



PRESS RELEASE – 25 January 2024

National Theatre of Scotland's 2024 programme

- A year of world premieres, tours and work at all scales, on stages across Scotland, England and beyond, a programme of work for younger audiences, plus artist's residencies, events, a touring exhibition and film and digital projects.
- Four world premieres, the return of two hit shows, back by popular demand, three productions at the Edinburgh Festivals and nine touring productions.
- Touring to 45 venues across 28 locations in Scotland, England and Europe.

Extraordinary stories told by exceptional Scottish talent.

Season 2024 images [here](#)

Jackie Wylie, Artistic Director said

"We are delighted to be offering audiences a packed theatrical programme in 2024 with, thrilling new productions alongside acclaimed shows that we have brought back by popular demand.

We are proud to honour icons and celebrate artists that help define and shape our cultural identity.

As Scotland's National theatre company, who tour tirelessly throughout Scotland, we want to bring a sense of community togetherness, pride in our nation's creativity and the chance to have a brilliant night out, for audiences, locally or indeed further afield.

We are acutely aware that we continue to live in challenging times. Global politics, the aftermath of the Covid years and the cost of living crisis all have ongoing impacts for the creative and cultural industries and the brilliant Scottish artists who create theatre with us.

National Theatre of Scotland has always held a lens up through which we can view ourselves, as a nation, as a society and never more so than in this programme. Through the sharing of important stories, that tell us about ourselves, we explore our shared humanity. Climate activism, youthful protest, the enslaved Joseph Knight who made his bid for freedom, the great Billy Connolly, the Margaret Thatcher years, working class culture, teenage Cosplay, Country music, masculinity and the late great Beldina Odenyo all share the spotlight in our 2024 programme.

Young people hold a special place in our programme. We are committed to ensuring they are involved with the National Theatre of Scotland from Primary School onwards, through our productions with Theatre in Schools Scotland, our touring work to venues and through participation in projects with leading theatre-makers.

We thank our partners, our supporters and funders, the venues we are touring to, the artists, the crews and the freelancers who make our work, all those who participate and most

importantly our audiences who energise us through their commitment and enthusiasm for the joy of theatre”.

NEW PRODUCTIONS

- **THE FIFTH STEP**, a thrilling and provocative new play written by David Ireland and directed by Finn den Hertog. The taut two-hander features Jack Lowden, returning to Scottish stages for the first time since his theatrical debut in *Black Watch* in 2010. **The Fifth Step** will preview at Dundee Rep Theatre before opening at the Royal Lyceum Theatre, for a week’s run as part of the 2024 Edinburgh International Festival and then end with a week’s run at The Pavilion Theatre, Glasgow in August 2024.
- **JUNE CARTER CASH: THE WOMAN, HER MUSIC AND ME**, a new play written and performed by Charlene Boyd sharing the story of one of country music’s most iconic voices: June Carter Cash, directed by the multi-award-winning Cora Bissett. **June Carter Cash: The Woman, Her Music and Me** opens at the Edinburgh Festival Fringe ahead of a tour of Scottish cultural venues. A co-production with Grid Iron.
- **THANK U, NEXT**, a new dance theatre piece exploring the contemporary culture of cosplay, created by leading radical performance collective 21Common working with teenagers across Scotland. They will produce four unique productions presented at schools in Glasgow, Cumbernauld, Grangemouth and Lochgelly, for a run of public performances in February and October 2024 and then again in March 2025. Each production will be directed by 21Commoners Lucy Gaizely and Gary Gardiner, and performed by a mixed group of professional performers, school pupils and young collaborators who were involved in the original development of the piece.

PREVIOUSLY ANNOUNCED

- **MAGGIE & ME**, is a bold and explosive new production based on Damian Barr’s award-winning and darkly witty memoir about growing up gay in Thatcher’s Britain, adapted by Damian Barr and James Ley, directed by Suba Das. Opening at the Tron Theatre in Glasgow, before touring to Inverness, Perth, Cumbernauld, Dundee, Northampton and Edinburgh in Spring 2024. Full creative team announced.
- **DEAR BILLY**, a love letter to the Big Yin returns to Scottish stages after a successful tour of Scotland in 2023. Written and performed by Gary McNair, and directed by Joe Douglas, this critically acclaimed celebration of Billy Connolly will be heading to Aberdeen, Glasgow and Inverness before coming to the Assembly Rooms as part of the Assembly Festival programme for the Edinburgh Festival Fringe in August.

NEWLY ANNOUNCED - RETURN OF AN AWARD-WINNING PRODUCTION

- **ENOUGH OF HIM**, the incisive and emotive, award-winning and critically acclaimed play based on the true story of Joseph Knight returns to stages in 2024. *Enough of Him*, written by May Sumbwanyambe and directed by Orla O’Loughlin with Omar Austin reprising his role as Joseph, will open in Edinburgh in October 2024 before touring to Dundee, Aberdeen, Chichester and Coventry. A co-production with Pitlochry Festival Theatre.

IN ASSOCIATION WITH PRODUCTIONS

- **AN ACCIDENT / A LIFE**, an exciting new collaboration between Marc Brew and Sidi Larbi Cherkaoui. The semi-autobiographical piece has its world premiere at Holland

Dance Festival in February 2024 before arriving in Glasgow for the UK premiere at Tramway in March 2024 ahead of further European international tour dates.

- **SHŌ AND THE DEMONS OF THE DEEP**, a timely new production for younger audiences aged 8 and over, from Independent Arts Projects (IAP) in association with National Theatre of Scotland. **Shō and the Demons of the Deep** is a visual adventure story about overcoming fear, climate crisis, and how the actions of one generation can affect the next, written by Zoë Bullock and directed by Shilpa T-Hyland, touring across Scotland in April and May 2024.
- **TERO BURU**, a new play by the late, great Beldina Odenyo has been posthumously interpreted by Beldina's sister, Leah McAleer and directed by Julia Taudevin. Beldina's friends and collaborators have joined together with Leah to bring Beldina's debut play to an audience. **Tero Buru** will be performed in Glasgow in autumn 2024, with full details of dates and venue to be announced.
- **PROTEST**, Natalie Ibu's acclaimed production of Hannah Lavery's new play embarks on a new tour across the UK, following a successful tour in 2023. Presented by Fuel, Imagine and Northern Stage in association with National Theatre of Scotland, the show takes a timely look at the right to protest from the perspective of three young girls. Opening in Edinburgh in January, then touring to Newcastle, London, Nottingham, Harrogate, Cambridge, Colchester, Coventry, Poole, Plymouth and Exeter until March 2024.
- All 2024 productions will be produced to the Theatre Green Book intermediate standard with 75% of all materials having been pre-used.

DIGITAL/BROADCAST/ARTISTS IN RESIDENCE/CREATIVE ENGAGEMENT

- A new short film by multi-disciplinary artist Gillian Katungi, who creates work under the name of PAIX, produced in partnership with the Africa in Motion Film Festival, inspired by her album **Metamorphosis: Feeling My Way (to Freedom)**.
- **The Strange Case of Dr Jekyll and Mr Hyde**, director Hope Dickson Leach's new version of Robert Louis Stevenson's classic story, co-written with Vlad Butucea, will be screened at the Victoria Film Festival in 2024 and can still be viewed on Sky Arts. Adapted from the original novella and relocated from London to Edinburgh, this film is a coproduction with Selkie Productions, supported by Screen Scotland and Sky Arts.
- Two new artists in residence Ross Mackay and Guy Woods will develop new plays and Alison Burnley and Ellie Davies from RiffRaff Producing will take up their role as artists in residence in the Highlands in partnership with Eden Court Theatre.
- A further two new artists in residence, Roisin McLinden and Eoin McKenzie will develop community inspired work for the Company's Neighbourhood project in North Glasgow.
- A packed programme of Artist Development and Creative Engagement opportunities – including new digital productions to be added to **NTS' Education Portal**, **Creative Career** insight sessions for High School students, **First Night** opportunities for community groups across Scotland, a special creative industries event as part of the BBC's **Bring the Drama** festival at Rockvilla and **Portraits of an LGBTI+ Generation** exhibition continues to be shown at Western General Hospital until summer 2024.
- **Theatre in Schools Scotland** continues bringing world class theatre to primary and secondary school pupils in their schools. Five productions will be touring in 2024. **Pogge and Me** by Barrowland Ballet; **One of Two** by Jack Hunter, presented by Independent Arts Projects; **Ginger** presented by Tortoise in a Nutshell; **Cloud Man**

by Constellation Points/Ailie Cohen and Lewis Hetherington, presented by Scottish Theatre Producers and ***Going for Gold: Me and Linford Christie*** by Victoria Beesley, presented by Catherine Wheels Theatre Company.

- Theatre for a Fiver tickets available across the majority of productions and venues for 14 to 26-year-olds and those on low-income benefits.

FULL INFORMATION ON PRODUCTIONS AND PROJECTS

NEW PRODUCTIONS

World Premiere

A National Theatre of Scotland production

THE FIFTH STEP

By **David Ireland**, directed by **Finn den Hertog**

With **Jack Lowden**

***The Fifth Step* will open as part of the 2024 Edinburgh International Festival at the Royal Lyceum Theatre, following preview performances at Dundee Rep Theatre and will then tour to the Pavilion Theatre, Glasgow in August 2024**

The Fifth Step is a thrilling and provocative new play written by **David Ireland** and directed by **Finn den Hertog**, Associate Artist with National Theatre of Scotland. The taut two-hander features **Jack Lowden**, marking his return to the Scottish stage for the first time since his debut in *Black Watch* in 2010. ***The Fifth Step*** will preview at Dundee Rep Theatre before opening at the Royal Lyceum Theatre, for a week's run as part of the 2024 **Edinburgh International Festival** and then end with a short run at The Pavilion Theatre, Glasgow in August 2024.

"The point is to divest yourself of shame... It's about getting clean."

Thirty something Luka is new to Alcoholics Anonymous and looking for a sponsor. James is older, has been in the programme for years, surely he's the perfect person to shepherd the younger man through each of the twelve steps on the road to recovery? Or maybe life just isn't that simple.

In a programme that requires both of them to come to terms with their past, can Luka and James face their transgressions to find a new way of living?

Featuring **Jack Lowden** as Luka, ***The Fifth Step*** is **David Ireland's** grimly comic, provocative new play about men, intimacy and what we choose to put our faith in.

"The work of David Ireland is a spectacular defence of free speech and the right to offend... (he) is the only British writer using theatre for extreme physical and intellectual provocation of audiences." The Guardian

David Ireland is a Northern-Irish playwright and actor, best known for his plays *Cyprus Avenue* and *Ulster American*. He is based in Scotland. *Cyprus Avenue* made its Scottish premiere at the Tron Theatre in 2023, with lead actor David Hayman winning Outstanding Performance at the Critics' Awards for Theatre Scotland (CATS), The show returns to Scottish stages in 2024. *Ulster American* made its debut at the Edinburgh Fringe Festival at

the Traverse Theatre and has recently been revived in an exclusive limited eight week run in London with Woody Harrelson, Andy Serkis and Louisa Harland.

