



Press release 06 November 2020

The National Theatre of Scotland presents

FESTIVE 2020

A SEASON OF DIGITAL DECEMBER DELIGHTS!



With pantos cancelled, and a digital Christmas foretold, the National Theatre of Scotland wants to offer up an online season of theatrical sparkle to audiences across the land as well as launching a competition and fundraising campaign with the chance to win your own fairy tale experience.

Putting the J for Joy into Xmas.

What would the Festive Season be without someone fabulous whose name begins with J. At the invitation of Jackie Wylie - Jackie Kay, Janey Godley and Johnny McKnight, our own holy trinity of Scottish artistic talent, are serving us up a season of festive online treats this year.

The National Theatre of Scotland wants to spread some JOY throughout the land with the offering of

- *Rapunzel* - a Christmas show for online and cinema audiences from Scottish panto legend Johnny McKnight, filmed at Stirling Castle, in partnership with Historic Environment Scotland
- *Makar to Cracker* - the return of Jackie Kay's soulful poetry and music offering for the festive season
- *Alone III and IV* - two brand new festive episodes of *Alone*, Janey Godley's online viral drama about Betty and Bobo
- *A Queen's Speech* - a very special alternative online message on Christmas Day from Dame of the Realm, Paige Ootabook, AKA Johnny McKnight
- *Winter Special* – a special sparkly edition of our *Social Dance Club* for LGBTI + elders and a post Xmas Midwinter Warmer event
- 20 days of festive joy with special content for online audiences from 13 December 2020 to 1 January 2021

- **A chance to Win Your Own Fairy Tale experience whilst helping to raise money for the National Theatre of Scotland's Future Fund**
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The National Theatre of Scotland in partnership with Historic Environment Scotland presents

RAPUNZEL

A HAIRY TALE ADVENTURE

**AVAILABLE AT SELECTED CINEMAS FROM 22 DECEMBER
AND ONLINE FROM 23 DECEMBER 2020**

Directed by **Johnny McKnight** and Film Directed by **Stewart Kyasimire**

Written by **Apphia Campbell, Johnny McKnight, Uma Nada-Rajah, Morna Pearson, Stef Smith, Meghan Tyler and Anita Vettesse.**

Designed by **Kenny Miller**, Music composed by **Audrey Tait** and **Lauren Gilmour - Novasound**, *Animation and Visual Effects* by **Jamie Macdonald**, Lighting Designed by **Lizzie Powell** and Creative Collaborator - **Shona Reppe**

Cast: Amber Sylvia Edwards (Rapunzel); **Darren Brownlie** (Rosey Posey), **Jamie Rea** (BSL Performance Interpreter - Elfin Safety); **Johnny McKnight** (Paige Ootabook – the Narrator); **Julie Wilson Nimmo** (Anita Haircut / Queen Mary); **Katie Barnett** (Gothel); **Michelle Chantelle Hopewell** (Betty Botanista) and **Reuben Joseph** (Prince Hairy)

The National Theatre of Scotland is delighted to be working with Historic Environment Scotland for the first time, to be able to present a very special online festive show, packed full of songs, filmed in the beautiful surrounds of Stirling Castle, **Rapunzel** has been created by a Xmas cracker writing and creative team, led by Scottish Panto King Johnny McKnight.

Rapunzel is a celebration of theatricality, music and storytelling and a chance to hear from every character in this well-known hairy tale, untangled and re-braided for this day and age.

Rapunzel will be available for audiences in selected independent cinemas and arts centres across Scotland from the 22 December and then streamed online from 23 December to 04 January, with tickets available at a sliding scale from £0 to £25. The stream will be available from the National Theatre of Scotland's website and will be accompanied by a free, fun, festive activity pack for families to enjoy over the holiday period. Tickets will be made available to buy from Scottish theatre venues websites as well.

Paige Ootabook (The Narrator) says: *"You all know the story of Rapunzel, right? That lassie with the long hair who's been trapped in her lockdown tower for what feels like forever. The lassie who's sitting there like a loon waiting for some Prince will come along and save her. Well, think again."*

Cos I bet nobody mentioned the hairdresser who made it her life's mission to track Rapunzel down? Or Rapunzel's twin brother who's terrified he's going to have to take the throne if his sister isn't found? And they certainly didn't mention that six foot all singing all dancing rose in the garden whose psychic visions are going to save the day?

Because you see to truly know a story, you must know all deets. And let me tell you chookies, the story you know of Rapunzel is incomplete.

But finally, at long last, you get to hear from all the characters, all six sides, all six chapters, and despite what you might have thought, they don't all end in happily ever after.

A chance to sit with the family and finally piece together the story of one lassie and her journey from isolation to taking her rightful place at the... Hey come on, I'm not going to give away the ending now, am I"

Alison Turnbull, Director of Development and Partnership at Historic Environment Scotland, said: *"We are delighted to partner with The National Theatre of Scotland to bring this exciting production of Rapunzel to online audiences and cinemas, making heritage accessible to all this festive season. The historic setting of the magnificent Stirling Castle provides the perfect backdrop for the retelling of this iconic story and promises to bring us all some welcome festive cheer."*

Audiences are invited to a festive digital experience set against the backdrop of one of Scotland's most impressive historic buildings featuring show tunes from Nova Sound (Audrey Tait and Lauren Gilmour) and in collaboration with an all-female writing team of Apphia Campbell, Uma Nada-Raja, Morna Pearson, Stef Smith, Meghan Tyler, and Anita Vettesse.

