DEAR BILLY
VISUAL GUIDE

VISUAL STORY SYNOPSIS

DEAR BILLY

Dear Billy is a new National Theatre of Scotland production celebrating the Scottish icon, Billy Connolly, also known as The Big Yin. The play is written and performed by Gary McNair who has collected tales about Billy Connolly and, with a team of musicians, transformed them into a show that celebrates what Connolly means to people to the people of Scotland and beyond.

Dear Billy is a joyful and touching piece that uses music and humour, plus plenty of audience interaction. During the show, Gary recounts the numerous personal stories about Billy Connolly the team have collected, describing his background, personality, rise to fame and why we hold him so dear.

Things to know about the show:

•   The show features live music and songs, neon lights and smoke effects. Sometimes all these elements happen at once
•   The lighting on stage is brightly coloured at points while the auditorium remains dark
•   The performer moves from microphone to microphone taking on different voices to tell the stories
•   There is one performer and two musicians on stage
•   The text includes swear words
•   There is dark humour within the play and at points the telling of stories is emotional

CAST

GARY MCNAIR
Performer

SIMON LIDDELL
Musician

JILL O'SULLIVAN
Musician

DEAR BILLY - SHOW BREAKDOWN

The two musicians are on stage at the start of the show and remain seated in the same space throughout with various instruments.

On the back wall are curtains with chains at the centre. Above the stage is a giant pair of neon glasses.

There is a banana seat and boot on stage that lights up.

The performer moves between the banana seat and a number of microphones at the front of the stage.

Throughout the piece the performer retells recollections from the People of Scotland on their meeting of The Big Yin.

The performer goes between being these "storytellers" and being himself.

When being himself the performer is at the front of the stage and in front of the microphones.

Dear Billy production photography by Sally Jubb