Finn den Hertog is a director, writer and actor, and an Associate Artist with the National Theatre of Scotland. Most recently he directed *The Enemy*, which marked NTS' return to live touring theatre in 2021 and the short film *Wednesday* as part of the *Scenes for Survival* series. Based in Glasgow, den Hertog runs the theatre company *groupwork*, alongside choreographer Vicki Manderson and video designer Lewis den Hertog. Other directing credits include *Wings Around Dundee* (Dundee Rep Theatre), *Earwig* (Tron Theatre), *The Afflicted* (groupwork), *Square Go* (Francesca Moody Productions) and *Ten New Messages* (Young Vic). He is directing *Sunset Song* for Dundee Rep in spring 2024.

Jack Lowden said:

*"I have long been an admirer of David Ireland's craft, his ability to provoke an audience with the boldness and brilliance of his writing. I am delighted to be returning to the theatre this year in his thrilling new play **The Fifth Step**.*

I am also very much looking forward to being in a rehearsal room in Glasgow with David and director Finn den Hertog and taking all the exciting theatrical steps towards premiering the production at the Edinburgh International Festival in August 2024."

Jack Lowden is an acclaimed Scottish actor who trained at the Royal Conservatoire of Scotland. He first worked with National Theatre of Scotland early in his career, when he took on the lead role of Cammy in the 2010-11 revival tour of the Olivier-award winning play *Black Watch*.

He has won numerous awards including BAFTA Scotland awards for Best Actor in British film *Calibre* and for his role as Siegfried Sassoon in *Benediction*, and an Olivier Award for Best Supporting Actor in *Ghosts* at The Almeida. He has appeared in many films including *Fighting With My Family*, *Mary Queen of Scots* and *Dunkirk*. TV shows include his breakout role in BBC's *War and Peace*, and most recently BBC's *The Gold* and Apple TV's *Slow Horses*.

He last worked with National Theatre of Scotland in 2020, in Janey Godley's short film *Alone II*, part of the *Scenes for Survival* series created in lockdown. His other stage work includes *Chariots of Fire* (Hampstead and Gielgud Theatres), *Electra* (Old Vic) and most recently *Measure for Measure* at the Donmar Warehouse.

Previewing at **Dundee Rep Theatre**, opening at the **Royal Lyceum Theatre, Edinburgh** (Edinburgh International Festival) and touring to **Pavilion Theatre, Glasgow** in August 2024.

Full cast and dates to be announced.

The full **Edinburgh International Festival** programme will be announced on **7 March 2024**. Tickets will be on sale on **21 March 2024**, with priority booking for members.

On social: **#FifthStep**

World Premiere

National Theatre of Scotland and Grid Iron present

June Carter Cash: The Woman, Her Music and Me

Written and performed by **Charlene Boyd**, directed by **Cora Bissett**

Designed by **Shona Reppe**

Premiering at the Edinburgh Festival Fringe in August 2024

Touring to The Barn, Banchory; Òran Mór, Glasgow; Dumfries and Galloway; Arran; The Ceilidh Place, Ullapool and Findhorn Bay Festival (Forres Hall) from 27 August to 22 September 2024 with additional venues to be announced.

Charlene Boyd, one of Scotland's leading actors shares the story of one of country music's most iconic voices: June Carter Cash, directed by the multi-award-winning **Cora Bissett**, ***June Carter Cash: The Woman, Her Music and Me*** opens at the Edinburgh Festival Fringe ahead of a tour of Scottish cultural venues.

June Carter Cash was a country singer, songwriter and dancer. She played guitar, banjo, harmonica and autoharp, winning five Grammy awards across her career. She came from a family of country singers and was the second wife of Johnny Cash. Their relationship was celebrated in the Oscar-winning 2005 film, *Walk the Line*. A new documentary about "June", received its TV premiere on Paramount+ in 2024. This is the first stage play to premiere about June's life and music in the UK.

More than a simple biography of June's life and music, this play with songs, sees Charlene explore her own relationship with her musical heroine and their common experiences as performers and working mothers; a shared tale of empowerment, endurance and perseverance.

Charlene Boyd travelled to Nashville and across the Appalachian Mountains to research this play. She visited places that held special significance in June's life and interviewed friends and family of June Carter Cash, alongside contemporary American country singer-songwriters.

The show will feature live music and will be staged in a cabaret style setting, inspired by Nashville's legendary Bluebird Café. **Charlene Boyd** gets to grips with a life less ordinary in this raw, honest, and authentic piece of intimate gig theatre.

Charlene Boyd, writer and performer said:

"I've sang in a band as June Carter Cash for over a decade but knew nothing about her really. I thought she was the pretty backing singer who sang along with Johnny Cash, then married him. It wasn't until I started to dig that I realised how incredible June was in her own right, as an artist, woman and mother. I am proud that my first play shines a light on working class women artists and their struggle to be given their rightful place."

Charlene Boyd is a Scottish actor and writer, born and raised in Glasgow. ***June Carter Cash: The Woman, Her Music and Me*** marks her debut as a playwright. As an actor she most recently undertook the UK tour of *2:22 A Ghost Story* and appeared in *The Macbeths* at the Citizens Theatre, for which she was nominated for Best Actress at the CATS Awards in 2019. Charlene has previously worked with National Theatre of Scotland on the productions *Men Should Weep*, *Empty* and *The Miracle Man*. Her television work includes *Mayflies*, *The Trial of Christine Keeler*, *Crime S2*, *River City* and *Scots Squad*. She also performs, as June, with *Jericho Hill*, in a Johnny Cash tribute band.

Cora Bissett is a Scottish theatre director, playwright, actor and songwriter. Previous work with National Theatre of Scotland includes the hit political musical *Glasgow Girls, Rites, Adam, Interference* and *Orphans*. Other theatre work includes Emma Donohue's *Room*, which toured to London, across Scotland, Dublin and Toronto, the hit rock-music production *Janis Joplin: Full Tilt* and autobiographical gig theatre production *What Girls Are Made Of*, which won a Fringe First and Herald Angel award. From 2014 until 2022, Bissett was an Associate Director with the National Theatre of Scotland.

Founded in 1995, **Grid Iron** is a multi-award-winning Edinburgh-based new writing theatre company who specialise in site-specific and location theatre, although they have also created work for conventional stages. **Grid Iron** have previously collaborated with National Theatre of Scotland on *Roam*, a site-responsive production staged in Edinburgh Airport.

Grid Iron have worked previously with **Charlene Boyd** on *Barflies, Letters Home* and *The Devil's Larder* and with **Cora Bissett** on *Clearance, The Bloody Chamber, Fierce* and *Yarn*.

The Cash family has connections to Scotland. Johnny Cash claimed his ancestors were from the Kingdom of Fife and was very proud of his Scottish ancestry. Cash visited Fife on more than one occasion, recording a television special there, *Christmas in Scotland*, in 1981. June's daughter Carlene Carter is making a special appearance at Celtic Connections in February 2024.

Opening at **Edinburgh Festival Fringe** August 2024; and touring to **The Barn, Banchory** (27 & 28 August); **Óran Mór, Glasgow** (30 August to 1 September); **The Ceilidh Place, Ullapool** (17 & 18 September) and **Forres Hall as part of the 5th Findhorn Bay Festival** (21 & 22 September).

The show is also touring to Arran and Dumfries and Galloway with venues and additional tour dates to be announced.

On social: **#JuneandCharlene #JuneCarterCash**

A National Theatre of Scotland production

In association with Bellahouston Academy, Cumbernauld Theatre, Cumbernauld Academy, Falkirk Council, Grangemouth High School, OnFife and Lochgelly High School

Thank U, Next

Created by 21Common

Directed by **Lucy Gaizely** and **Gary Gardiner**

Video Designer - **Dan Brown**, Set Designer - **Jenny Booth**, Costume Designer - **Nicki Martin-Harper** and Lighting Designer - **Michaella Fee**

Performed by **Craig McCorquodale, Dan Brown, Lachlan Payne** and **Sally Donnelly** and **teenagers from each school**.

Corporate Sponsor: **Savendie**

Supported by: **William Grant Foundation, Binks Trust** and **The McGlashan Trust**

Performances in Bellahouston Academy, Glasgow in February 2024, Lanternhouse Theatre (Cumbernauld Academy) in October 2024 and in Grangemouth High School, Falkirk and Lochgelly High School, Fife in March 2025.

Leading radical performance collective 21Common are working with teenagers across Scotland in 2024 and 2025 to make four unique productions of a new dance theatre piece, ***Thank U, Next***, exploring the contemporary culture of Cosplay. The production will be presented at schools in Glasgow, Cumbernauld, Falkirk and Fife for a run of public performances in February and October 2024 and then again in March 2025.

Each production will be directed by 21Commoners **Lucy Gaizely** and **Gary Gardiner**, and performed by a mixed cast of professional performers, school pupils and young collaborators who were involved in the original development of the piece.

A costume drama, with cosplay not corsets...

Young people today are flexing when it comes to their identities. It's hard to survive in a world where you are expected to assimilate and conform; going to school, observing mundane and meaningless tasks, banking all that you need for a glittering future.

But some young people are escaping. Some are regularly changing, transforming themselves into villains, heroes, and protagonists, living more than the life you think you see.

Thank U, Next dives into the worlds of Cosplay, shapeshifting, memification and virtual realities.

"I'd say I'm mainly a mix of Bubblegum Goth, Dark Academia and Angel-core, but Zoex has been slaying as Coconut Girl recently and I'm kinda into that, and Toni has been giving major Christian Autumn Girl feels and so maybe I'll change it up."

It asks the audience the question, what is it like growing up in a world where you can literally be anything you want to be and what happens when you must face your true self in the mirror?

A gig in a high school like no-other, a high-energy, multi-media, dance theatre experience performed against a soundtrack of popular music.

The project will see 21Common and National Theatre of Scotland take up a five-week residency in **Bellahouston Academy** and subsequent three-week residencies in **Cumbernauld Academy, Grangemouth High School, Falkirk** and **Lochgelly High School** to create the performance with young people.

This production follows the success of the participation model of **LIKE FLYING**, an acclaimed performance project, created by Nic Green with the National Theatre of Scotland that took up residency in schools in 2019, 2022 and 2023.

21Common said:

*"We are delighted to work with NTS and young people from around Scotland to create **Thank U, Next**. We believe young people to be the bravest and most creative of artists and can't wait to share the collaborations with the rest of the world."*

Ariana Grande's song and honorary show title comes from an enduring interest that 21Common have with popular culture, capitalism and young people. The fascination we

have with pop music and celebrity as well as youth cultures always provides a starting point for the creation of our work.”