Rapunzel is directed by Johnny McKnight, who also co-writes and appears as the Narrator. Johnny McKnight is a Scottish writer and director, and co-Artistic Director of Random Accomplice Theatre Company. He is one of Scotland's most celebrated contemporary panto artists, and his critically acclaimed play *Wendy Hoose*, produced by Birds of Paradise and Random Accomplice, toured London and Europe in 2016. He is also a newly appointed Associate Artist with the National Theatre of Scotland.

The film is directed by Stewart Kyasimire, recently nominated for a Scottish BAFTA for his BBC TV documentary *Black and Scottish*.

Scottish cinema release: 22 December

Online stream: 23 December to 04 January

Tickets: nationaltheatrescotland.com/rapunzel from £0 to £25

Access: there will be an audio described version available online as well as a version featuring creative BSL performance interpretation from Jamie Rea.

The National Theatre of Scotland presents

Alone Part III and Alone Part IV

Written by **Janey Godley** and directed by **Caitlin Skinner**

Cast includes: **Janey Godley**

***Alone Part III* on nationaltheatrescotland.com on 26 December 2020**

***Alone Part IV* on nationaltheatrescotland.com on 31 December 2020**

As part of the National Theatre of Scotland's Festive 2020, Janey Godley reunites with director Caitlin Skinner for a new festive follow-up to her smash-hit *Alone* series, with two new instalments set to be released in December 2020.

After nearly a year living under Covid –19 restrictions, with her husband gone and no-one but pet dog Bobo for company, Betty is left contemplating her first Christmas spent alone. Missing her family, Betty extends a virtual hand to her sister Isa in Fort William, whose larger-than-life personality might be just what she needs to chase away her lockdown blues.

Nevertheless, Betty still faces a solitary New Year's Eve, ringing in the end of a dreadful year and with nobody there to help her celebrate. More than anything she wants to see her son Steven again, but with him stuck in Soho and no travel allowed, it looks like a lonely Hogmanay is on the cards.

Alone and *Alone Part II* were originally released as part of Scenes for Survival, the lockdown digital series created by the National Theatre of Scotland in association with BBC Scotland, Screen Scotland, BBC Arts' Culture in Quarantine project, and Scotland's leading theatre venues and companies, with support from Hopscotch Films. The series saw 55 dramatic shorts from some of Scotland's most exciting theatre talent released between May and September 2020.

Alone starred Janey Godley as a lonely housewife struggling to cope with lockdown, while *Alone Part II* saw her virtually reunited with her estranged son Steven, played by Jack Lowden. The two films were among the most watched in the entire series, garnering more than 5.6 million views across all platforms to date.

MAKAR TO CRACKER

Created and curated by **Jackie Kay**

17 December 2020 and 28 January 2021

Following the hugely positive response to Jackie Kay's lockdown series of poetic live streams, *Makar to Makar* returns, with two special episodes marking Christmas and Burns Night in the coming months.

From May to August 2020 Scotland's National Poet **Jackie Kay** engaged in a weekly series of online literary and musical performances. Created and curated by Kay, *Makar To Makar* showcased a line-up of established literary and musical talent and emerging voices from Scotland and around the world, offering poetry, conversation and solace in troubled times.

The series began in May 2020, and 21 performers appeared over the first 14 episodes, including former National Poet Liz Lochhead, Don Paterson, crime writer Val McDermid, and actor Adjoa Andoh as part of a diverse and lively programme.

The special Christmas episode, *Makar to Cracker*, will be released on Thursday 17 December at 7pm, and will feature yuletide poems, songs, and conversation with a selection of special guests. The line-up of guests will be announced on St Andrews Day, Monday 30 November.

On Thursday 28 January, Jackie Kay will host another special episode celebrating Scotland's most famous poet, with a virtual Burns Night featuring Kay's own take on traditions such as the 'toast to the lassies' and more, as she pays very special tribute to the Bard.

Audiences can hear a selection of poems from the series on [the National Theatre of Scotland soundcloud channel](#) and the full series can be watched at nationaltheatrescotland.com/makar2makar

Makar to Makar is produced by the National Theatre of Scotland in association with HOME Manchester, Edinburgh International Book Festival, and School of Arts and Media, Salford.

For more information visit makar2makar.com

SOCIAL DANCE CLUB ONLINE – WINTER SPECIAL and MIDWINTER WARMER

13 December from 1.00pm - 2.30pm - Winter Special

29 December from 3pm to 5pm – Midwinter Warmer

The *Coming Back Out Ball* social dance clubs continue to bring joy and connection to Scotland's elder LGBTI+ communities and their allies.

Following the outbreak of COVID-19, the regular Social Dance Clubs have been being held online every month since April 2020, allowing potentially at-risk LGBTI+ elders to continue to dance and socialise together while unable to meet in-person. The clubs are presented in partnership with All the Queen's Men, the Australian cultural participatory arts pioneers, alongside Eden Court and Luminare, Scotland's creative ageing organisation, and in association with Glasgow City Council.

In December members of the LGBTI+ community are invited to a Winter Special of **LGBTI+ Elders Social Dance Club – ONLINE** to bring some magic warmth and sparkle to the dark winter days; chatting, boogying and cheer will all feature with added festive fun.

The special guest this month is Mridul Wadhwa, who's currently campaigning to become the first trans woman and first woman of colour to serve in the Scottish Parliament. Plus the promise of a special appearance from a Panto Dame.

