

SPOTLIGHT

on your
National Theatre of Scotland



WELCOME



Jackie Wylie, Kirsty Anderson

Welcome, dear donors and supporters to another edition of Spotlight, where we give you a glimpse into the wide range of projects and positive impacts your generous support is helping to create. After a few “False Springs,” I feel confident in saying that the real thing is finally here - what better time for our first touring production of the year to hit the road!

Maggie & Me opened at the Tron Theatre in Glasgow this week, before visits to Inverness, Perth, Cumbernauld, Dundee, Northampton and Edinburgh. A cast of seven fantastic actors are bringing to life this new adaptation of Damian Barr’s bestselling memoir (adapted by Damian himself and the brilliant James Ley), exploring a chaotic childhood in 1980s Lanarkshire where a young outsider finds an unlikely role model in the shape of Prime Minister Margaret Thatcher, newly emerged from the rubble of the Brighton bombing and full of life advice for our hero. Set in the shadow of Ravenscraig during an important chapter in Scottish history, it’s by turns hilarious, heartbreaking, surreal, gritty, and shines a light on the human capacity to survive trauma and come out the other side.

It’s been a busy start to the year. Before the *Maggie & Me* company started rehearsals in March, we completed a five-week project at Bellahouston Academy, working with the wonderful pupils and teachers there to develop the model for our new schools production, *Thank U, Next*. Following in the footsteps of *Like Flying*, *Thank U, Next* sees a creative and technical team embedded within a high school for an intensive period of learning and co-creation, resulting in a spectacular new piece of theatre, exploring what it feels like to be a young person in today’s world. Lead artists for the project are the amazing 21Common, a pioneering, award-winning company who push hard at the boundaries of what is expected of participatory theatre for young people. *Thank U, Next* will be rolled out to schools in Cumbernauld, Grangemouth and Lochgelly across the course of the year.

In April, we announced *Caring Scotland*, a new, three-year project celebrating the lives of Care Experienced people across the country. Led by artist Nicola McCartney and in partnership with Who Cares? Scotland, the project will document the experiences and achievements of 100 members of the Care Experienced community, culminating in the creation of a touring immersive exhibition and a permanent oral history audio archive at the National Library of Scotland. The project responds to a demand from the community for their voices to be amplified, for public perceptions to be reframed, and for their potential to be recognised. *Caring Scotland* is supported by the National Lottery Heritage Fund.

As part of our responsibility to champion theatre in Scotland, we're sometimes able to help productions reach a wider audience by supporting a national or international tour. This year, we've been able to support two shows "in association with National Theatre of Scotland." Scottish-based dancer and choreographer Marc Brew has collaborated with renowned Flemish-Moroccan choreographer Sidi Larbi Cherkaoui, to create an incredible new piece of dance theatre charting Marc's life story before and after the life-altering injuries he suffered in a horrific car crash in 1997. *An Accident / A Life* explores his journey into a new world of movement after becoming what the world calls 'disabled.' We're thrilled to play a part in bringing this show to audiences across the UK and Europe...

And we are equally thrilled to be supporting another Scottish-made production to reach new audiences; Independent Arts Projects' new piece *Shō and the Demons of the Deep* is a sublimely crafted piece of visual theatre for children and young people. Adapted from Annouchka Gravel Galouchko's graphic novel by Zoë Bullock, it's an adventure story about overcoming fear, the climate crisis and how the actions of one generation can affect the next. The tour t-shirt reads (deep breath): Glasgow, Aberdeen, Shetland, Mull, Dunoon, Dunkeld, Melrose, Wick, Dumfries, Edinburgh, Inverness and St Andrews.

Following a similarly epic national tour in 2023, our beloved *Dear Billy* company are back in rehearsal in the Big Room here at Rockvilla, ahead of their 2024 travels. Our love letter to the Big Yin will be landing on stages in Aberdeen, Glasgow, Inverness, Salford and Edinburgh, where it runs for two weeks at the Fringe. If you haven't already contributed, check out the Big Map, where you can share your own Billy Connolly story with the rest of the country.

We have three shows at the Festivals this August – more on those in the next edition...

Until then, enjoy the return of Real Spring, and thank you for playing a part in your National Theatre – we couldn't do it without you.

Best wishes,

Jackie.

MAGGIE & ME



Maggie & Me Rehearsals , Tommy Ga-Ken Wan

*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.*

Brighton, 2008: Damian Barr celebrates getting a deal to write a memoir about his chaotic childhood in 1980s Lanarkshire. But as soon as he opens the door to his troubled past, everybody comes rushing through, including his younger self and the woman who forever changes his family, community and country: Maggie Thatcher.