21Common is an award-winning interdisciplinary performance collective based in Glasgow, led by Lucy Gaizely and Gary Gardiner and one of Scotland’s leading learning-disabled artist Ian Johnston. They create performance art and experimental theatre which challenges the accepted and expected, rooted in the desire to affect social change.

National Theatre of Scotland’s previous collaborations with **21Common** include the digital lockdown project *Non Optimum: When It’s Safe To Do So*, a film, dance collage and artistic enquiry revealing the lives of four learning disabled protagonists when the vital services they are dependent on suddenly stop. Lucy Gaizely was also co-curator on *Futureproof* the Company’s Scotland-wide festival of performance co-created with young people in 2018.

Touring to **Bellahouston Academy** (15 & 16 February 2024), **Lanternhouse Theatre/Cumbernauld Academy** (10 & 11 October 2024), **Grangemouth High School, Falkirk** (6 & 7 March 2025) and **Lochgelly High School, Fife** (27 & 28 March 2025).

Performances at Bellahouston Academy are work in progress events – press are welcome to attend any performance.

Full information [here](#)

On social: **#ThankUNextScotland**

RETURN OF AN AWARD-WINNING PRODUCTION

National Theatre of Scotland and Pitlochry Festival Theatre present

Enough of Him

Written by **May Sumbwanyambe**

Directed by **Orla O’Loughlin**

Associate Director - **Garen Abel Unokan**, Set and Costume Designer - **Fred Meller**, Lighting Designer - **Emma Jones**, Composer - **John Pfumojena**, Sound Designer - **Pippa Murphy**, Movement and Intimacy Director - **Ingrid MacKinnon**, Associate Movement and Intimacy Director – **Ana Beatriz Meireles**

Cast includes **Omar Austin**

Opening at the Traverse Theatre, Edinburgh before touring to Dundee Rep Theatre, The Lemon Tree, Aberdeen, Chichester Festival Theatre and Belgrade Theatre Coventry, with further dates to be announced. Touring from October to November 2024.

In addition to the tour, a filmed performance of the original 2022 production will be screened at the AK Bell Library in Perth on 3 February 2024, as part of the *Imagining Joseph Knight* series of events.

“Enough of Him marks a high point in Scottish historical playwriting.”

★★★★★, The Daily Telegraph

“A champion production with sterling performances.”

★★★★★, Corr Blimey

“A meticulous and heartfelt production”

★★★★★, The Scotsman

Enough of Him premiered in October 2022 at Pitlochry Festival Theatre studio before a tour of Scotland.

Based on a true story, ***Enough of Him*** explores the life of Joseph Knight, an African man enslaved by plantation owner Sir John Wedderburn and brought to Scotland to serve in his Perthshire mansion.

The production was universally critically acclaimed and garnered three wins at the Critics’ Awards for Theatre in Scotland 2023 for Best New Play, Best Director and Best Production. It went on to win Best New Play at the UK Theatre Awards 2023.

Omar Austin will return to the production to reprise his role as Joseph Knight.

Highly favoured by Wedderburn and yet still enslaved, Joseph Knight balances on the knife edge between obligation and a soul-deep yearning for freedom. He forges a bond with Annie, a young Scottish servant working in the household, and the two of them fall in love.

But the walls of Ballindean do not keep secrets — their affair unsettles Lady Wedderburn, whose bitter loneliness is only deepened by the close bond her husband has with Knight. Joseph will endure bondage no longer. What happens when Joseph’s dreams clash with those of the man who owns him? What becomes of us all when past brutalities bleed into our present realities?

Enough of Him is a thrilling exploration of power and its attendant tensions: between those who are enslaved and those who are free, servants and masters, and husbands and wives.

Sumbwanyambe previously wrote *The Trial of Joseph Knight*, a drama focussing on the trial and its case, which was broadcast as a radio play on BBC Radio 4 in 2018.

Joseph Knight became a notable figure in a landmark legal battle that saw him successfully appeal against a Scottish court’s decision that had reduced him to mere property in the ownership of his former master. This victory affirmed that Scots Law could not uphold the institution of slavery in Scotland, a ruling that would make a profound contribution to paving the way for the abolition of slavery in Scotland/Britain.

“A work of extraordinary emotional, psychological and political immediacy.”

Mark Brown, The National

May Sumbwanyambe is a radio dramatist, academic and award-winning playwright from Edinburgh. Previous productions include *Ghost Light*, (Edinburgh International Festival and National Theatre of Scotland) and *After Independence* (Arcola Theatre, Papatango Theatre). In 2024, May will be Writer on Attachment at the National Theatre of Great Britain.

Orla O’Loughlin is an award-winning director and previous Artistic Director of the Traverse Theatre, Edinburgh where her acclaimed productions included: *Mouthpiece*, *What Girls are Made Of*, *Ciara*, *Swallow* and *Meet Me at Dawn*. In 2024, Orla will be directing *James V: Katherine*, the latest instalment in Rona Munro’s renowned *James Plays*, with Raw Material and Capital Theatres.

Omar Austin will be reprising the lead role of Joseph Knight, for which he was nominated for Outstanding Performance by the Critics' Awards for Theatre in Scotland in 2023. On graduating, Omar filmed the second series of Jez Butterworth's *Britannia* (Sky/Amazon) and made his professional stage debut in the world premiere of *God of Chaos* (Theatre Royal, Plymouth). Other credits include *So Here We Are* (Queen's Theatre, Hornchurch) and *The Book of Actions* (Nouveau Riche). He was most recently on stage in *The Architect* (Acting Touring Company).

Full cast to be announced.

Touring to the **Traverse Theatre, Edinburgh; Dundee Rep Theatre; Lemon Tree, Aberdeen; Chichester Festival Theatre and Belgrade Theatre, Coventry in October and November 2024 with full tour dates to be announced.**

On social: **#EnoughofHim**

IN ASSOCIATION WITH PRODUCTIONS

World Premiere

**A Marc Brew Company and Eastman co-production
In association with National Theatre Scotland**

an Accident / a Life

A collaboration between Marc Brew and Sidi Larbi Cherkaoui

Directed by **Sidi Larbi Cherkaoui**
Performed and co-created by **Marc Brew**

Pepijn Van Looy – Designer; **Veerle Van den Wouwer** – Costume Stylist; **Alexandre Dai Castaing** – Composition and Instrumentation; **Adam Carrée** – Lighting Consultant; **Maxime Guislain** - Visual Artist; **Hayley Earlam** – Rehearsal Director; **Lewis Landini** – Camera Operator/Stagehand; **Susan Worsfold** - Voice Consultant; **EJ McHenry** – Audio Describer, Tramway

an Accident / a Life is an exciting new collaboration between **Marc Brew** and **Sidi Larbi Cherkaoui**. Touring Scotland and to international festivals and venues, the piece has its World Premiere at **Holland Dance Festival from 2 to 4 February 2024** arriving in Glasgow for the UK premiere at **Tramway on 22 & 23 March 2024** ahead of further European international tour dates including the Steps Dance Festival in Switzerland.

Performed by Marc Brew, this solo work marks the first collaboration of the Australian, Scotland based artist, with world-renowned Flemish Moroccan choreographer Sidi Larbi Cherkaoui.

A semi-autobiographical piece, it unravels moments in our lives, exploring difficult things with and without words using storytelling, film, music, dance and a car.

The starting point for the piece was sharing life stories and key moments of change. For Marc Brew, this was his car accident, where he went from ballet dancer to paraplegic in a split second.

It follows on from Brew's notable solos, *For Now I am...* and *Remember When*, both critically and publicly celebrated.

Marc Brew said:

*"It has been an incredible journey and a dream come true to collaborate with Sidi Larbi Cherkaoui in creating our new show **an Accident / a Life**. The new work has challenged me creatively and pushed me physically and I am extremely excited to share this ambitious and moving production."*

Sidi Larbi Cherkaoui said:

"As a choreographer I am interested in how the body moves, and I've always looked and searched for how it copes, survives, thrives and changes with time, circumstances and age."

*It's been extremely rewarding working with Marc because we are from the same generation, he is open and honest about his own unique experiences as a choreographer and dancer. **an Accident / a Life** is an auto-biographical performance: it's a testimony of a very intense, specific and personal moment in time."*

Marc Brew is an Australian performer, director and choreographer and his work has toured extensively to critical acclaim across the world. He worked with National Theatre of Scotland as a choreography consultant on *Orphans* (2022) and performed in the Ensemble productions *Mary Queen of Scots Got Her Head Chopped Off* and *Our Teacher's a Troll* (2009). In 2015 he created *Exalt*, the first integrated work for Independence and Scottish Ballet and *For Now, I am...*, chosen to be part of the first integrated Edinburgh Fringe programme. Marc has also produced work for a number of high-profile companies such as AXIS Dance Theatre (USA), Candoco Dance Company, Scottish Dance Theatre, Touch Compass (NZ), Amy Seiwert's Imagery (USA), the London Contemporary Dance School and YDance.

Sidi Larbi Cherkaoui's debut as a choreographer was in 1999 with Andrew Wale's contemporary musical, *Anonymous Society*. Since then, he has made over 50 full-fledged choreographic pieces and picked up a slew of awards, including two Olivier Awards, three Ballet Tanz awards for best choreographer (2008, 2011, 2017) and the Kairos Prize (2009) for his artistic vision and his quest for intercultural dialogue. Since 2015, Cherkaoui has been Artistic Director at the Royal Ballet Flanders and is also the Artistic Director of Eastman creating new work. His most recent ballet commissions include *Medusa* (2019) with Natalia Osipova in the title role at The Royal Ballet in London, *Exposure* (2020) for the Paris Opera Ballet, and *Laid in Earth* (2020) for English National Ballet.

A collaboration between **Marc Brew** and **Sidi Larbi Cherkaoui**.

A Marc Brew Company and Eastman co-production. Co-produced by Perpodium. Co-produced by the Hessisches Staatsballett in the frame of Tanzplattform Rhein-Main, a collaboration project between the Hessisches Staatsballett in Staatstheater Darmstadt and Hessisches Staatstheater Wiesbaden and Künstler*innenhaus Mousonturm. Co-produced with Holland Dance Festival. In co-production with Migros Culture Percentage Dance Festival Steps. In Association with National Theatre of Scotland.

Co-commissioned by Tramway and Sadler's Wells. Developed in residency at the Théâtre National de Bretagne (TNB), Cumbernauld Theatre, The Work Room and De Warande.

This project has been assisted by the Australian Government through Creative Australia, its principal arts investment and advisory body. With the support of the Flemish Government and the Belgian Federal Government's Tax Shelter programme. Supported by Creative Scotland.

Touring in 2024 to **Holland Dance Festival, Theater Ann Het Spui, The Hague** (2 to 4 Feb); **Tramway, Glasgow** (22 & 23 Mar); **Steps Dance Festival, Switzerland: TLH Sierre, Théâtre Les Halles** (4 & 5 May), **Salle CO2, SAISON CULTURELLE CO2** (10 May), **Kaserne Basel** (16 & 17 May) with further dates to be confirmed.