The period between Christmas and New year can be a lonely and isolating time for many people, including LGBTI+ elders so The Coming Back Out Ball team are planning a cosy midwinter warmer between Christmas and New Year to keep up the seasonal cheer, featuring a festive quiz and singalong.

Each club is led by one or more dance practitioners, including the National Theatre of Scotland's Creative Lead on the project Lewis Hetherington alongside Amy Watt, Lou Brodie, Fraser MacLeod, Emma Jayne Park, and Chris Wilson.

The Social Dance Clubs are part of *The Coming Back Out Ball*: a multi-event celebration of lesbian, gay bisexual, trans and gender diverse and intersex elders in Scotland. A group who have lived through times when being LGBTI+ could result in imprisonment, loss of employment and rejection by family or friends.

Originating in Australia, where it was created by arts company All The Queens Men, the project has now been brought to Scotland for the very first time. The Coming Back Out Ball is a partnership project with All The Queen's Men, Eden Court, Inverness and Luminare, Scotland's creative ageing organisation, in association with Glasgow City Council. *The Coming Back Out Ball* due to take place in Glasgow in June 2020, was postponed due to the COVID-19 outbreak and will now take place in 2021.

Free to book:

nationaltheatrescotland.com/thelgbtiolderssocialdanceclub

_or email thecomingbackoutball@nationaltheatrescotland.com for the link.

NATIONAL THEATRE OF SCOTLAND OFFERS AUDIENCE MEMBERS CHANCE TO WIN THEIR OWN FAIRYTALE EXPERIENCE

To celebrate the announcement of their new digital Christmas show production of *Rapunzel*, the National Theatre of Scotland is offering audiences the opportunity to win their own live fairytale experience. By making a donation to the National Theatre of Scotland's new Future Fund, audience members' names will be entered into a prize draw. The lucky winner will receive a visit from Rapunzel cast members, who will deliver a special fairytale performance at their home or at a suitable venue in their local area. The performance will take place at a safe social distance, potentially at the winner's front door, in their garden, at their school playground, local hospital or care home. Individuals who make a £10 donation to the fund will have their name entered into the draw.

A separate competition will be open to businesses who, in return for a minimum £100 charitable donation, will have the opportunity to donate the prize to a staff member, or to a local school or community organisation.

With the live performing arts sector devastated by the effects of the Covid-19 crisis, the Future Fund has been set up to enable the National Theatre of Scotland to maximise the production of new work and projects for the benefit of Scottish audiences and theatre venues, and to continue creating paid employment opportunities for freelance theatre artists and technicians.

The competition will go live at 12pm on Wednesday 25 November on the National Theatre of Scotland's website. Donations and competition entries can be made at www.nationaltheatrescotland.com/fairytale, where full terms and conditions can also be found.

A QUEEN'S SPEECH

Christmas Day at 3pm – nationaltheatrescotland.com

Paige Ootabook invites audiences to join her in her royally lovely residence for her reflections on the *annus haribo-eatis* year we have just endured, and her hopes and wishes in 2021.

An irreverent and heartfelt offering from one of the most fabulous Dames of the realm to her subjects on Christmas Day!

Paige Ootabook will be making her digital debut in the film Rapunzel on 22 December.

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Press Images: All images available via dropbox

ARTIST BIOGRAPHIES

Amber Sylvia Edwards (Cast, Rapunzel)

Amber trained in a BA Hons Degree Musical Theatre at New College Lanarkshire. Stage Credits include A Lightweight Disposable Product (The Vaults, London), World of Musicals (US Tour), Celtic Nights (US Tour), Fanatical (Playground Theatre), 20th Century Boy (UK Tour). Credits whilst training include Mama Noah in Children of Eden, Aida, American Idiot, Lift, Ordinary Days, Boogie Nights, Zanna Don't. Instagram: @sylviaamber

Anita Vettesse (Writer, Rapunzel)

Anita has just finished writing and co-creating BBC Radio 4's crime drama, This Thing of Darkness and continues to write for BBC's continuing drama, River City. Other work includes: Falling for BBC Radio Drama, You Really Got Me Going as part of The Break - short films Series III for BBC Three as well as being sketch writer for The Comedy Unit's new pilot, The State of It.

Her theatre work includes: Ringroad which was nominated for best new play at The Critics Theatre Awards; Happy Hour and From The Air for Oran Mor; Melvin Bragg Made Me Do It for Paines Plough Theatre Company; News Just In/Hostage Taker for Random Accomplice; Eddie and The Slumber Sisters for Catherine Wheels/National Theatre of Scotland; Bingo, a new musical for Stellar Quines /Grid Iron theatre company.

Anita is also part of the writers' room for Rapunzel for National Theatre Scotland as well as being writer in residence there as part of the John Mather Trust Award. She has also just

finished a new play for Mull Theatre Company, *Undocumented*, to open their season in October.

Apphia Campbell (Writer, Rapunzel)

Apphia Campbell is originally from Florida and after graduating from college she moved to New York where she performed Off-Broadway.

