



Scottish Daily Mail



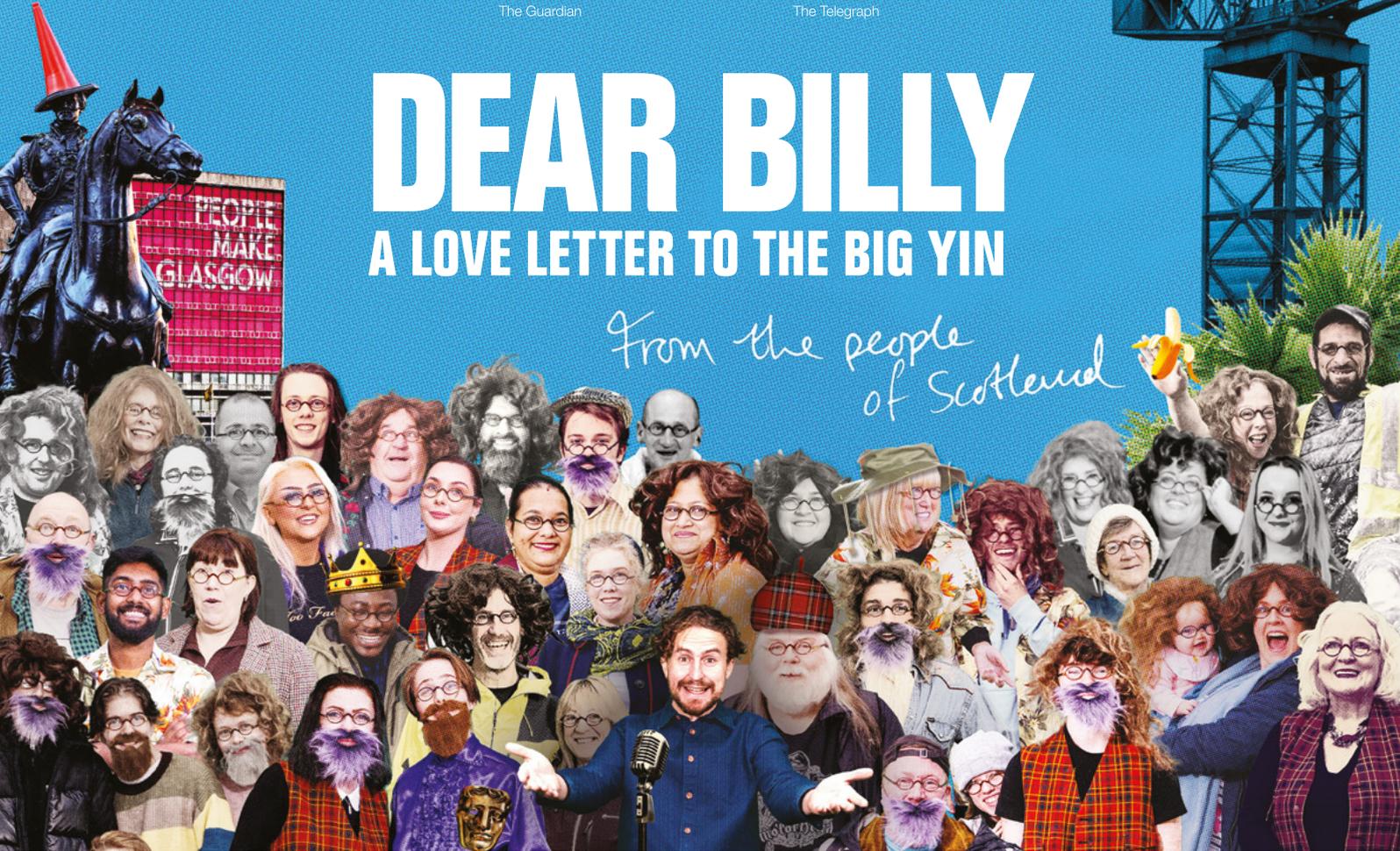
The Scotsman



The Guardian



The Telegraph



DEAR BILLY - A NOTE FROM THE WRITER

It's such a genuine honour and delight to be making this show for you. To say that I am excited about it would be an understatement. That's not to say that the last few years haven't been without the occasional moment of waking up in the night thinking: 'What the hell are we doing? You don't take on the Big Yin, that's sacred stuff!' But yet somehow, here we are.

This show has been a long time in the making. How long? Well, you could say it's been in development a few years. Or when the first of many people said to me, 'You should do a show about Billy Connolly!'

Or back to twenty-five years ago when I was stood in the stairwell at school listening to a tape of the Jobby Weecha for the first time, totally captivated, lost in the moment and pishing myself laughing, completely unaware that the bell had rung long ago.

As I've embarked further into this project I've come to realise that I, and anyone else who is lucky enough to tell stories on stage for a living, owes a huge debt of gratitude to Billy for blazing a trail as wide as the Clyde and leaving plenty of room in his wake for people to find their own voice and use it.