On social: **#AnAccidentALife**

World Premiere

Independent Arts Projects (IAP) in association with National Theatre of Scotland present

Shō and the Demons of the Deep

Written by **Zoë Bullock**, adapted from the work by **Annouchka Gravel Galouchko**
Directed by **Shilpa T-Hyland**

Designer - **Claire Halleran**, Lighting Design - **Kate Bonney**, Composer and Sound Design - **Niroshini Thambar**, Movement Director - **Mele Broomes**, Design Assistant - **Morven McLeod**

Cast includes **Christina Strachan** and **Rebecca Wilkie**

Touring Scotland in April and May 2024

Opening at **Platform, Easterhouse, Glasgow** before touring to the **Lemon Tree, Aberdeen; Mareel, Shetland; Mull Theatre; Dunoon Burgh Hall; Birnam Arts, Dunkeld; Melrose Corn Exchange; Lyth Arts Centre, Wick and The Bridge, Dumfries** with further venues to be announced.

Opening performance on Friday 12 April at Platform, Easterhouse.

Independent Arts Projects (IAP) in association with National Theatre of Scotland present ***Shō and the Demons of the Deep***, a timely new production for younger audiences aged 8 and over, written by Zoë Bullock, touring across Scotland in April and May 2024.

Shō and the Demons of the Deep is a visual adventure story about overcoming fear, climate crisis, and how the actions of one generation can affect the next. The production is inspired by the powerful picture book of the same name by Annouchka Gravel Galouchko.

Shō's city has been plagued by nightmares for as long as she can remember, but hers are the worst of all. One day, Shō has had enough. She throws her nightmares away into the river, where they wash out to sea. Soon people start copying her; the city is rid of its nightmares, and everyone is delighted. But sixty years later, when the river becomes

poisoned, Shō's granddaughter Hana must face her greatest fears in order to save her home.

Zoe Bullock, writer, said,

"*Shō and the Demons of the Deep* is a hopeful, joyous show about how we can work together to confront what scares us. It's based on a beautiful picture book and we've worked hard to do that justice and make something magical. Creating it with a wonderful team and the support of the NTS has been an absolute pleasure, and I can't wait to share the story with people across Scotland."

The production was supported through a National Theatre of Scotland Develop Residency in 2022.

Zoë Bullock is an award-winning writer based in Glasgow. Her writing for theatre includes *The Listening Tree* (Imagine/Eco Drama, Edinburgh International Children's Festival), *Puss in Boots: A Solar Punk Pantomime* (Hopscotch Theatre), *Island Chains* (New Earth Theatre, New Stories Festival), *Octopus* (Alpine Fellowship Award finalist). Her short films include: *The Air We Breathe* (Short Circuit, Grand Prize winner of The Script Lab Free Screenplay Contest 2023), *Granny Fenella* (Imagine), *Little Spoon's Big Adventures* (Visible Fictions), and the VR/360 experience *Chamber 404* (Vroom Theatre/Camden People's Theatre).

Shilpa T-Hyland's directing credits include *Wickies: The Vanishing Men of Eilean Mor* (Paul Morrissey, Christopher Wheeler, Molly Morris), *Kissing Linford Christie* (Catherine Wheels, co-director), *The Guns of Johnny Diablo*, *The Prognostications of Mikey Noyce* and *Oscar* (A Play, A Pie and A Pint), *Revolution Days* (Bijli), *We'll Meet in Moscow* (Traverse) and *Miss Julie* (Horsecross). She previously worked with NTS as an Associate Director on *Burn* and *The 306: Dusk* (NTS, Horsecross).

Christina Strachan has appeared in *Forever Home* by Pauline Lockhart, the critically acclaimed one-woman show *Rose* (Óran Mór and Milan), *Department Q* (Netflix), *Payback* (STV), *Ghost Crew* (Hex Media).

Rebecca Wilkie graduated from The Royal Conservatoire of Scotland, winning their prestigious James Bridie Gold Medal award. Her recent theatre credits include *Everything Under the Sun* (Army at the Fringe) winning a Scotsman Fringe First award, *The Infernal Serpent* (A Play, A Pie and A Pint) and *Nightlands & Fallen Angels of the Moine* (Dogstar Theatre).

Independent Arts Projects (IAP) works with some of Scotland's most talented and innovative artists and theatre makers to develop, produce and tour a programme of productions, arts projects, events and opportunities for people across Scotland and beyond.

Shō and the Demons of the Deep is supported by Creative Scotland's Touring Fund and Federation of Scottish Theatre. Development has been supported by Imagine and Playwrights' Studio Scotland.

Touring in 2024 to **Platform, Easterhouse, Glasgow** (Fri 12 & Sat 13 April); **Lemon Tree, Aberdeen** (Wed 17 April); **Mareel, Shetland** (Wed 24 April); **Mull Theatre** (Tue 30 April); **Dunoon Burgh Hall** (Fri 3 May); **Birnam Arts Dunkeld** (Wed 8 May); **Melrose Corn Exchange** (Sat 11 May); **Lyth Arts Centre, Wick** (Fri 17 May) **The Bridge, Dumfries** (Tue 21 & Wed 22 May) with full tour to be announced.

Opening Performance on Friday 12 September at **Platform, Easterhouse, Glasgow**

On social: **#Sho**

WORLD PREMIERE

Produced in association with the National Theatre of Scotland

TERO BURU

A play by **Beldina Odenyo**, interpreted posthumously by **Leah McAleer**

Directed by **Julia Taudevin**

Music Composer - **Beldina Odenyo**, Musical Director - **Joseph Rattray**, Choreographer - **Salma Faraji**

Tero Buru is a new play by the late, great **Beldina Odenyo** which has been posthumously interpreted by Beldina's sister, **Leah McAleer**.

The premiere of ***Tero Buru*** marks a new release of work created to honour and celebrate the life and legacy of much-missed Scottish-Kenyan artist Beldina Odenyo. Beldina's friends and collaborators have joined together with her sister Leah to bring ***Tero Buru***, Beldina's debut play to an audience.

Tero Buru will be performed in Glasgow in autumn 2024, with full details of dates and venue to be announced. This play is the first in a series of artistic performances and events over 2024 and 2025 which will include the launch of Beldina's album *Heir of the Cursed*. More information about all events will be announced later in the year.

"Beldina's power as an artist wasn't just because of her formidable talent as a singer and guitar player. It also came from the profound humanity that radiated from her music"

The Skinny

Beldina was a 'Starter Artist' with National Theatre of Scotland in 2018 during which time she researched death rituals, keening and funeral songs. ***Tero Buru*** grew out of this initial project.

Tero Buru is an ancient death ritual, a rite within a rite played out in this instance by modern women in a fictional village setting. The women weave through story and song, dance and abandon as they navigate the ritual, death, and their roles in guiding the soul onto the next state; culminating in a modern funeral song/rite that the women write together. There is a possession, a divination, a revelation and a funeral. And a live band.

Tero Buru will feature new and original music composed by Beldina.

Leah McAleer said:

"Amidst the devastation of her loss, we are tasked with gathering and preserving her legacy. Beldina's work represents the comfort which can be found in connection and her lifelong dedication to the power of words and music to speak universal truths and offer solace to others in song and storytelling. We hope to invoke and honour her spirit and build a monumental event to express our love for our sister."

Julia Taudevin, director, said:

“Shortly before she died Beldina asked me to help bring Tero Buru to an audience. It is a privilege to honour that request in partnership with others who loved her.”

Beldina was a vocalist, guitarist, poet and writer creating work between the fields of music and theatre. She explored the differences and kinship between her dual Kenyan and Scottish heritage through words, music and visual art.

She worked with National Theatre of Scotland on a number of projects. She was composer and musician for the acclaimed *Lament for Sheku Bayu*, Hannah Lavery’s artistic response to the death of Sheku Bayu in Scottish police custody, co-produced by National Theatre of Scotland, Edinburgh International Festival and Royal Lyceum Theatre Edinburgh. In *Dear Europe* she performed Leonie Rae Gasson’s *Death Becomes Us* which featured a community chorus of women and non-binary European migrants and in 2021, collaborated once more with Hannah Lavery, in a new live performance *Blood, Salt, Spring*, presented by National Theatre of Scotland in partnership with Push the Boat Out Festival.

She was an acclaimed singer songwriter. She performed under the name *Heir of the Cursed*, and was part of the all-female songwriting collective *Hen Hoose*.

Leah McAleer is Beldina Odenyo’s sister and heir to her music and writings. Alongside her work as a GP, she is exploring the healing powers of art through the curation and completion of Beldina’s artistic legacy, gathering a team of Scotland’s finest creatives to share this exceptional body of work with audiences.

Julia Taudevin is an award-winning writer, director and performer. Theatre hits include Dario Fo Award Winner *Blow Off*, epic beach performance *Move* and directing multi-award-winning *Beats* and *Heads Up* by Kieran Hurley with whom she runs theatre company Disaster Plan. She also writes and directs for screen and has her first feature in development with Short Circuit.

On social: **#TeroBuru**

Fuel, Imagine and Northern Stage in association with National Theatre of Scotland present

Protest

A new play by **Hannah Lavery**

Directed by **Natalie Ibu**

Cast: **Kirsty MacLaren, Harmony Rose-Bremner and Amy Murphy**

Set and Costume Designer **Amy Jane Cook**, Lighting Designer **Ali Hunter**, Sound Designer **Novasound**, Movement Director **Nadia Iftkhar**, Associate Director **Natasha Haws** and current Casting Director **Olissa Rogers**. **Amy Blair** served as original Casting Director.

Touring to **Edinburgh, Nottingham, Harrogate, London, Cambridge, Colchester, Coventry, Poole, Plymouth, Exeter and Newcastle from January to March 2024**

Following a highly successful tour in 2023, **Natalie Ibu’s** acclaimed production of **Hannah Lavery’s** new play ***Protest*** embarks on a new tour across the UK.

Presented by Fuel, Imagine and Northern Stage in association with National Theatre of Scotland, the show takes a timely look at the right to protest from the perspective of three young girls and won critical acclaim on its debut outing.

“A joyous, uplifting celebration of young people”

★★★★ The Stage

The show returns to Newcastle and Edinburgh and includes tour stops in London, Nottingham, Harrogate, Cambridge, Colchester, Coventry, Poole, Plymouth and Exeter.

The 2024 tour of *Protest* begins at the Traverse Theatre, Edinburgh on 26 January and runs until 16 March 2024.

Kirsty MacLaren (*The Crown, The Boys in the Boat*) continues in the role of Alice and is joined by **Harmony Rose-Bremner** (*Fifteen-Love, Hamnet*) playing the role of Jade and **Amy Murphy** (*Holby City, Blood Brothers*) in the role of Chloe.