In 2013 she wrote her critically acclaimed piece, 'Black Is The Color Of My Voice' and opened in Shanghai to rave reviews before performing at the Edinburgh Festival Fringe in 2014 where it sold out and has been touring the UK; selling out in prestigious houses such as St. James Theatre, Wilton's Music Hall, and Oxford Playhouse. In 2017, her new show with Meredith Yarbrough, 'Woke', was presented as part of the Made In Scotland Showcase, won a Scotsman Fringe First, a Highly Commended award from Amnesty International, and was shortlisted for The Filipa Bragança Award and Scottish Art Club Theatre Award. In 2018, she continued to tour *Woke* and was featured in the *guardians* 50 shows to see at the fringe and *Vogue's* 5 shows not to miss in 2018 fringe. In 2018, she also became a member of the BBC writersroom (a group chosen for one year tutelage with the BBC). In 2019, she made her west end debut with *Black Is The Color Of My Voice* which had rave reviews and a sold-out run. She also had a London premiere of *Woke* at the prestigious Battersea Arts Centre. During 2019, she performed both of her shows totaling over 100 performances for the year. In 2019, she received her first commission from the BBC for a children's story, called *Zachary The Zebroid* which aired in February 2020.

Recent Credits: *The Last Bordello* (Virtue/ David Leddy, Director) *Woke* (Ambrosia/Assata Shakur, Caitlin Skinner, Director), *Black Is The Color Of My Voice* (Mena Bordeaux, Arran Hawkins, Director), *The Color Purple* (Celie, James Harkness Director), *Soul Sessions* (Cabaret), *No Exit* (Inez, Michael Beets, Director)

Caitlin Skinner (Director, Alone III & IV)

Caitlin Skinner is director with new writing theatre company *Pearlfisher*, Director of award-winning theatre company *Jordan & Skinner* and Associate Director at *Pitlochry Festival Theatre*. She is former Artistic Director of acclaimed new writing pub theatre company *Village Pub Theatre*.

Her directing credits include *Alone* and *Alone Part II* (National Theatre of Scotland's *Scenes for Survival*), *Five from Inside* by Rona Munro (Traverse Theatre) *Move-Glassed* co-director (disaster plan) *Hope and Joy* (Pearlfisher/Stellar Quines) *A Brief History of the Fragile Male Ego*, *At A Stretch* and *Sanitise* (Jordan & Skinner) *Sunnyside Centre* (Village Pub Theatre), *Woke* (Apphia Campbell) and *The Strange Case of Jekyll and Hyde* (Lung Ha Theatre Company).

Darren Brownlie (Cast, Rapunzel)

Darren started his training on the Musical Theatre Course at the Dance School of Scotland, he then went on to the Arts Educational Schools London, completing his training at The RCS.

Theatre credits include: 10 years of Panto at the Tron Theatre including *Mammy Goose*, *Alice in Weezieland*, *Snaw Queen*, *Cannibal Woman of Mars*. *Crocodile Rock*, *The First Dance*, *Punocchio*, *Spuds*, *Vinyl Idol*, *Oran Mor*, *Still Game The Final Farewell*, *Still Game Live 2- Bon Voyage* (SEE Hydro); *The Rise and Inevitable Fall of Lucas Petite*, *Sleeping Warrior*, *Nijinsky's Last Jump*, *Dance Derby*, (Company Chordelia); *Tin Forest*, National Theatre of Scotland.

Film and TV credits include: *Scots Squad*, *My Barmy Aunt Boomerang*, *Love me Tender* (BBC/CBBC); *Being Victor*, (ITV); *The James Gang*, (Polygram Films).

Jackie Kay (Host, Makar to Cracker)

Jackie was born and brought up in Scotland. The Adoption Papers (Bloodaxe) won the Forward Prize, a Saltire prize and a Scottish Arts Council Prize. Fiere was shortlisted for the Costa award and her novel Trumpet won the Guardian Fiction Award and was shortlisted for the IMPAC award. Red Dust Road (Picador) won the Scottish Book of the Year Award, and the London Book Award, and was shortlisted for the JR Ackerley prize. Her third collection of short stories, Reality, Reality, was praised by The Guardian as 'rank[ing] among the best of the genre'. She was awarded an MBE in 2006, and made a fellow of the Royal Society of Literature in 2002. Her book of stories Wish I Was Here won the Decibel British Book Award. Jackie Kay also writes for children and her book Red Cherry Red (Bloomsbury) won the Clype award. She has written extensively for stage and television. Her plays, Manchester Lines (produced by Manchester Library Theatre) and The New Maw Broon Monologues (produced by Glasgay), were a great success. Her most recent collection, Bantam, was published in 2017 to critical acclaim and has been shortlisted for the 2018 Saltire Literary Award. She is Chancellor of the University of Salford and Professor of Creative Writing at Newcastle University. Jackie Kay was named Scots Makar—the National Poet for Scotland—in March 2016.

Jamie Macdonald (Animation and Video Design –Rapunzel)

Jamie trained at Duncan of Jordanstone College of Art and Design, Dundee. Theatre credits include: Submarine Time Machine (NTS), The Duchess [of Malfi], *The Arabian Nights*, *Alice's Adventures in Wonderland*, *The BFG* (The Lyceum, Edinburgh), *Bill McLaren: The Voice of Rugby*, (Firebrand) *The Little Mermaid* (Macrobert), *Wendy Hoose* (Random Accomplice and Birds of Paradise), *From Here* (Lyra Theatre), *The Incredible Adventures of See Thru Sam* (Random Accomplice – winner of Best Technical Presentation, Critics' Awards for Theatre in Scotland).

He has also created film and animation for companies including Scottish Opera, Traverse Theatre, Soho Theatre, Fuel Theatre, Puppet Animation Scotland and Tron Theatre.

