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**PRESS RELEASE – 17 March 2023**

***The Bank of Springburn***

**At the Bank of Springburn, connection is our currency.**

**4 to 29 April 2023 at Unit 29, Springburn Shopping Centre**

**A National Theatre of Scotland creative engagement project.**

**Free for everyone**

**PRESS IMAGES CAN BE FOUND** [**HERE**](https://www.dropbox.com/sh/9qr1ppfp14nfiiy/AACosfZFb-DeKRUWkzbE_Whza?dl=0)

The **Bank of Springburn** is open again for business, a pop-up arts hub for the community to relax in and enjoy throughout April 2023 with a programme of leading Glasgow based entertainment talent.

As part of National Theatre of Scotland’s **Neighbourhood Project**, award-winning poet and theatre-maker **Kevin P Gilday** will be taking up a residency in a former bank in Springburn Shopping Centre in April 2023. ***The Bank of Springburn***is a community arts space, where everything is free, and the only transactions are powered by the people.

The cultural pop-up will bring people together acting as a hub for the community where they can enjoy a warm, welcoming space as well as hosting a range of creative workshops, drop-ins and live performances.

The Bank will host free poetry and writing workshops and other special events throughout the month of April including live performances every Saturday afternoon on 8, 15, 22 and 29 April with a host of Glaswegian/Scottish artists loaning their talents to provide free, exceptional local entertainment.

The Bank is also hosting a ***Poetry Take Away***, where visitors can order a bespoke poem, written by Kevin P Gilday, about any subject personal to them, and collect it 30 minutes later.

The first Saturday afternoon offers a cabaret with performance poetry from the award-winning **Annalise Broughton**, comedy from rising star of Scottish stand-up **Christopher Macarthur-Boyd** and music from the impressive up and coming emcee **Empress**. (8 April)

The second Saturday promises a very special opportunity to view **Karen Dunbar’s School of Rap**, a new BBC Scotland documentary film, which sees thecomic embark on a unique musical mission to help a group of five elderly women from North Glasgow unearth their inner rap star. The film will be introduced by Karen herself, followed by a Q and A. (15 April)

A musical line up is being served up on the third Saturday with headliners folk singer-songer writer **Mima Merrow**, and **Hunter &** **McMustard**, the popular duo who perform folk music with a social and global consciousness, supported by local acts from Springburn college. (22 April)

On the final Saturday **Paul Sweeney MSP** and **Norry Wilson** of Lost Glasgow are returning to the Bank, by popular demand, to give a talk with illuminating insights into the history of the area. (29 April).

There are opportunities also for local community groups and young people who will use the space for workshops and informal performances including Beatroute Arts, Springburn College, Springburn Academy and New Rhythms for Glasgow.

The **Bank of Springburn** has also been set up to celebrate the rich cultural heritage of this post-industrial working-class community. Stories and memories of the area from community members are welcomed and there will be an opportunity for these to be turned into a podcast during the residency.

**Kevin P. Gilday** is an award-winning poet, writer and performer from Glasgow. He is the founder of poetry performance collective The Scribbler's Union and was co-founder of much loved spoken word cabaret night Sonnet Youth. He is a National Theatre of Scotland Breakthrough Writer, a BBC Writersroom Scottish Voice and one of Scotland’s most celebrated contemporary poets.

**Kevin Gilday** said:

*“The Bank of Springburn is a project about connection. About opening up space in our community and celebrating what makes us unique. As a Springburn resident I wanted to have a space to connect with the amazing community I saw around me in our vibrant neighbourhood, but I also wanted to invite the world to us - to open up the doors to a part of the city that has been cut off and neglected for so long. This is an invitation to join us, to create with us, to discover the rich history of one of Glasgow's most important areas.*

*I am delighted to welcome a host of amazing artists into the space. Some are talented friends that I have watched grow in stature to become much loved members of Glasgow’s artistic community, others are new acts that I have discovered in the past year and desperately wanted to showcase. Every one of them will bring something special to the space. This is a diverse and exciting programme that wouldn’t be out of place in an esteemed city centre venue.*

Gilday is working alongside the National Theatre of Scotland’s creative engagement team, and the residency is part of the **Neighbourhood Project** series.