Hannah Lavery is an Associate Artist with the National Theatre of Scotland. Hannah is one of Imagine's Accelerator Artists as well as Writer in Residence at Lyceum Youth Theatre. Hannah's work for National Theatre of Scotland includes the acclaimed *Lament for Sheku Bayu*, an artistic response to the death of Sheku Bayu in Scottish police custody, co-produced by National Theatre of Scotland, Edinburgh International Festival and Royal Lyceum Theatre Edinburgh; *Blood, Salt, Spring*, presented by National Theatre of Scotland in partnership with Push the Boat Out Festival and *The Drift*.

Natalie Ibu is Artistic Director and Joint Chief Executive of Northern Stage. She is currently in pre-production for the world premiere of Sarah Gordon's *Underdog: the Other Other Brontë* (2024) for the National Theatre and Northern Stage. For Northern Stage she has directed the UK premiere of Claudia Rankine's *The White Card* (2022, nominated for Best Director, UK Theatre Awards) and Jim Cartwright's *Road* (2021).

Protest follows Alice, Jade and Chloe. Running is Alice's happy place – you might even say it's in her DNA. She's the best runner at her school but is struggling to prove her worth. Jade is slowly coming to realise that prejudices can be found everywhere, even in the most surprising places. Realising that her education is ill-equipped to encompass her own history and heritage, and taunted by bullies at school, she knows it's time to tell her own story. Meanwhile, litter is piling up in the local forest, and all over the world an environmental crisis is looming. Chloe is determined to make a change, starting with the town. The three girls prepare to stand up for what they believe in despite the injustices stacked against them.

Supported by Arts Council England, The Binks Trust, The Linbury Trust and Three Monkeys Trust. Developed and supported by the Scottish Government's Festivals Expo Fund and Imagine's Accelerator programme. Accelerator is supported by the PLACE programme, funded by the Scottish Government (through Creative Scotland), the City of Edinburgh Council and the Edinburgh Festivals.

Touring in 2024 to **Traverse Theatre, Edinburgh** (26 & 27 Jan); **Squire Performing Arts Centre, Nottingham**, (6 to 8 Feb, school's performances); **Harrogate Theatre** (9 & 10 Feb); **Brixton House** (12 & 16 Feb); **Cambridge Arts Theatre** (20 to 22 Feb); **Lakeside Theatre, Colchester** (24 Feb); **Belgrade Theatre, Coventry** (26 to 28 Feb); **Lighthouse, Poole** (29 Feb to 2 March); **The Drum, Theatre Royal Plymouth** (4 to 9 March); **Exeter Northcott Theatre, Barnfield Theatre** (11 March); **Northern Stage, Newcastle**; (13 to 16 March)

On social: **#Protest**

PREVIOUSLY ANNOUNCED

National Theatre of Scotland presents

Maggie & Me

Written by **Damian Barr** and **James Ley**
Adapted from the memoir by **Damian Barr**
Directed by **Suba Das**

Set and Costume Design - **Kenneth MacLeod**, Lighting Design – **Katharine Williams**,
Sound Designer – **Susan Bear**, Movement Director – **Struan Leslie**, Casting Director – **Orla O'Connor**

Opening at the Tron Theatre, Glasgow, and touring to Eden Court, Inverness; Perth Theatre; Lanternhouse, Cumbernauld; Dundee Rep Theatre, Royal & Derngate, Northampton and Traverse Theatre, Edinburgh from 8 May to 15 June 2024.

Opening performance at the Tron Theatre on Thursday 9 May 2024.

Maggie & Me, Damian Barr's award-winning and darkly witty memoir about growing up gay in Thatcher's Britain is coming to stages, in a bold and explosive new production.

Damian Barr is adapting his memoir for the stage, teaming up with Scottish playwright **James Ley** and directed by **Suba Das**.

This new production from National Theatre of Scotland premieres at the Tron Theatre, Glasgow in May 2024 before touring to Inverness, Perth, Cumbernauld, Dundee, Northampton and Edinburgh.

"Don't you worry. I'll always love you. Love doesn't run out. It's not like the gas meter. I'll find extra love."

It's October 12, 1984 – the Brighton bombing. Maggie Thatcher emerges from the rubble, dusty but defiant and somehow in the living room of 8-year-old Damian Barr in Newarthill, North Lanarkshire.

No time for turning, so buckle up for a surreal yet so-real rollercoaster ride through Damian's painful past rediscovering who he really is. From the furnaces of the Ravenscraig Steelworks to the sanctuary of Carfin Grotto, there's pain and joy, coming of age and coming out. And Saint Dolly Parton.

It's about finding your voice and telling your story. Before you can move on, you have to look back...

Published in 2013, ***Maggie & Me*** was named Sunday Times Memoir of the Year, awarded Paddy Power Political Satire Award and Barr was named Stonewall Writer of the Year.

The National Theatre of Scotland will be collaborating with film and video students from New College Lanarkshire to create a short documentary about the making of the production.

Damian Barr, co-writer and author of *Maggie & Me*, said

"National Theatre of Scotland has given me some of my most memorable nights in the theatre so it's a great honour to be bringing Maggie & Me to life on stage with them. Maggie

& Me is not just my story - it's about the community that survived Thatcher, so I'm delighted we are working with New College Lanarkshire - based on the site of the Craig where my dad worked.

I'm a huge fan of James Ley's plays and especially what they say about identity - writing with him has been a joy and I've learned so much about making the shift from page to stage. Director Suba Das is one of the most exciting theatre makers in the UK so I am thrilled he's lending us his unique and uniquely engaging vision. I'm dedicating this play to my family, to my family of choice and to everyone who has ever struggled to find their place in the world."

James Ley, co-writer, said

"I'm absolutely thrilled to be part of the team reimagining Damian's joyous, funny, heartbreaking memoir for the stage. The chance to get to work with Damian, Suba and National Theatre of Scotland is a dream come true. The play is so much more than a memoir, it's a vital check-in with the nation about what's important to us, who we are and how we make sense of everything that's thrown at us in life. Going on this journey with Damian has been as moving, hilarious and uplifting as I hope and believe the play will be when it gets in front of audiences this spring. I can't wait!"

Suba Das, director, said

"I'm honoured that National Theatre Scotland have stretched the border a pinch to invite a Geordie director - proudly queer and working-class - up to Glasgow to help create the world premiere of Maggie & Me. Damian's account of survival and the quest for community, joy and voice resonates for any of us who know what it is to negotiate boundaries of sexuality and class. In a world that remains hostile to difference, I'm so moved to have Damian and James' trust to now lead the creation of a production that holds hope and healing at its heart - for me, for us, and for every audience member we'll meet on the great big adventure ahead."

Maggie & Me was highly acclaimed upon publication and has established itself as a Scottish classic memoir. This is the first time it has been adapted for the stage.

"Funny, tender, and heartbreaking."

The Independent

"Certain memoirs catch a moment and seem to define it, bottle it... Hugely entertaining."

The Sunday Times

"A memoir which is both personally moving and a valuable historical document."

Literary Review

Touring to **Tron Theatre, Glasgow** (previews Wed 8 May, Thurs 9 May – Sat 11 May); **One Touch, Eden Court, Inverness** (Tues 14 May – Wed 15 May); **Perth Theatre** (Fri 17 May – Sat 18 May); **Cumbernauld Theatre** (Thurs 23 May – Sat 25 May); **Dundee Rep Theatre** (Thurs 30 May – Sat 1 June); **Royal & Northgate, Northampton** (Thurs 5 – Sat 8 June); **Traverse Theatre, Edinburgh** (Wed 12 June – Sat 15 June)

On social: **#MaggieAndMe**

National Theatre of Scotland presents

DEAR BILLY

A Love Letter to the Big Yin

From the People of Scotland

Written and performed by **Gary McNair** and directed by **Joe Douglas**

Music performed and composed by **Simon Liddell** and **Jill O'Sullivan**, set and costume designed by **Claire Halleran**, lighting design by **Kate Bonney** and **Simon Hayes**, dramaturgy by **Joe Douglas**.

Touring Scotland in May 2024 with a run at the Edinburgh Festival Fringe in August 2024

Opening at His Majesty's Theatre, Aberdeen then touring to Pavilion Theatre, Glasgow; Eden Court, Inverness.

Newly announced - a two-week run at the Assembly Rooms as part of the Assembly Festival programme for the Edinburgh Festival Fringe 2024.

"Vivid, funny and poignant." ★★★★★ The Guardian

"A gloriously masterful 90 minutes of theatre." ★★★★★ The Telegraph

In 2023 National Theatre of Scotland's production of ***Dear Billy*** undertook a 17 venue Scotland-wide tour, reaching over 8,000 people. Originally announced to mark Billy Connolly's 80th birthday year, the production was enthusiastically received by audiences, selling-out at venues across Scotland, garnering a wealth of positive reviews and due to popular demand is now back on tour again in 2024.

There's a guy. You know him. You know... big hair, wee beard, glasses, talks like that. You know? You know. The guy...The Big Yin.

Billy Connolly needs no introduction. He is a national treasure. From the shipyards of the Clydeside to his trailblazing and extraordinary stage and movie exploits, he is woven into Scottish culture.

Everyone has a Billy story. An expert team of story gatherers has created a collection of these moving and hilarious tales. Gary McNair, one of Scotland's most renowned theatre-makers, has turned these stories into a special show celebrating the Big Yin and what he means to the people of Scotland.

The production will tour in May 2024, opening at His Majesty's Theatre, Aberdeen before touring to Pavilion Theatre, Glasgow and Eden Court in Inverness with a two-week run at the Music Hall, Assembly Rooms as part of the Edinburgh Festival Fringe in August 2024. Full dates will be announced in 2024.

Dear Billy is a unique touring production that evolved on the road. It travelled the length and breadth of Scotland in 2023, visiting local theatres, arts and community centres gathering stories along the way which were woven into the show as the tour progressed.

Gary McNair is hitting the road once more with two musicians. Audience members are welcomed to share their own Billy stories, with the possibility of those stories making it into the performance. Each show offers a unique chance for audiences to laugh, sing, and celebrate the man and the legend.

"The perfect tribute to a man who has left his gloriously indelible mark, not only on the art of stand-up comedy, but on the culture of Scotland."

The National

“What emerges is a brilliant portrait not only of the Big Yin as others see him, but of his importance as a cultural touchstone to many Scots” ★★★★★
The Times

Dear Billy is written and performed by leading Scottish theatre-maker **Gary McNair** whose recent work includes the acclaimed *Nae Expectations*, a fresh take on the Dickens classic for the Tron Theatre; *Ugly! A Cinderella Story* for Cumbernauld Theatre Company and a new adaptation of Robert Louis Stevenson’s *Jekyll and Hyde* featuring a solo performance from Forbes Masson which opened at the Royal Lyceum Theatre, Edinburgh in January 2024.

The production is directed by **Joe Douglas** whose work for National Theatre of Scotland includes *The Cheviot, The Stag and the Black, Black Oil*, *Dear Scotland* and Associate Director for *Black Watch*. Joe previously collaborated with Gary on *McGonagall’s Chronicles (Which Will Be Remembered for a Very Long Time)*.