Jamie Rea (BSL Performance Interpreter, Rapunzel)

Jamie Rea is a multidisciplinary artist and deaf performer, visual artist; raised in Northern Ireland and living in Glasgow since 2015. His first language is BSL. He was a member of the first cohort of students in the RCS BA Performance in BSL and English, graduated in 2018. He has collaborated with cultural organisations across Scotland including Electric Creative, NTS, BUZZCUT, Take Me Somewhere, Solar Bear and Raw Material; Across England including Deafinitely and FUEL.

He is also a BSL consultant (including embedding access, hosting and promotion, workshop leader. This year 2020, I recently collaborated with Shoot Your Shot, the Pride fundraiser. He wanted to show the unique talents of Deaf artists and performers and raise awareness in theatre industries. Jamie wanted to deepen existing skills to build new festivals and artist development structures to advocate for deaf artists in Scotland as for 2021 he will be in Take Me Somewhere team on producing placement for 2021 Festival.

Janey Godley (Cast/Writer, Alone)

Writer and Performer Multi-award-winning Scottish comedienne, playwright, award-winning blogger, best-selling author and former Scotsman newspaper columnist Janey Godley has performed her comedy shows and one-woman play around the world, including off-Broadway in New York. She is a regular on BBC Radio 4's Just a Minute.

Johnny McKnight (Writer/Director/Cast *Rapunzel & A Queen's Speech*)

Johnny McKnight is a writer, director, actor and performer as well as the joint artistic director of Random Accomplice Theatre Company. He has been described as the new vanguard of pantomime in the national press having written 19 contemporary pantomimes. His critically acclaimed play *Wendy Hoose*, produced by Birds of Paradise and Random Accomplice, toured London and Europe in 2016 and his adaptation of *Low Pay, Don't Pay* ran at the Tron Theatre last Spring. Johnny is currently under commission to the National Theatre of Scotland, Tron Theatre and Macrobert Arts Centre and is developing several original television comedies. Johnny has written on Series 16-22 of RIVER CITY (BBC).

Julie Wilson Nimmo (Cast, Rapunzel)

Julie trained at the RSAMD and has worked in television, film and stage. For the National Theatre of Scotland she has appeared in Tutti Frutti, 365, House of Bernarda Alba, Men Should Weep and Beautiful Burnout with Frantic Assembly. Other theatre includes Double Nugget, News Just In, And the Beat Goes On, (Random Accomplice) Shining Souls, Miracle on Parnie Street, Sleeping Betty, Snow Queen, Alice in Weegieland and Mammy Goose (Tron Theatre) Beauty and the Beast, (Citz) The Date (Oran Mor) The Magic Island (TAG) The Static (Thick Skin) Low Pay Don't Pay (Glasgow Live) TV work includes Balamory, Murder Rooms (BBC) West Skerra Light, Long Night at Blackstone, (Hopscotch BBC) Taggart, Mike and Angelo (STV/ITV) The Baldyman, Rab C. Nesbitt, Chewin' the Fat, Still Game and Scot Squad (Comedy Unit BBC) Film work includes The Slab Boys (Film4) My Life So Far (Enigma) Mrs. Caldicot's Cabbage War (Mersey Films) The Escort (Pathe) Jules is a regular in Fags, Mags n Bags (BBCRadio4)

Katie Barnett (Cast, Rapunzel)

Katie's credits with NTS include: Our Ladies of Perpetual Succour (West End), My Left Right Foot and SHIFT. Other credits include: Rapunzel, Weans in the Wood, Chick Whittington, and Sleepin' Cutie (Macrobert Arts Centre), Hi, My Name is Ben (Dundee Rep), Hay Fever (Citizens Theatre/Royal Lyceum Theatre), Outside In, Edge of the World, Supply, Butterfly Kiss and A Bit of a Dick Whittington (Oran Mor), Shark in the Park (Macrobert/UK Tour).

Katie graduated from the Royal Conservatoire of Scotland in 2016 with a BA in Musical Theatre. She is co-owner of Find Your Light Theatre School.

Kenny Miller (Designer, Rapunzel)

Kenny Miller is a freelance designer (and director) who was for many years Head of Design / Associate Director at the Citizens' Theatre, Glasgow.

He has worked in Theatre and Opera both nationally and internationally, designing and directing for many companies such as: Royal Court Theatre, London; Royal Shakespeare Company; Oxford Stage Company; Hampstead Theatre; Theatre Royal Stratford East; Palace Theatre Watford; Greenwich Theatre; Bush Theatre, Donmar Warehouse; Lyceum Theatre Edinburgh; Oldham Coliseum Theatre and Dundee Rep Theatre.

He has won three Critics' Awards for Theatre in Scotland for: Scrooge (Best Production); Smoking With Lulu (Best Technical) and A Little Bit of Ruff (Best Ensemble). He has also won the Manchester Evening News Award for 10 Rillington Place (Best Designed Production).