[WATCH | RAVENSCRAIG MONOLOGUE](#)



[WATCH | MAKING OF MAGGIE & ME | EPISODE 1](#)

During the rehearsal period, students from North Lanarkshire College's Film & TV course have created a series of short films charting the making of the show. They've been getting exclusive behind the scenes access, sharing insights into the creative team's process, as well as visiting some of the locations in North Lanarkshire that informed Damian's childhood experiences. There's also a peculiar challenge for the Costume team in creating the character of Mary the Canary – “half auxiliary nurse, half country & western singer”...



“A HEART WRENCHING, THOUGHT PROVOKING PRODUCTION.”

Theatre Scotland



“HIGHLY SIGNIFICANT SHOW, THAT TRIES TO PUSH QUEER THEATRE BEYOND CONGRATULATORY CHEER LEADING.”

The Scotsman



“FEARLESS AND UNFLINCHING”

Daily Record



Maggie & Me Rehearsals , Tommy Ga-Ken Wan



Maggie & Me Rehearsals , Tommy Ga-Ken Wan

THANK U, NEXT

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.

Corporate Sponsor: Savendie

Supported by William Grant Foundation, Binks Trust and The McGlashan Trust.



[WATCH | THANK U NEXT TRAILER](#)

Our Creative Engagement department's remit includes working with educational institutions to enrich and enhance learning in Scotland. This includes the Theatre in Schools Scotland touring programme, the free online Education Portal, our Creative Careers workshops and an annual Teachers Drama Day at Rockvilla. We also create productions that use the school as the performance site, where professional theatre makers work alongside a school's pupils to create a unique new show for the pupils and communities of the school. In January and February this year, a team of artists led by the internationally renowned 21Common were embedded at Bellahouston Academy for a five-week period to develop the model of our latest school production, which will be rolled out subsequently to three other schools across Scotland.

Thank U, Next explores the cultures of cosplay, shapeshifting, memeification and virtual realities, to better understand the world of identity and the liberty to transform who you might be into something amazing.

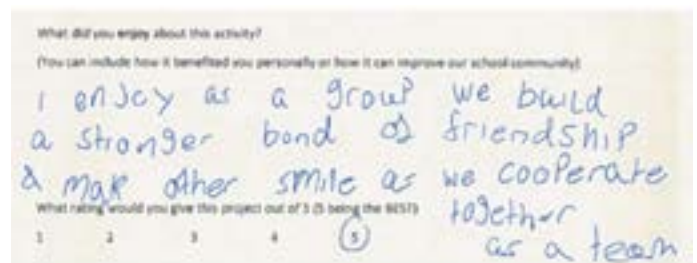
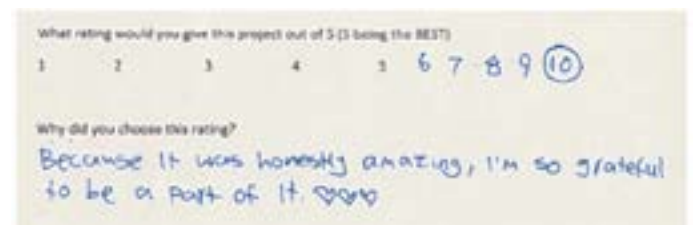


Thank U, Next, Tim Morozzo

[WATCH | THANK U NEXT | INTERVIEW WITH THE PARTICIPANTS](#)

We know from previous experience with *Like Flying*, just how transformative this kind of project can be for the young participants. For most, it's their first experience of this kind of creative process in a different context to their everyday, where they have the opportunity to develop communication skills, confidence, teamwork and problem solving. In addition to the performing company, for the first time this year we had a separate cohort of pupils as part of the World of Work programme, where they learned the basics of Marketing, PR, Box Office, Front of House Operations, and about the careers that exist in these areas, off stage.

We can't wait for pupils in Cumbernauld, Grangemouth and Lochgelly to have the same opportunities in 2024 and 2025.



CARING SCOTLAND



At the end of March, we announced *Caring Scotland*, a new three-year project working with and documenting the lives of Care Experienced people in Scotland.

With funding from the National Lottery Heritage Fund and in partnership with Who Cares? Scotland, *Caring Scotland* is a far-reaching creative oral history project that will document the lives and experiences of at least 100 members of the Care Experienced community in Scotland. In 2027, following a three-year period of consultation, workshops, interviews, research and development, the project will result in a large-scale touring immersive experience, created by a team of artists, for audiences across Scotland, as well as an oral history sound archive housed in perpetuity at the National Library of Scotland.

