAVOURITE NTS SHOW: Currently loving Kidnapped (#justiceforsandy)



NEXT TIME IN SPOTLIGHT

DEAR BILLY

A musical celebration of The Big Yin takes on an epic Scottish tour.



THROWN

Things are about to get funny, loud and brutal in the wild world of women's backhold wrestling.



DRACULA: MINA'S RECKONING

We get a peek inside the scariest rehearsal room of the year.



And much more...

Huge thanks to you for your generous support, helping us to turn dreams and ambitions into reality.

With love from your Development Team,
Stella, Adam and Anne-Marie.

**[NATIONAL
THEATRE
OF SCOTLAND]**