Recent credits as Designer include: Smile and Deathtrap Dundee Rep; The Cherry Orchard, The Weir, Bird (also Royal Exchange Manchester), A Doll's House and Romeo and Juliet Sherman Cymru; The Tin Forest National Theatre of Scotland; Generation Dance Scottish Ballet; Macbeth & Blithe Spirit Perth Theatre; Blanche & Butch (also directed) In An Alien Landscape Beacon Arts Centre and national tour; The Man Who Lived Twice Arches Theatre / Birds of Paradise Theatre Company and national tour; The Dolls – Abroad & The Dolls – Dragged Up National Tour; Mammy Goose, Miracle on 34 Parnie Street, Cannibal Women of Mars, Aganeza Scrooge, Plume, Mister Merlin's Pure Panto Magic, Flo White and Valhalla! Tron Theatre and Casablana: The Gin Joint Cut for Tron Theatre, Edinburgh Festival and national tour; Cuttin' A Rug & Marilyn for the Citizens' Theatre and Royal Lyceum Edinburgh; Staircase by Charles Dyer Tron Theatre; Slug for Visible Fictions and Clockwork an adaptation of an original work by Phillip Pullman co-production also with Scottish Opera; Lark, Clark and the Puppet Handy and The Ushers Raindog / Tron Theatre, Douglas Maxwell's new musical The Bookie Cumbernauld Theatre and national tour; Doubt: A Parable and the UK Premiere of Autobahn (also co-directed) and Lady M: His Fiend-Like Queen Theatre Jezebel / Tron Theatre; Tartuffe, Fuenteovejuna and Lysistrata, Classic Cuts at Oran Mór; Ya Beauty and the Beast, Betrayed, From the West Bank, and Address Unknown Tron Theatre; Mary Queen of Scots Got Her Head Chopped Off and Our Teacher's a Troll National Theatre of Scotland; Proof and Tam O'Shanter Perth Theatre; The Steamie national tour & SSE Hydro and Born Bad Scottish Youth Theatre.

Recent credits as Designer & Director include: Witness for the Prosecution & And Then There Were None Dundee Rep; April in Paris and And The Beat Goes On Perth Theatre; The Seagull, Company Policy, Romeo and Juliet and Don Giovanni for Oran Mór; Cinderella, Alice in Weegieland, Sleeping Betty and Peter Panto and the Incredible Stinkerbell, Tron Theatre; Pinocchio for Scottish Youth Theatre; Harold and Maude and Days of Wine and Roses for Theatre Jezebel of which he is a founding member.

Recent credits as Director include: Face and Jacquoranda Perth Theatre and The Chooky Brae by Daniel C Jackson Borderline Theatre and national tour.

Lizzie Powell (Lighting Design, Rapunzel)

Lizzie's previous lighting designs for the National Theatre of Scotland include Adam, Our Ladies Of Perpetual Succour, In Time o' Strife, Glasgow Girls, My Shrinking Life, Enquirer, Appointment with the Wicker Man, Knives In Hens, Girl X, Mary Queen of Scots Got Her Head Chopped Off, Our Teacher's A Troll, Debuts (with Traverse Theatre), and Venus As A Boy.

Other theatre include A Midsummer Night's Dream (Scottish Opera), Smile (Dundee Rep), King John, Macbeth (RSC), Dial M For Murder (National Tour); Kes (Perth Theatre); Our Town (Regents Park Open Air Theatre), The Country Girls (Chichester Festival); Hedda Gabler, Frankenstein (Northern Stage); The Mountaintop (Young Vic); Victory Condition, B, Human Animals, Violence and Son (Royal Court); Pinocchio, Cyrano De Bergerac (with NTS/Lyceum Theatre), Endgame, The Choir, Fever Dream: Southside, The Libertine, Far Away/Seagulls, Krapp's Last Tape/Footfalls (Citizens Theatre); Avalance: A Love Story (Barbican Theatre & Sydney Theatre Company); Mother Courage, Anna Karenina, The

Mighty Walzer (Royal Exchange, Manchester); Smile, Deathtrap (Dundee Rep Theatre); Secret Theatre (Lyric Theatre, Hammersmith); What Girls Are Made Of, Spring Awakening, While You Lie, Any Given Day, and The Dark Things (Traverse Theatre); Under Milk Wood (Theatre Royal Northampton); Romeo and Juliet (Sheffield Crucible).

Meghan Tyler (Writer, Rapunzel)

'Irrepressible, Glasgow-based Irish theatre minx' Meghan Tyler trained as an actor at The Royal Conservatoire of Scotland.

As a playwright, she has been a recipient of Channel 4 Playwrights' Award supported by The Traverse Theatre, a recipient of the New Playwrights' Award with Playwrights' Studio Scotland, and been part of The New Playwrights' Programme with The Lyric Theatre, Belfast. At the 2019 Edinburgh Fringe Festival her play Crocodile Fever took the Traverse Theatre by storm.

Meghan currently has a residency at The National Theatre.

Michelle Chantelle Hopewell (Cast, Rapunzel)

Michelle graduated from the Royal Conservatoire of Scotland. Theatre credits include:

Mrs Phelps in Matilda - UK/Ireland Tour (Royal Shakespeare Company); Eunice in A Streetcar Named Desire (Rapture Theatre); Fairy Starlight in Cinderella (Greenwich Theatre); Attendant/Fortune Teller/Ensemble/Babkak in Aladdin (Disney Theatricals/Prince Edward Theatre); Deloris Van Cartier in Sister Act (Gordon Craig Theatre); Chantelle in Miracle on 34th Parnie Street (Tron Theatre).

Whilst training her credits include: Velma in West Side Story; John The Baptist in Godspell; Ensemble in Betty Blue Eyes. Television credits include: Featured Soloist in Children In Need (BBC Scotland). Short Film credits include: Townsperson in Sci-Fiville (RCS Films).

Workshop credits include: Various Characters in New Musical Developments.