Caring Scotland has been conceived by playwright and socially engaged theatre-maker, Nicola McCartney, who has extensive experience of the Care Experienced community, as a member of the Children's Panel and as a foster parent. In 2021 Nicola led the National Theatre of Scotland's *Holding/Holding On* project as part of the Care in Contemporary Scotland – A Creative Enquiry programme. This new project represents a continuation of her creative enquiry into Scotland's care system following on from the Independent Care Review published in 2020 and at its centre, The Promise, a commitment to implement change demanded by the review to ensure that all children grow up 'loved, safe and respected'.

We look forward to sharing updates with you as the project progresses...

COMING SOON

JUNE CARTER CASH: THE WOMAN, HER MUSIC, AND ME

Written and performed by Charlene Boyd
Directed by Cora Bissett

Produced by National Theatre of Scotland and
Grid Iron Theatre Company

Touring to: Edinburgh Festival Fringe, Banchory, Glasgow, Dumfries and Galloway, Arran, Ullapool
and Findhorn Bay Festival



Charlene Boyd

The story of one of country music's most iconic voices: June Carter Cash.

In this raw yet uplifting show, Charlene Boyd gets to grips with a life less ordinary. 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 shared experience as performers and working mothers.

A powerful, personal journey of discovery stretching across the Atlantic from the Appalachian Mountains to the Glasgow high-rise flats, their tale is one of empowerment, endurance and perseverance. Inspired by the setting of Nashville's legendary Bluebird Café, come take a seat and listen to their story...



RETURNING!

DEAR BILLY

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

Touring to: Aberdeen, Glasgow, Inverness, Salford & Edinburgh



[WATCH | DEAR BILLY TRAILER](#)

If you don't know who Billy Connolly is, ask the people of Scotland. And if you want to know about the people of Scotland, ask them about Billy Connolly.

Last year's sell-out smash hit celebration of one of Scotland's best loved performers, The Big Yin, is back by popular demand.

Gary McNair, one of Scotland's finest theatre makers, and an expert team of story gatherers spent years speaking to people all over the country about The Big Yin. Some knew him in childhood, at the shipyards of the Clydeside, from his trailblazing and extraordinary stage and movie exploits. Some had only met him once, some still dream of meeting him but they all had one thing in common- they weren't short of things to say about him.

Gary then took this huge collection of moving and hilarious tales and turned them into a joyous piece of theatre celebrating the Big Yin and what he means to us.

So join him and the band as they hit the road again, collecting more stories as they go, making every show different. A great night out for all that will have you in stitches!



**A POPULIST, FUNNY AND POIGNANT
JIGSAW PUZZLE COLLAGE**

Scottish Daily Mail



VIVID, FUNNY AND POIGNANT

The Guardian



**REMINDS US WHY IT'S SO
GREAT AND HOW MUCH IT
MEANS TO ALL OF US**

Daily Record

IN ASSOCIATION WITH

SHŌ AND THE DEMONS OF THE DEEP

Written by Zoë Bullock, adapted from the work by Annouchka Gravel Galouchko

Directed by Shilpa T-Hyland

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



Credit: Mihaela Bodlovic

Touring to: Glasgow, Aberdeen, Shetland, Mull, Dunoon, Dunkeld, Melrose, Wick, Dumfries, Edinburgh, Inverness and St Andrews.

AN ACCIDENT / A LIFE



A collaboration between Marc Brew and Sidi Larbi Cherkaoui.

A Marc Brew Company and Eastman co-production in association with National Theatre Scotland.

Touring to: The Hague, Glasgow, Sierre, Bulle, Basel, Norwich



Credit: Filip Van Roe

A DAY IN THE LIFE

Two of the most important people at Rockvilla!

It takes a lot of bods to keep our HQ running smoothly.

Our Rockvilla creation centre is a busy building and an important resource for the whole Scottish theatre sector.

Last year we hosted 86 different companies, loaned spaces to 50 different artists and small companies, and loaned out over £600,000 worth of equipment from our technical store.

Between them, Chris and Carrie play a vital role in keeping the whole place running smoothly and for making Rockvilla as sustainable as possible, as we work to the Theatre Green Book intermediate standard for buildings, operations and productions.



[WATCH NOW](#)

Chris Lang,
General Manager



[WATCH NOW](#)

Carrie Taylor,
Spaces Coordinator

DOGS OF NTS

EOIN

An Executive good boy.

DEPARTMENT: Executive Leadership

The baby of the NTS Dog family, Eoin is taking the creative world by storm, can often be found developing organisational strategy or eating biscuits.



Extreme Cuteness from Day 1



NEXT TIME

- Jack Lowden returns to Scottish stages in David Ireland's *The Fifth Step* •
- Charlene Boyd takes inspiration from June Carter Cash •
- Two new artists-in-residence at Rockvilla •

In the meantime, huge thanks to you all, as ever, for helping us to create Theatre Without Walls across Scotland and beyond!