Often when someone makes a show where they are the writer and performer, people can assume that it is a 'solo work' or a 'one-man show'. That's not what this is. Sure I'm up there telling the stories. But there are two other performers with me for a start and then the director of a show like this is much more of a copilot than anything else. Music plays such a big part of telling these stories, as does the design, and then there's all the creatives, technicians and producers that have made this show with our National Theatre. And of course there is the incredible team of story gatherers and researchers who spoke to countless people around Scotland. And finally, the people across Scotland themselves. Without their generosity with their time and their stories, this show would not be possible. It has been a joy to work with these stories.

I only wish we could share them all with you.

Gary McNair (Writer/Performer), August 2024

CAST

Simon Liddell (he/him)	Musician
Gary McNair (he/him)	Performer
Jill O'Sullivan (she/her)	Musician

TEAM

Kate Bonney (she/her)	Lighting Designer
Heather Currie (she/her)	Wardrobe Supervisor (rehearsal only)
Joe Douglas (he/him)	Director/Dramaturg
Adam Gibson	Sound Supervisor (Edinburgh)
Claire Halleran (she/her)	Set and Costume Designer
Simon Hayes (he/him)	Lighting Designer
Simon Liddell (he/him)	Composer
Nina Madriz (she/her)	Deputy Stage Manager (rehearsal only)
Keir Martin (he/him)	Sound Supervisor (tour)
Gary McNair (he/him)	Writer
Jamie Murray (he/him)	Lighting Supervisor
Calum Paterson	Production Sound Designer
Sally Reid (she/her)	Director (Remount)
Lesley Anne Rose	Producer
Jill O'Sullivan (she/her)	Composer
Katharina Siebert (she/her)	Company Stage Manager
Elle Taylor	Production Manager
The People of Scotland	Storyteller Contributors
Robbie Gordon	Story Gatherer
Jacqueline Houston (she/her)	Story Gatherer (Research)
Genevieve Jagger	Story Gatherer
Jamie Marie Leary (she/her)	Story Gatherer

ACCESS

Karen Forbes (she/her)	BSL Interpreter
Andrew Howell (he/him)	Live Captioner
Christopher McKiddie (he/him)	Audio Describer

NTS is proud to be an organisation where all are welcome, and we've listed the pronouns of the cast and creative team in this freesheet as part of our ongoing commitment to use more inclusive language wherever we can as part of our LGBT Charter for Business Award

THE COMPANY WOULD LIKE TO THANK:

This show would not be possible without all the people who shared their stories with us.

David Carroll, Lillian Downie, Fiona Johnston, Katy McNair, Brian O'Sullivan, RCS, Dundee Rep, Sally Reid, Gordon Turner, Jamie Gordon, Colin Bell, Will Goulding and Angela Doherty from Connecting Craigmillar from the Thistle Foundation, and all at Craigmillar Hearts Club. And, of course, the Big Yin

A BIG MAP FOR THE BIG YIN

Billy Connolly has travelled all over Scotland and the world bringing laughter wherever he's gone. Now we are creating a map of all the places that have a connection to Billy. Please scan the QR code to share your knowledge of Billy; your stories, memories, photos, and favourite jokes, to add your unique mark to this living tribute and love letter to The Big Yin.



ABOUT NATIONAL THEATRE OF SCOTLAND

National Theatre of Scotland is a Theatre Without Walls. We don't have our own venue, instead, we're able to bring theatre to you wherever you are. From the biggest stages to the smallest community halls, we showcase Scottish culture at home and around the world. We have performed in airports and tower blocks, submarines and swimming pools, telling stories in ways you have never seen before.

We want to bring the joy of theatre to everyone. Since we were founded in 2006, we have produced hundreds of shows and toured all over the world. We strive to amplify the voices that need to be heard, tell the stories that need to be told and take work to wherever audiences are to be found.

To find out about the full team at National Theatre of Scotland please visit: nationaltheatrescotland.com/about/our-people or follow us on:



If you would like to give us feedback on the show, please email us at feedback@nationaltheatrescotland.com

SUPPORT NATIONAL THEATRE OF SCOTLAND

As well as Gary, the musicians and director, it took producers, dramaturgs, designers, technicians, stage managers, co-ordinators, BSL interpreters and countless others 6 years to bring the show to life.

Today we are asking you to become a part of that team by contributing to our *Support Act* campaign. Get fabulous thank you perks and know you played a part making the next National Theatre of Scotland show happen.

Find out more:



Visit:
nationaltheatrescotland.com/support-act

Or email:
development@nationaltheatrescotland.com

THEATRE TICKETS FOR JUST A FIVER!

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Sign up to National Theatre of Scotland's Theatre for a Fiver scheme and get your hands on £5 tickets for almost all of our shows across Scotland.

Once you sign up, you will receive a regular email containing the latest offers and discount codes to access great theatre for only a fiver. Find out more and sign up here:
nationaltheatrescotland.com/t4a5

For groups, please contact **0141 227 9483** or email
boxoffice@nationaltheatrescotland.com