The **Neighbourhood Project** is a series of artistic residencies and projects working alongside communities close to the National Theatre of Scotland’s facility, Rockvilla, in the North of Glasgow. Since settling in the area, the Company has developed and been involved in several community facing projects and events involving specific groups, artists and local audiences including participation in the annual Canal festival, Glasgow Doors Open Day, *Submarine Time Machine,* *Little Amal* and *Fly the Flag.* The Neighbourhood Project offers opportunities for collaboration and partnerships and for National Theatre of Scotland to develop relationships in and around the area.

**The *Bank of Springburn* will be open at Unit 29, Springburn Shopping Centre from 4 to 29 April 2023. The Bank is free to all for drop ins.**

**Saturday events on 8, 15, 22 and 29 April are bookable at nationaltheatrescotland.com**

**Full schedule can be found** [**here.**](https://www.nationaltheatrescotland.com/get-involved/the-neighbourhood/bank-of-springburn)

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**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](http://www.nationaltheatrescotland.com/)

**ARTISTS AND ACTS BIOGRAPHIES**

**Kevin P. Gilday** is an award-winning poet, writer and performer from Glasgow. He is the founder of poetry performance collective The Scribbler's Union and was co-founder of much loved spoken word cabaret night Sonnet Youth. He is a National Theatre of Scotland Breakthrough Writer, a BBC Writersroom Scottish Voice and one of Scotland’s most celebrated contemporary poets.

Kevin has performed all over the world, from Hollywood to East Kilbride, including major festivals (BBC 6Music Festival, Glastonbury), Fringes (Edinburgh, Toronto, Vancouver), literary festivals (EIBF, Verve) as well as large scale tours of the UK, Europe, the US and Canada. He has supported artists and public figures such as Akala, Saul Williams, George the Poet, Jackie Kay, Liz Lochhead, Sage Francis, The Silencers and Jeremy Corbyn MP. He has published five books of poetry, with his most recent - Anxiety Music - released by Verve Press in September of 2022 to universal acclaim.

He is an experienced theatre-maker with a range of writing, directing and performing credits. His theatre work includes *Spam Valley* (★★★★★ - The Wee Review), *Courier Culture* (★★★★★ - The Scotsman), *Suffering from Scottishness* (★★★★ - The Scotsman), *Exiles* (★★★★★ - The Morning Star), *Gigantic Lying Mouth, thick skin, elastic heart* and *Confessionals* (★★★★ - The Herald). His work has been performed in venues such as Oran Mor, Tron Theatre, Assembly Roxy, Lemon Tree, Byre Theatre, Beacon Arts Centre, Village Pub Theatre, Eden Court, The Revue Stage (Vancouver) and Tarragon Theatre (Toronto). He has twice been shortlisted for the Scottish Short Play of the Year Award.

Under the guise of Kevin P. Gilday & The Glasgow Cross, he has released two albums of alternative electronic music – *Experience Essential* and *Pure Concrete* – in collaboration with multi-instrumentalist Ralph Hector via Glasgow label Iffy Folk Records.

**Empress** is one of the country's best emcees. She has received national and international airplay and has successfully collaborated with artists such as Loki, Steg G and The Glasgow Barons.

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**Annaliese Broughton** is a working-class poet, performer and community facilitator based in Ayrshire. Her work responds to social injustices, ‘taboo’ subjects and things she finds interesting, annoying, or funny. In 2022, Annaliese was delighted to have her work broadcast on BBC Radio 1Xtra, be invited on Radio 4’s Front Row and see her poem New Meanings beautifully animated by Adelina Court (produced by Calling the Shots). Recently she was chosen by Hollie McNish as the winner of the McLellan Poetry Prize for her poem We Did Not Know which highlights and subverts the stigma placed on people who live in council housing. Currently, Annaliese is loving life playing an alien called ‘Dave’ in Super Special Disability Roadshow with Birds of Paradise Theatre Company.