Morna Pearson (Writer, Rapunzel)

Morna Pearson is an Elgin-born Edinburgh-based playwright and screenwriter. Previous work for the National Theatre of Scotland includes Darklands (as part of Interference trilogy, National Theatre of Scotland); Other theatre work includes Let's Inherit the Earth (Dogstar/Profilteatern); How to Disappear (Traverse); Dr Stirlingshire's Discovery (Lung Ha/Grid Iron); Walking On Walls (Traverse/A Play, A Pie & A Pint); Bin Heid (Traverse Breakfast Play); Lost At Sea (text, Catherine Wheels); The Library (text, Frozen Charlotte); The Strange Case of Jekyll & Hyde (Lung Ha); Ailie & The Alien (National Theatre Connections); Un Petit Moliere (adaptation, Lung Ha); The Artist Man and the Mother Woman (Traverse); The Company Will Overlook a Moment of Madness (adaptation, National Theatre of Scotland/A Play, A Pie & A Pint); Elf Analysis (A Play, A Pie & A Pint); Distracted (Traverse). Film: I Was Here (12 min short, Scottish Film Talent Network). Radio: Side Effects (Bonar/BBC Radio 3); McBeth's McPets (BBC Radio Scotland). She has been a recipient of the Channel 4 Playwright Scheme and the Meyer-Whitworth Award. Her first short film, I Was Here, gained BAFTA Scotland and EIFF nominations for Best Short Film.

Novasound - Audrey Tait and Lauren Gilmour (Composers, Rapunzel)

Novasound is the writing partnership of drummer/producer Audrey Tait and singer/songwriter Lauren Gilmour. After admiring each other's work and music from previous projects, the pair found real chemistry when they had the opportunity to write together. Since scoring their first

short film in 2016, Novasound have developed a pop-inspired production style and innovative approach to electronic composition that has seen their reputation grow over their first few years together.

With their workload continuing to increase, Audrey and Lauren moved into their own premises and set up Novasound Studio; the only female-run recording studio in Scotland. Offering recording services, music production services, mixing and mastering, establishing and building the studio has seen the pair nurture their skills as producers and overall understanding of recorded music.

Reuben Joseph (Cast, Rapunzel)

Reuben trained at Glasgow Clyde College and graduated in 2018.

Theatre credits include: Sinbad (Perth Theatre); How Not to Drown (ThickSkin); The Cheviot, the Stag and the Black, Black Oil, Midsummer (National Theatre Scotland); Anything That Gives Off Light (The TEAM); A Christmas Carol (Citizens Theatre); Arsenic and Old Lace, The Hobbit, Animal Farm, The Day the Whores Came Out to Play Tennis, Picnic at Hanging Rock (Glasgow Clyde College), We're Here Because We're Here (National Theatre Scotland/ NOW 14-18), The Island (Platform Young Company).

Radio credits include: Fissures, This Thing of Darkness, The Kids Table (BBC).

Shona Reppe (Creative Collaborator, Rapunzel)

Shona established Shona Reppe Puppets in 1996 (now simply Shona Reppe).

She has performed extensively all over the world with her shows Cinderella (2002 - present), The Curious Scrapbook of Josephine Bean (2011 - present), Potato Needs a Bath (2008 - present), Olga Volt (2007) and Magic Sho (2015). She has won numerous awards for her work including a Total Theatre Award 2002, Ipay's Victory Award Montreal 2003, a Tron Award for best children's production 2003 and a TMA (Theatre UK) Award for best children's theatre show 2012.

Collaborative and design work includes designing the show White in 2011 with Andy Manley and Catherine Wheels which has won numerous awards including a CATS Award for Design 2011. HUFF, an art installation for children based on The Three Little Pigs - a collaboration with Andy Manley (produced by Catherine Wheels Theatre Company) opened at The National Galleries of Scotland in September 2013 and won a Herald Angel and a CATS Award 2014.

In December 2016 she co-created and designed Black Beauty with Andy Manley and Andy Cannon which was produced by Red Bridge Arts/Traverse Theatre. In May 2018 she worked on BABA YAGA a collaboration between Windmill Theatre and Christine Johnson commissioned by Imagine. In 2019, Shona Reppe created Atlantis Banal: Beneath the Surface, created with Charlot Lemoine of Velo Theatre which toured Scotland in Autumn 2019.

Stef Smith (Writer, Rapunzel)

Stef Smith is an multi award-winning writer working to international acclaim. Work includes: Enough, Girl In The Machine, Swallow (Traverse Theatre); Nora: A Doll's House (Glasgow Citizen's Theatre); The Song Project (Royal Court); Acts Of Resistance (Headlong / Bristol Old Vic); Love Letter To Europe (Underbelly); How To Build A Nation (Young Vic); Human Animals (Royal Court); Remote (National Theatre Connections Festival); Tea And Symmetry (BBC Radio); Smoke (And Mirrors) (Traverse Theatre & Dot Istanbul for Theatre Uncut);

Back To Back To Back (Cardboard Citizens); Cured (Glasgay! Festival); Grey Matter (The Lemon Tree, Aberdeen); Woman Of The Year (Oran Mor, Glasgow) and Falling/Flying (Tron, Glasgow).

Most recently Stef was a finalist for the Susan Smith Blackburn prize, which is the largest prize for women writing in the English language. Stef has won three Scotsman Fringe First Awards for Roadkill, Swallow and Enough. Roadkill also won an Olivier Award for Outstanding Achievement in an Affiliate Theatre, a Herald Angel Award, the Amnesty Freedom of Expression Award, a Fringe First Award, a Total Theatre Award for Innovation, and the Edinburgh International Festival Fringe Prize. Swallow opened to widespread critical acclaim, and also won the Scottish Arts Club Theatre Award. Stef took part in the BBC Drama Writers Room and her Digital Drama Short pilot FLOAT was released on BBC iPlayer in October 2019. A full series of FLOAT has been commissioned by BBC Scotland and is set to be released in 2020.