With love from the Development Team: Stella, Adam and our newest addition, the wonderful Torran



Maggie & Me, Mihaela Bodlovoc

THANK YOU

PRODUCTION SUPPORTERS

Sir Ewan and Lady Brown
Kris Grace Hartness
The Bently Foundation
The Britford Bridge Trust
Savendie

ARTISTIC DIRECTOR'S CIRCLE

Alan Main
Brian Park
Elspeth Findlay
George and Jacqui Morris
Karen Collins and David Frederick
The Binks Trust
Tim and Kim Allan

PATRONS

Angela, Max and Amy Hendry
Ann and Colin Fergusson
Brenna Hobson
David and Judy Shaw
David and Olga Orr
David and Terri Warnock
Doreen Davidson
Fiona Ross
Harry and Elaine Warnock
Hon. Lady Rita Rae
Ian and Miranda Rankin
Ian Ritchie CBE
Joan and Enda Logan
Joan Elliott
Judith Chivers and Kevin Ford
Mairi Mickel
Mark Downie
Michael and Ailsa Urquhart
Mike and Carol Ramsay
Mukesh Moorjani
Penny and Euan Loudon
Peter and Diane Cabrelli
Ros Taylor and John Young
Seona Reid DBE and Cordelia
Ditton
Sheelagh Duffield
Sir Ronald and Lady Ann Miller
Stella Litchfield
Walter and Norma Nimmo

BENEFACTORS

Alison Lefroy Brooks
Betta Adams
Dr. James and Amanda Garden CBE
Eileen Walker
Frank and Shirley Howell
Fred and Irene Shedden
Jeremy Smeeth
Jonathan A. M. Muirhead
Juliette Paton
May and John Moreland
Neill and Pauline Hunter
Peter and Linda Alston

COMPANIONS

Jane Griffiths
Judy Wilkinson
Gareth Beedie

FESTIVE FIRST NIGHTS SUPPORTERS

Arnold Clarke Automobiles Ltd
Gravitate at Work Ltd
Hiper Ltd
Ian Gilmour Transport Ltd
Kynesis
Rock-It Global
RJ McLeod
The Touch Agency
Xeretec

FRIENDS

Alan Maxwell
Andrew Lockyer
Angus MacCuish
Anne Gilchrist
Anne Young
Audrey Barclay
Brian Neill
Campbell McInroy
Carol and John Fender
Catherine Alexander
Catherine Gerrard and
Ann Colman
David Chittleburgh
Dorothy Miell
Eilidh Douglas
Graham Leadbitter
Gráinne Smith
Hamish Mackay
Hope Smith
James and Norma Main
Janet Ellis
Jean and Raymond
Young-Kennedy
Jennifer Johnston
Joan and Bob Grant
John and Frances Kerr
John Lister
Kristien Hintjens
Martin Eckersall
Martin McKay
Mary Hepburn
Maureen Sturrock
Mirren Stobie
The Muriel Spark Society
Pamela McGowan
Patricia Smith
Patsy Millar
Prof. William Sweeney
and Mrs. Susannah
Conway
Rana Keane
Robert Kidd and Heather
McKinlay
Ruairi Vernon
Russell Lowe
Sean O'Neill
Shelagh and Brian Sayer
Sue and Phil Leckie
Sue Hillman
Thomas and Mary
Harrison
Thomas Hanna and
Jamie Pearson
Tom and Paula Gibson
Ulrike Maxrath
W. Hamish Fraser
W. Mathison

TRUSTS & FOUNDATIONS

Aberdeen Endowments Trust
Bellahouston Bequest Fund
Craignish Trust
Creative Scotland
D R Spalding's Charitable Trust
The Dunclay Charitable Trust
The Educational Institute of Scotland
Esmee Fairbairn Foundation
The Ettrick Charitable Trust
Forteviot Charitable Trust
The Foyle Foundation
Garfield Weston Foundation
The Hugh Fraser Foundation
Jimmie Cairncross Charitable Trust
John Ellerman Foundation
John Mather Charitable Trust
McGlashan Charitable Trust
Mickel Fund
Miss E C Hendry Charitable Trust.
The Murdoch Forrest Charitable Trust
The R J Larg Family Trust
The Rayne Foundation
Raymond Kenneth Thomas Harris Trust
Saints & Sinners Club of Scotland
Stevenston Charitable Trust
Tay Charitable Trust
The Thistle Trust
Thomson Charitable Trust
The Trades House of Glasgow
The Trades Widows' Fund Charity
Verden Sykes Trust
Binks Trust
William Grant Foundation
The William Syson Foundation