Musicians re-joining Gary on the road are **Simon Liddell** whose work for theatre includes *The Domestic* (Scenes for Survival/National Theatre of Scotland) and *McGonagall’s Chronicles (Which Will Be Remembered for a Very Long Time)* and **Jill O’Sullivan** who writes and performs across the worlds of popular music, theatre and dance.

“A vivid, charismatic piece of theatre.” ★★★★★
The Skinny

Gary McNair said:

*“It was a real honour to get the opportunity to make **Dear Billy** last year. The creative team were a dream, and we couldn’t have been happier with the response from audiences up and down the country.*

I also loved that people would share their personal stories about the Big Yin with us as we travelled. Both performing the show and receiving these stories felt like the perfect way to celebrate the special place that Billy Connolly holds in the hearts of the Scottish people.

The fact that there’s been such a hunger for the show to return and that we are able to do it so soon is wonderful. I can’t wait for us to get the band back together and take the show back on the road to head out across Scotland again to meet new audiences.”

Billy Connolly, or, the Big Yin, whom this show is dedicated to, is Scotland’s most beloved comedian, with an impressive career as a stand-up, actor, writer and musician spanning more than 50 years. In 2022, Connolly was awarded the BAFTA Fellowship for lifetime achievement.

Touring to **His Majesty’s Theatre, Aberdeen** (Thu 16-Sat 18 May); **Pavilion Theatre, Glasgow** (Wed 22-Sat 25 May); **Eden Court, Inverness** (Tue 28-Wed 29 May); **Assembly Rooms, Edinburgh Festival Fringe** (August)

On social: **#DearBilly**

DIGITAL AND BROADCAST

SHORT FILM COMMISSION ANNOUNCED

*A new short film, inspired by the album **Metamorphosis: Feeling My Way (to Freedom)**, created by PAIX.*

Following an open call process in October 2023, National Theatre of Scotland is delighted to announce that **Gillian Katungi (PAIX)** has been awarded the National Theatre of Scotland and Africa in Motion short film commission for black artists based in Scotland.

PAIX will be creating a music video to accompany her debut album *Metamorphosis: Feeling My Way (to Freedom)* - a project exploring roots and imagining in pursuit of liberation, through a narrative concept album.

This commission and production of the selected short film are supported by Africa in Motion Film Festival. Now in its eighteen year, Africa in Motion (AiM) is an annual African film festival taking place in Scotland, consisting of film screenings and complementary events.

Creating art under the persona **PAIX** which means 'peace', Gillian Katungi is based in Glasgow and experiments as a musician, multidisciplinary artist, moving image director and sound designer finding freedom in the space between established artforms including records, live performances and film works.

Brief extracts of the album's tracks will be blended into one narrative video, woven together with spoken word. The album scores an explorative journey of roots in place, identity, and a journey home to one's multiple selves. Centring the voice of black femme artists, the film will weave collective grief and the pains and pleasures of being alive. Splicing family footage from Uganda, with footage shot in Scottish landscapes the work will present an intersectional experience, drawing on layers of kinship and connection between different cultures and identities. Sonically composed with a range of collaborators, bringing their cultures and traditions into the work, the album is an exploration of what is radical, from 'radix' meaning 'root'. In the short film, this collaborative process will be expanded to blend moving image, prose, movement and music, exploring what it means to heal, groove with community, and to be transported into different spaces in the mind.

Alongside creatively producing and leading on projects, PAIX collaborates with local, national and international artists to make records, live performance, film and digital performance. Projects include; creating and scoring award winning short films, co-writing and performing on the album '*With Love, From Glasgow*' from Producer and DJ Rebecca Vasmant, which made the Top 10 on the UK and International Jazz Charts, respectively.

This opportunity is part of the National Theatre of Scotland's ongoing commitment to the development of artists, creatives and technicians in Scotland, and to diversification of the creative talent pool of Scottish theatre-makers. It is part of an ongoing initiative to cross-fertilise talent between the screen and stage sectors to support more sustainable careers in the creative industries.

This new commission is part of the Company's expanding programme of digital work, gratefully supported by three-year funding from the **John Ellerman Foundation**. Subsequent short film commissions will follow over the next two years.

JEKYLL AND HYDE SET FOR FILM FESTIVAL

The Strange Case of Dr Jekyll and Mr Hyde, director **Hope Dickson Leach's** new version of Robert Louis Stevenson's classic story, co-written with **Vlad Butucea**, will be screened at the **Victoria Film Festival**, in Canada, in 2024, after receiving its world premiere at the

Edinburgh International Film Festival last year. Adapted from the original novella and relocated from London to Edinburgh, the film is a coproduction from National Theatre of Scotland and Selkie Productions, supported by Screen Scotland and Sky Arts.

Filmed largely within the atmospheric setting of Edinburgh's historic Leith Theatre, ***The Strange Case of Dr Jekyll and Mr Hyde*** was originally presented in February 2022 as a performed live, filmic experience in the venue.

The film will be shown at **Victoria Film Festival** on **6 February 2024** and is available to watch on Sky Arts now.

ARTISTS IN RESIDENCE 2023/24

Following a call out process at the end of 2023, three residencies have been offered to artists to work with National Theatre of Scotland to develop new work. Each residency offers up a bursary for the artist(s), access to resources at Rockvilla, Glasgow or Eden Court, Inverness (for the Highlands artist residency) and support from departments across the organisation.

ROSS MACKAY – ARTIST IN RESIDENCE

Ross MacKay will be working on a new play around the history of video game creation in Scotland.

Originally from Perth, Ross MacKay now lives in the village of Kinghorn in Fife.

His plays have been performed across Scotland and his new adaptation of Treasure Island garnered five-star reviews at Cumbernauld Theatre in 2022.

In 2020, Ross was the recipient of the William Soutar Award for Poetry and a Tom McGrath Trust Maverick Award. He has been commissioned to write poetry for libraries, schools, and festivals across Scotland. His debut novel for children and debut picture book were released in 2022 in both the UK and USA. Ross previously worked in theatre as the Artistic Director of Tortoise in a Nutshell. His productions toured all over the world. His shows have received numerous prestigious awards including a Scotsman Fringe First for New Writing and a Critic's Pick from The New York Times. He was a teenage magician and is the proud owner of a Blue Peter badge.

GUY WOODS – ARTIST IN RESIDENCE

Guy is working on a new play exploring the relationship between 21st century economics and e-commerce.

Guy is a playwright and filmmaker based in Glasgow. His play *Puddles & Amazons* was performed as part of the Tron Theatre's Outside Eyes Showcase (2023), and an extract of his play *Painting of a Man by Laurie, age 26* was performed with Stage2Page and shortlisted for the Alpine Fellowship Prize (2023). Previously, he was longlisted for A Play, A Pie and a Pint's David MacLennan Award (2022) and shortlisted for Traverse Theatre's Breakthrough Writers in Residence (2022). He worked for Enfant Terrible Productions as a screenwriter (2021-22) and was artist in residence at The Island, Bristol (2020). He has also just completed post-production on his debut short, *Mouth* (2023). He is drawn to the funny, the strange and the sincere.

RIFF RAFF PRODUCING CIC - ARTISTS IN RESIDENCE – IN PARTNERSHIP WITH EDEN COURT THEATRE

Riff Raff is a creative arts and wellbeing organisation run by Alison Burnley and Ellie Davies. Before forming Riff Raff in 2023, between them they have had decades of experience in arts and engagement both in the UK and Australia with organisations such as the BBC, Streetwise Opera, Woodfordia Inc and Birmingham Rep.

They will be working with local groups in Moray to scope out ideas and concepts for a new visual theatre immersive production.

Alison's practice includes productions in traditional performance venues, site specific performance and community spaces. She is passionate about work created in unexpected places and placing communities at the heart of the work. Ellie trained as a contemporary dancer and has worked as both an arts marketer and producer for projects which focus both on performance and community participation.

They create accessible opportunities to the arts for main caregivers and their families, believing that if we invest in main caregivers, it has ripple effects. From the intimate to the spectacular, they create spaces, performances and participatory experiences that celebrate and bring together families and communities in all their forms, with head-turning, heart-warming, multi-artform projects. www.riffraffproducing.co.uk

A new round of residencies will be announced later in the year.

The Neighbourhood project welcomes New Artists in Residence

National Theatre of Scotland's **The Neighbourhood project** in North Glasgow explores what it means to be a good neighbour and how the presence of a national company on their doorstep affects the local community. **The Neighbourhood** looks at how artists can collaborate with and enrich their neighbourhood.

Recent artistic projects include the *Bank of Springburn*, a new kind of bank in Springburn Shopping Centre where everything is free and transactions are powered by the people. This was brought to life by award-winning poet and theatre maker Kevin P Gilday in December 2022 and April 2023. In *Fly the Flag*, pupils from St Teresa's Primary created a new performance to celebrate the art of protest working with choreographer and facilitator Saffy Setohy and dance artist Joanna Young. *Fly the Flag* was presented at the Cowllairs Labyrinth in June 2022.

National Theatre of Scotland is excited to announce the two artists selected for Develop Residencies in **The Neighbourhood** for 2024/25. Artists **Eoin McKenzie** and **Roisin Mary McLinden** will be supported to develop their ideas; engaging with local North Glasgow communities and collaborating with artists, groups and residents.

Eoin McKenzie is a performance maker and participatory artist from North Glasgow. Eoin will be developing a contemporary Variety Show that re-imagines the theatrical tradition of variety shows with local people and community groups across North Glasgow.

The residency will explore how real people and real life can be staged, showcasing the daily activities of the community as part of an inclusive social theatrical experience. The residency will end with a live event in North Glasgow.

Eoin McKenzie is an artist from Glasgow who works across contemporary performance, choreography, and live art. His projects are rooted in collaborative performance making and participatory practices, inviting diverse constellations of people to come together in the creation of artworks that explore the complexities of our contemporary lives. His works are propositional by nature, using the medium of live performance to create new possibilities for how we might renegotiate social realities. Eoin's work is driven by a strong sense of social and civic responsibility with his artistic projects guided by principles of critical compassion, co-operation, and community building. Currently, Eoin is an Associate Artist with Platform; Assistant Director with Tricky Hat; and lead artist on *The Show For Young Men*. He was previously an Accelerator Artist with Imagine on *The Show For Young Men* in 2022/23, and has worked nationally and internationally.

Roisin Mary McLinden is a Glasgow-based participatory arts practitioner. Roisin will create opportunities for community conversation through theatre and cycling, in partnership with SiMY, a youth group based in Townhead.

Roisin will engage with young people focusing on cycling and creative activities along the canal path which links SiMY's office, Rockvilla (NTS) and SiMY's main site. With the canal path as a creative stimulus for the young people to devise theatre in different locations, the residency will experiment with an interactive promenade performance with travelling along the canal path.

The residency will be documented by a video journal, a collective map and an exhibition.