Stef is currently under commission to Leeds Playhouse, National Theatre of Scotland and the Royal Exchange Theatre. She is also an Associate Artist at the Traverse Theatre and Leeds Playhouse.

Stewart Kyasimire (Film Director, Rapunzel)

Stewart Kyasimire is a filmmaker, columnist and founder of Scotland's first and only black-led tv production company 'Create Anything'. He recently directed a ground-breaking documentary for BBC Scotland - 'Black and Scottish' - sharing stories from prominent black Scots from all generations. 'Behind the Smile' with Bash the Entertainer is Stewart's next documentary due for release in October for Black History Month. This documentary tackles racism, mental health and social media. Throughout his career, Stewart has also created online content for BT Sport, BBC, Nike, Magners, Lloyds Banking Group and Levi's.

Uma Nada-Rajah (Writer, Rapunzel)

Writer Uma is a playwright based in Kirkcubright. She has been selected as one of the BBC's Scottish Voices 2020 and was most recently the Starter Female Political Comedy writer- in-residence at the National Theatre of Scotland.

Uma is a graduate of École Philippe Gaulier and a previous winner of the New Playwrights Award from Playwrights' Studio Scotland. She works as a staff nurse with NHS Scotland.

NOTES TO EDITORS

The National Theatre of Scotland is dedicated to playing the great stages, arts centres, village halls, schools and site-specific locations of Scotland, the UK and internationally. As well as creating ground-breaking productions and working with the most talented theatre-makers, the National Theatre of Scotland produces significant community engagement projects, innovates digitally and works constantly to develop new talent. Central to this is finding pioneering ways to reach current and new audiences and to encourage people's full participation in the Company's work. With no performance building of its own, the Company works with existing and new venues and companies to create and tour theatre of the highest quality. Founded in 2006, the Company, in its short life, has become a globally significant theatrical player, with an extensive repertoire of award-winning work. The National Theatre of Scotland is supported by the Scottish Government. www.nationaltheatrescotland.com

With over 30 years of combined experience in contemporary community engagement, **All The Queens Men** have presented leading large-scale community projects around the world including: Ansan Arts Festival (South Korea), ANTI Contemporary Arts Festival (Finland), Arts Centre Melbourne, Arts House (Melbourne), Bleach Festival (Gold Coast), City of Melbourne, Darwin Festival and Sydney Festival, amongst many others. All The Queens Men are committed to community collaboration and points of convergence. They think of their work as creative actions – cultural interventions that reframe people’s experience of themselves in the world, often large communal gestures in public spaces. Their socially 35 engaged arts projects build and support communities over long periods of time; culminating in celebration and hope for social transformation. www.allthequeensmen.net
www.comingbackoutball.com

Eden Court is the largest multi-arts venue in Scotland housing two theatres, two art-house cinemas, two dance studios, three visual art galleries and conference and meeting spaces. Eden Court’s home, on the banks of the River Ness, is a nationally unique, grade-A listed building, spanning three centuries. It presents approximately 450 live performances and 2,000 film screening every year as well as 60 community classes a week. This activity attracts an audience of over 300,000 people every year. Eden Court runs one of the largest creative learning programmes of any UK theatre. As well as the extensive programme of weekly classes it is also the only theatre in Scotland to offer Scottish Qualifications Authority (SQA) courses in Drama and Dance. Pupils from across the Highlands have the opportunity to study at Eden Court for an SQA Higher or National 5 Dance or Drama qualification. Eden Court is also the Scottish Government’s partner for Cashback for Creativity where seized criminal assets are redistributed to provide meaningful activity for young people at risk. Eden Court is a registered charity and is grateful to receive regular funding from Creative Scotland and the Highland Council.

Historic Environment Scotland

1. [Historic Environment Scotland](#) (HES) is the lead public body charged with caring for, protecting and promoting the historic environment. HES is also the lead on delivering Scotland's first strategy for the historic environment, *Our Place in Time*.
2. Historic Scotland, Scran, Canmore, The National Collection of Aerial Photography (NCAP), The Engine Shed, Stirling Castle and Edinburgh Castle are sub-brands of Historic Environment Scotland.
3. Historic Environment Scotland is a registered Scottish Charity. Scottish Charity No. SC045925.
4. You can keep up to date with news from Historic Environment Scotland and register for media release email alerts [here](#). If you wish to unsubscribe, please contact us.
5. You can follow Historic Environment Scotland on [Twitter](#), [Facebook](#), [Instagram](#), [LinkedIn](#), and our [blog](#).

Luminate is Scotland’s creative ageing organisation, which was established in 2012 and aims to ensure that older people in Scotland have the opportunity to take part in high quality arts and creative activities, whatever their background and circumstances and wherever they live. The organisation supports older people as artists, participants and audiences; nurtures skills development in artists of all ages who wish to work with older people; researches, develops and tests new models of creative practice; and challenges stereotypes of ageing

through their public facing work. They are leaders in the field of creative ageing, advocating for the place of older people in Scotland's cultural life and sharing good practice nationally 38 and internationally. Luminare's work with LGBTI+ elders - in collaboration with LGBT Health & Wellbeing - has led to successful cabaret events in Glasgow and Edinburgh in 2017, and the creation of a film entitled Return to the Closet? that explores older LGBTI+ people's views and experiences of care services in Scotland.