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Born and bred in Glasgow, **Christopher Macarthur-Boyd** is a rising star of Scottish stand-up.

Christopher co-starred in two series of BBC Scotland’s Up For It. Other TV credits include hosting BBC Scotland’s The Comedy Underground and Breaking The News. Christopher has also worked across Frankie Boyle’s New World Order on BBC Two.

An award winning stand-up, Christopher won Best Breakthrough Act at the 2019 Scottish Comedy Awards and being listed the 59th, on a list of 60, funniest person in Scottish history.

Christopher Macarthur-Boyd is also a hugely talented comedy writer, with pieces appearing in The Skinny, The National and Glasgow Times. Christopher’s TV writing credits include Dave’s Late Night Mash.

**Karen Dunbar’s School of Rap**

Renowned Scottish comedian and actress Karen Dunbar has turned her hand to something rather unexpected – teaching people to rap! In doing so she has discovered how spoken word can empower people to tell their own stories, regardless of who they are or where they’re from.

*Karen Dunbar’s School of Rap* sees the comic embark on a unique musical mission to help a group of five elderly women from North Glasgow unearth their inner rap star. Over four workshop sessions, Karen joins forces with Maggie, Susan, Wilma, Betty and Jean, inspiring them to write a song based on their own life experiences.

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**Hunter & McMustard** write lowlander contemporary alternative folk and roll with bluegrass, rockabilly, country, folk and comedy influences. An eclectic modern take on folk music with a social and global consciousness. Their passion for the environment and rewilding has led them to write and perform Born To Rewild, a walking gig theatre show performed outdoors in nature at Vogrie Pogrie Festival, the Govan Wetlands Project and Kelburn Garden Party. With a 2023 Scottish tour and invite to play New York Tartan Week as well as a host of Scottish festivals this is a big year for the dynamic duo.

**Colonel John McMustard** is the frontman of genre hopping ultimate festival band Colonel Mustard and The Dijon 5. Colin Hunter is an Ayrshire born and bred singer songwriter with heartfelt emotive lyrics that have seen him support acts as diverse as Pictish Trail and Kyle Falconer.

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**Mima Merrow** is an Irish singer-songwriter based in Glasgow. She left Belfast at 18 to live in Glasgow and soon she will have been away from home for as long as she was there.

Merrow’s sound is a unique blend of alternative folk characterised by longing, sudden changes in direction, and melodies that ache.  Fascinated by the relationship between our environments and bodies, her thoughtful lyricism is held together by intimacy, honesty, and stories that challenge her listeners.

Mima released her debut album, Almost Home, in September 2022. It explores the idea of home; where it is, who is allowed there, the rituals and rites of passage that bring it together.

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Formerly MP for Glasgow North East, **Paul Sweeney** is currently a Scottish Labour and Co-operative MSP for the Glasgow Region.

Prior to becoming a politician, Paul was an engineer with BAE Systems, an Account Manager at Scottish Enterprise and an Army Reservist.

His interests include transport and infrastructure policy; urban planning and regeneration; and preservation of architectural, cultural and industrial heritage.

Paul is a Fellow of the Institute of Engineers in Scotland; the Founder, Chair and Trustee of the Springburn Winter Gardens Trust; a Trustee of the Glasgow City Heritage Trust and a Trustee of the Egyptian Halls Trust.

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**Lost Glasgow** is devoted to the documentation, discussion and appreciation of Glasgow's changing architecture and its community throughout the last few centuries.

Journalist and social historian **Norry Wilson** has had a lifelong fascination with his home city. He first fell down the vintage photography rabbit hole while working on the Evening Times. Think of him as the ‘Raider of the Lost Archives’.

Now, with over 300k online followers on his Lost Glasgow site, he continues to tickle the city's collective memory muscle, teasing out old stories, forgotten facts, and the lost histories hidden in the photographic record of old Glasgow.