Roisin McLinden is a community practitioner and producer specialising in co-created participation within theatre, heritage, and outdoor settings.

She delivers creative learning experiences that seek to uncover and champion the authentic voices of participants. Currently studying An Introduction to Dramatherapy at Queen Margaret University, Roisin integrates therapeutic modalities into her work to nourish confidence, connection and stimulate meaningful conversations. She directed *A Dream of 20* (Lakeland Arts), a poetic physical theatre piece exploring personal experiences of the pandemic, delivered in Cumbria, London, and Turkey.

THEATRE IN SCHOOLS SCOTLAND

Produced by Imagine and National Theatre of Scotland

National Theatre of Scotland and Imagine's schools touring project announces three new shows for the 2024/25 school year

Theatre in Schools Scotland (TiSS) is back on the road in 2024 for its 9th year, bringing inspiring live theatre and dance productions, made specially for children and young people into schools and nurseries.

Three new shows have been confirmed for the 24/25 school year commencing this autumn: ***Ginger*** by multi-award winning company **Tortoise in a Nutshell**, created in association with Platform and Lyth Arts Centre, uses puppetry, magic and play to tell the tale of a misshapen gingerbread person, discarded and marked for the bin, inspiring a picture-perfect kitchen to come alive; ***Poggle and Me*** by internationally renowned **Barrowland Ballet**, created with and for pupils with complex needs such as autism, invites audiences to join Poggle, a friendly creature, on a sensory and interactive adventure through the forest and, ***One of Two***

by **Jack Hunter**, presented by Independent Arts Projects, is a one-man comedy drama about two twins growing up with cerebral palsy: Bec (a wheelchair user) and Jack (who walks with a limp). Each twin had a very different experience navigating childhood and school. This award-winning autobiographical show celebrates disability and diversity.

Poggle and Me will be touring to ASN schools in Scotland following last year's successful ASN schools tour of **MESS** by Tenterhooks, **One of Two** will be available for both primary and secondary schools and **Ginger** will visit primary schools. The touring programme is available for schools to book anywhere in Scotland.

From January to March 2024 TiSS is touring **Cloud Man** by Constellation Points/Ailie Cohen and Lewis Hetherington, presented by Scottish Theatre Producers, and **Going for Gold: Me and Linford Christie** by Victoria Beesley, presented by Catherine Wheels Theatre Company, concluding a busy school year.

"To witness the children's spontaneous laughter and natural interaction with the production was a lovely demonstration of the power of theatre to connect with very young children."

Carol Monaghan, MP for Glasgow North West on *Cloud Man*

In 2023, TiSS toured 4 shows across Scotland, from Dingwall to Dumbarton, by van, train and bike. The project reached over 5,000 children in 14 local authorities and included its first ever exclusive tour of ASN schools. TiSS continues to offer subsidised bookings to schools and create partnerships with local support organisations, ensuring live performances reach schools not only in cities and towns but in remote and rural communities.

2024-2025 Programme for schools

CLOUD MAN (Constellation Points/Scottish Theatre Producers) is a cleverly staged show with puppets, storytelling and lots of clouds. The show encourages audiences to notice the beauty and wonder found in everyday life. *Cloud Man* has been touring internationally since 2011.

Touring Jan - Feb 2024. For Nursery - P3

GOING FOR GOLD: ME AND LINFORD CHRISTIE (Victoria Beesley/Catherine Wheels) is a show about one girl's journey to Olympic success. Inspired by Victoria Beesley's childhood obsession with athletics, this is a story about loving failure and dreaming big.

Touring January - March 2024. For P5 - P7 pupils

GINGER (Tortoise in a Nutshell) tells the tale of a misshapen gingerbread person, discarded and marked for the bin. A disco fridge, somersaulting teaspoons and a mysterious yodelling sink, are all brought to life using a mix of puppetry, magic and play. Created by multi-award winning company Tortoise in a Nutshell in association with Platform and Lyth Arts Centre.

Touring autumn 2024 and winter 2025. For P1-P4

ONE OF TWO (Jack Hunter/Independent Arts Projects) is a one-man comedy-drama about two twins growing up with cerebral palsy: Bec (a wheelchair user) and Jack (who walks with a limp). Each twin had a very different experience navigating childhood and school. An autobiographical solo show using sketch and spoken word, celebrating disability and diversity.

Touring autumn 2024. For P7 & S1-S2

POGGLE AND ME (Barrowland Ballet) is a sensory inclusive dance-theatre performance made especially with and for children with complex needs such as autism. The audience joins friendly creature, Poggle, on an interactive adventure through the forest, bursting with energy, acrobatic dance, live music and clapping rhythms.

Touring spring 2025. ASN schools. (pupils with complex needs such as autism, 7+).

CREATIVE ENGAGEMENT, ACCESS AND BRING THE DRAMA

A year-long programme of opportunities aimed at young people, learners, educators, schools, communities and those keen to participate creatively.

CREATIVE CAREERS INSIGHTS - aimed at all secondary school pupils, these workshops give pupils information about different careers available in the Creative Industries. The sessions demonstrate that the arts are a fantastic tool to create confident, ambitious, creative thinkers in any workforce.

A DAY FOR DRAMA TEACHERS - drama teachers from secondary schools all over Scotland join leading theatre professionals for a day of professional development and inspiration. Following on from the success of the last two year's sell-out events, National Theatre of Scotland's Creative Engagement team will host a subsequent *Day for Drama Teachers* at Rockvilla on **Friday 25 October 2024**.

BRING THE DRAMA - *discover a career you never knew existed*. A special event at the Company's production facility Rockvilla, on **Tuesday 26 March 2024**, to hear directly from National Theatre of Scotland staff about the exciting opportunities that exist in theatre outside of being a performer.

Aimed at adults who are looking to enter the creative industries, this informal event will lift the curtain on the work of the Costume and Props, Technical, Stage Management and Audience and Media Departments.

There will be the chance to ask the team questions and get a tour of the Company's headquarters, **Rockvilla**. The team at NTS is passionate about working in the creative industries and as such, are keen to make everyone aware of the opportunities available in the sector

This event is part of the **Bring the Drama Festival**, designed to inspire people to consider job opportunities behind the scenes in the craft areas of Theatre, Film and Television. The festival accompanies BBC 2's launch of **Bring the Drama**, a major new series for **Spring 2024** (from 14 February). It's about opening the door to acting talent who have not previously had access to professional training for a variety of reasons, such as lack of funds, opportunity, geographical distance, or lack of diverse representation. At its heart is a belief that the more accessible and open the industry is, the greater the talent and the more powerful the stories that are told.

ACCESS

Making National Theatre of Scotland as accessible to many people and communities as possible.

A programme of BSL interpreted, audio described and captioned performances will be offered for the Company's work onstage and online. All the Company's shows are autism friendly and a series of relaxed and chilled performances will also be on offer.

The ongoing expansion of the popular **Theatre for a Fiver** scheme for 14-to-26-year-olds and those low income benefits including Universal Credit, Pension Credit, Carer's Credit, Housing Benefit, Employment and Support Allowance (ESA) and Jobseeker's Allowance (JSA) access to NTS shows for five pounds, available across majority of productions and venues.

The continuation of the Company's **First Nights** programme offering people from under-served communities the opportunity to take part in theatre for the first time – or for the first time in a long time – in a safe, hosted environment, at every venue and every show, across the country.

FULL SEASON ARTIST BIOGRAPHIES HERE

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Notes to Editors

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. nationaltheatrescotland.com

We are very grateful to all the Individual donors who support all our work through our Membership Schemes and the below Donors, Trusts and Foundations who support specific programme activity across the year.

Sir Ewan and Lady Brown; The Britford Bridge Trust; John Ellerman Foundation; Rayne Foundation; Theatre Artists Fund; William Grant Foundation; Binks Trust; Savendie; The Mackintosh Foundation; McGlashan Trust; Miss DR Spalding's Charitable Trust; Craignish Trust; Dunclay Charitable Trust; JTH Charitable Foundation; The William Syson Foundation; Aberdeen Endowments Trust; Aberdeen

Baker Incorporation; The Thistle Trust; The Ettrick Charitable Trust; Verden Sykes Trust; The Galashan Trust and the Saints & Sinners Club Of Scotland.

21Common blend iconoclastic references, pop culture and preoccupation with risk and danger to create spectacular dance experiences. As artists they are passionate about social practice. They feel this is vital in subverting the expected dynamic of leader and what that means in the context of performance art. Their previous work has consistently challenged the notion of who can be a dancer and has placed those that are under-represented in that role. 21Common is a Regularly Funded Organisation (RFO) of Creative Scotland.

Africa in Motion is an audience-based festival, founded in 2006. The main aims of the festival have been, since its inception, to introduce Scottish audiences to the brilliance of African cinema and to overcome the underrepresentation and marginalisation of African film in British film-going culture.

Barrowland Ballet is one of Scotland's most exciting and successful contemporary dance companies built around the artistic work of choreographer Natasha Gilmore. The company produces high quality, accessible dance theatre performance, installation and film which are presented nationally and internationally. The company has received critical international acclaim and has performed in festivals and venues all over the world. In 2017, Natasha Gilmore was the UK nomination for the ASSITEJ Award for Excellence for her work for young audiences. The company's immersive video installation Family Portrait won The Bobby award for the 'Best of the Fest' at the Edinburgh Festival Fringe 2021 and their festival production The Gift was awarded Best Production for Children and Young People at the 20th annual Critics' Awards for Theatre in Scotland 2023. The company has a repertoire of intergenerational, short dance films and, alongside its main repertoire of work, produces high quality participatory performance projects. Barrowland Ballet also runs Wolf Pack - a free, intergenerational company based in Glasgow with participants from seven to eighty years of age. barrowlandballet.co.uk

Catherine Wheels Theatre Company is Scotland's most celebrated producer of work for children and young people, with 35 inspirational and original productions presented in 26 countries since the company was created by Artistic Director, Gill Robertson, in 1999. Catherine Wheels is also Scotland's most well-travelled theatre company touring nationally and internationally taking productions to theatres, festivals and schools in communities and cities across Scotland, to London's Southbank and Barbican, and across the globe from Europe to New York, Canada, Mexico, Hong Kong, Macau, China, Taiwan, Singapore, Japan, New Zealand and Australia. Such has been the acclaim for Catherine Wheels' shows, that many of the company's productions have stayed in repertoire, including *Martha*, which has performed to audiences of over 100,000 across four continents; *Lifeboat*, the first Scottish theatre production to appear at the Sydney Opera House and *White*, the company's most well-travelled production which has been performed 1,600 times and seen by children and their families.

Constellation Points is the collaboration between Ailie Cohen and Lewis Hetherington, with Producer Sarah Gray. Constellation Points create playful, curious and engaging work for audiences of all ages. They create theatre which uses visuals, music, text and more to tell beautiful original stories which are full of heart, fun and magic. They create work which encourages us to reflect and think deeply and creatively about the world we live in and the challenges we face. They create fantastical and colourful story worlds which celebrate the

extraordinary nature of the ordinary, and last long in the imaginations of audiences. The name Constellation Points reflects the deeply collaborative nature of the company's work. Each show is carefully constructed by a team of makers, each one being a vital and beautiful point of light in creating the constellation of that show. Work includes *Cloud Man*, *The Secret Life of Suitcases* and *Rocket Post!* Their work has travelled all over the world delighting audiences in China, Dubai, Egypt, Japan, America, Australia and more, as well as extensively throughout the UK.

Eastman

Founded in January 2010, Eastman was set up to produce and promote the work of its artistic director Sidi Larbi Cherkaoui. Cherkaoui's non-hierarchical thinking on movement, body language and culture is the basis of his artistic approach. His work offers the audience a vast array of projects and collaborations across many forms of performance including contemporary dance, theatre, ballet, opera and music.

Set in his native harbor city of Antwerp (Belgium) and resident at DE SINGEL International Arts Centre (Antwerp), Eastman forms the central point for all of Cherkaoui's work. Since its foundation in 2010, Cherkaoui created amongst others *Babel(words)*, *Play*, *TeZukA*, *Puz/zle*, *4D*, *Fractus V*, *Session* and *3S* under Eastman's wing. It also coordinates all Cherkaoui's work for other organizations.

Eastman's international partners include La Monnaie / De Munt (Brussels), Les Théâtres de la Ville de Luxembourg, Grande Halle de La Villette (Paris), DE SINGEL International Arts Centre (Antwerp) and Sadler's Wells (London).

Sidi Larbi Cherkaoui and Eastman are supported by the Flemish Government and the BNP Paribas Foundation. Eastman was European Cultural Ambassador 2013.

Eden Court is a registered charity and is the largest multi-arts venue in Scotland housing two theatres, two cinemas, two dance studios and conference and meeting spaces. It presents live performances, film screenings and a programme of weekly classes. This activity attracts an audience of over 300,000 people annually.

Edinburgh International Festival is a global celebration of performing arts, bringing the finest performers of dance, opera, music and theatre from around the world to Edinburgh for three weeks every August.

The next International Festival takes place 2-25 August 2024, under the direction of Festival Director and Scottish violinist Nicola Benedetti. Benedetti's vision is to create the deepest level of experience, through the highest quality of art, for the broadest possible audience.

The International Festival's impact also extends beyond the annual programme, with community learning, engagement and professional development programmes running throughout the year, contributing to the cultural and social life of Edinburgh and Scotland.

For more information visit www.eif.co.uk.

Fuel leads the field in independent producing in the UK's live performance sector, working with brilliant artists to explore urgent questions, to shine light on how we relate to each other and the world around us, and to tell untold stories by under-represented voices. From theatres to car parks, from schools to public spaces, Fuel produces high quality new theatre that reaches diverse audiences across the UK and internationally. Fuel collaborates with outstanding theatre makers with fresh perspectives and approaches who produce shows,

performances or experiences which have direct and playful relationships with their audiences.

Fuel is celebrated for its pioneering producing model that develops innovative ideas through attentive collaboration, a spirit of curiosity, and an emphasis on trust. Fuel has developed a reputation for spirited and surprising new theatre, deep relationships with a wide range of artists, and passionate commitment to inclusion and care for young and diverse audiences.

Fuel was founded in 2004 and is led by Kate McGrath.

Fueltheatre.com Twitter: @fueltheatre Instagram: @fueltheatre

Grid Iron is an Edinburgh based new writing theatre company which specialises in creating site-specific and location theatre although they also produce work for the stage. In their 28 years, they have received 31 awards and a further 20 nominations covering all aspects of their work from acting, writing and use of music to stage management, design and technical expertise.

Their adventures have taken them to extraordinary places; from the slopes of Edinburgh Zoo to a massive oil-rig manufacturing shed in Dundee, a boat-builders island in a Norwegian fjord, to the former General Security building in Beirut, a working cancer hospital in Jordan, the old City Morgue in Cork, landside and airside at Edinburgh Airport and parks, housing estates, playgrounds and bars (for performances as well as recreation!) all over Scotland and Britain.

They have made co-productions with many partners including National Theatre of Scotland, Traverse Theatre, Dundee Rep Theatre, Almeida Theatre London, Lung Ha Theatre Company, Stellar Quines and Edinburgh International Book Festival and have delivered two European Capital of Culture commissions (Cork 2005 and Stavanger 2008). They have performed three times as part of Edinburgh International Festival, 15 times at the Edinburgh Festival Fringe, twice at Edinburgh International Science Festival and have been part of Imagine and Edinburgh International Book Festival, their co-production with whom was part of Culture 2014, Glasgow's cultural celebration of the Commonwealth Games and supported by the Scottish Government's Edinburgh Festivals Expo Fund, the first of two productions they have made with Expo funding.

Find more information about Grid Iron at gridiron.org.uk, on Twitter @gridiron or Facebook [gridirontheatre](https://www.facebook.com/gridirontheatre)

Imagine is the national organisation in Scotland, which develops, celebrates and presents theatre and dance for children and young people. Its purpose is to improve and enrich the lives of children and young people. Imagine wants more children to experience work that is deeply engaging, innovative and inspiring as this will help develop children's confidence and self-expression, broadening their horizons and raising their aspirations. The organisation produces the Edinburgh International Children's Festival, an annual celebration of exceptional Scottish and international theatre and dance for young audiences, with a focus on visually striking performances with high production value. The Festival is attended by 15,000 children, their teachers and families, as well as artists and professionals from all over the world.

Imagine also runs a year-round schools programme to inspire children and teachers through live performance and projects, as well as a diverse programme to support the creative development of artists and freelancers involved in the young audience sector.

Independent Arts Projects (IAP) works with some of Scotland's most talented and innovative artists and theatre makers to develop, produce and tour a programme of productions, arts projects, events and opportunities for people across Scotland and beyond. www.independentartsprojects.com

Marc Brew Company is a trailblazing inclusive dance company that creates powerful performances.

We collaborate with disabled and non-disabled artists, to create dynamic and emotive contemporary dance that challenges perceptions.

The company is led by disabled and queer Artistic Director and Choreographer Marc Brew. Marc blends art-forms to create ambitious, exciting work with collaboration at its heart.

Northern Stage reaches beyond the ordinary. The largest producing theatre in the North East of England, from our home in the heart of Newcastle, we're part of a diverse creative community stretching from Tweed to Tyne and Tees. Our work is informed and transformed by the region so that we are an essential part of everyone's lives, making vital pieces of culture for the North East of today and tomorrow. We produce, co-produce and support the production of great theatre for regional, national and international audiences in live and digital forms. Touring regionally, nationally and internationally with work that is popular, accessible, politically relevant and culturally diverse. We promote creativity and creative practice and provide life-changing experiences for people who would not normally have access to such opportunities. Empowerment is at the heart of what we do, constantly evolving and collaborating with artists, practitioners and communities in the North East and beyond. www.northernstage.co.uk

Pitlochry Festival Theatre

A Theatre for Everyone. A Theatre for a Lifetime.

Since 1951, Pitlochry Festival Theatre has been the artistic heart and soul of Highland Perthshire. Attracting over 100,000 visitors every year, we're more than simply a place to come and see a show – we're Scotland's leading producer of musical theatre, a champion of ensemble practice and the country's only rurally-located, major arts organisation. Our vision is to improve lives by sharing Pitlochry with the world and the world with Pitlochry. Our aim is to create life-enhancing experiences in our Theatre and its glorious eleven-acre campus that encompasses the magical Explorers Garden. In everything we do, we are committed to nurturing an exciting creative and cultural future for Scotland.

Pitlochry Festival Theatre is supported by funding from Creative Scotland and Perth & Kinross Council. It is also grateful to the many individual donors, trusts and foundations who continue to support the Theatre in its vision. www.pitlochryfestivaltheatre.com

Scottish Theatre Producers was founded by Producer Sarah Gray in 2016 to support the work of a range of freelance artists and companies, in particular those who make work for children and young people. STP produces the work of The Polar Bears and Constellation Points, as well as projects for artists including Tenterhooks, Greg Sinclair and The Audio Story Company. STP also develops new work, including the critically acclaimed *Stand By* and tours numerous productions internationally, including Frozen Charlotte's *Paperbelle*, Constellation Points' *Cloud Man* and *The Polar Bears Go Up*.

Screen Scotland Screen Scotland is the national body that drives development of all aspects of Scotland's film and TV industry, through funding and strategic support. Screen Scotland is part of Creative Scotland and delivers these services and support with funding from Scottish Government and The National Lottery.

Find out more at screen.scot and follow us on [Twitter](#) and [Instagram](#).

Selkie is an Edinburgh based production company Selkie Productions was set up by Wendy Griffin in 2014 to develop a slate of film and TV projects. Selkie produced Hope Dickson

Leach's short *Stronger is Better than Angry* and Wendy Griffin was producer on *Ghost Light* for National Theatre of Scotland and EIF. Recently Wendy co-produced 'The Origin' which just premiered at LFF and was co-producer on Stephen Frears' 'The Lost King' and Charlotte Colbert's 'She Will'. Selkie has several projects in development with Screen Scotland and BFI.

Sky Arts exists to bring more art to more people across the UK. In 2020, with the creative industries under serious threat, we threw open our doors to make the channel free for everyone to watch. We've redoubled our mission to increase access to the arts and we're committed to getting everyone involved as the industry recovers. The fact is, we need the arts now like never before, and Sky Arts brings them straight to your living room. We have something for everyone, championing creative talent by showcasing the best in music, theatre, dance, literature, opera and visual art. From Glyndebourne to Grime and Cézanne to The Sty.

Theatre in Schools Scotland is produced by Imaginate and National Theatre of Scotland to develop the provision of theatre and dance performances available for schools to host for their pupils. The annual schools touring programme is informed by teachers and features Scottish performing companies and artists specialising in theatre and dance for young people. Productions are designed specifically with schools in mind and the programme is year-round and available to book anywhere in Scotland.
www.theatreinschoolsscotland.co.uk

Tortoise in a Nutshell is an Edinburgh based charity that creates world class visual theatre to ignite the imaginations of audiences around the globe. Formed in 2010 our unique blend of puppetry, performance and innovation puts Tortoise in a Nutshell's work at the forefront of visual theatre and delivers exciting and thought-provoking experiences for audiences of all ages. Our vision is that anyone can access exemplary visual theatre, an artform motivated by positive social impact, which provides for the needs of all peoples. Our work is driven by a visual language that allows us to create poetic and memorable theatre that focuses on universal themes and human stories. Tortoise in a Nutshell looks to create accessible, engaging experiences for our communities. We continuously challenge ourselves and the way we think, ensuring we stay relevant and impactful for the people we work with and for. We offer national and international touring productions and bespoke community engagement projects, alongside design and build commissions. We work as collaborators, project leaders and commission artists for partners.

