

**National Theatre of Scotland creatively engaging in June 2021**

**Programme update.**

**Embargoed until 27 May 2021 at 1pm**

**National Theatre of Scotland announces a series of new digital creative engagement projects which explore themes of care and empathy, highlighting the role that the arts can play in shaping society in Scotland in 2021 and beyond.**

* **Two urgent new digital works addressing Care in Contemporary Scotland with Nicola McCartney’s *Holding/Holding On* and *Non Optimum: When It’s Safe To Do So* from Lucy Gaizely/21Common for audiences online.**
* **A new project for COP26 presented in partnership with ThinkArts (Kolkata). *Millipede* by Shona Reppe and Andy Manley is part of a British Council Creative Commission, exploring climate change through art, science and digital technology.**
* **Launch of National Theatre of Scotland’s Green Plan**
* **Pride 2021 celebrations this June featuring the online premiere of Jordy Deelight’s short film *Dear Deelight*, the sensational *Coming Back Out Ball* online, the final LGBTI+ Elders Social Dance Club and a new live exhibition *Portraits of an LGBTI+ Generation at* GOMA, Glasgow.**
* **Actors and performers involved in new projects include Dean Atta, Daniel Cahill**, **Neshla Caplan, Jo Clifford, Callum Cuthbertson, Jordy Deelight, Finn den Hertog, Karen Dunbar, Bogha Frois, Lucy Halliday, Horse, Ian Johnston, Jamie Marie Leary, Malin Lewis, Gavin Mitchell, Jamie Rea, John Scougall, Sam Steel and Bea Webster.**

A year to the day since *Scenes for Survival* was launched, the National Theatre of Scotland continues to strive to entertain and inspire audiences during unprecedented times. Its series of new digital creative projects explores the role of care and empathy in the arts, celebrating and focusing on specific communities and individuals in Scotland including young people in care, learning-disabled adults, elderly members of the LGBTI+ community and other community groups.

The programme continues the Company’s work with local, national and international groups, lead artists and partners including Nicola McCartney, Lucy Gaizely and 21Common, Shona Reppe and Andy Manley, ThinkArts, Kolkata, Science Gallery Bengaluru, Edinburgh Science, All the Queen’s Men, Australia and Jordy Deelight.

The National Theatre of Scotland continues to culturally contribute to major festivals and events and is delighted to be engaging online this June with Pride, Refugee Festival Scotland and PrideFLIX Film Festival, Philadelphia and later in the year during COP26

Jackie Wylie, Artistic Director and CEO, National Theatre of Scotland says

“*We are very excited to be planning our return to live work from August 2021 which we will be announcing shortly. In the meantime, we are focussing on continuing to produce entertaining and empathetic artistic digital films, events and projects.*

*In the month of June we are focussing on our creative engagement programme with individuals and communities to explore their lives, their stories and their resilience in the face of current social challenges. Two leading Scottish artists have conducted creative enquiries, crafting digital projects exploring care in contemporary Scotland and we are thrilled to be celebrating Scotland’s rainbow community with a month of online Pride events, including a new piece of work from the fabulous Jordy Deelight and our equally fabulous Coming Back Out Ball extravaganza. We are also working with brilliant theatre-makers Shona Reppe and Andy Manley alongside community groups and ThinkArts, Kolkata, on Millipede, an interactive artistic response to Climate Change and our carbon footprints.*

*We understand that audiences and communities, artists and freelancers continue to live in anxious times. This month-long digital programme explores the meaning of the word* ***care****. We want to demonstrate how caring for each other, communities and our planet is critical in shaping society and culture in Scotland in 2021 and going forward, and highlight the role that the arts can play in hopefully kinder times*”

[**IMAGES AND CONTENT FOR JUNE 2021 PROGRAMME**](https://www.dropbox.com/sh/papr12kjs6n82go/AABYXHUcShHcTue7hKnPLApNa?dl=0)

**Full Programme Information**

\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_

**The National Theatre of Scotland presents**

***Care in Contemporary Scotland – A Creative Enquiry***

Two new digital works exploring Scotland’s care system

***Holding/Holding On*** by **Nicola McCartney** streaming from **Wednesday 30 June at 7pm**

***Non Optimum: When It's Safe To Do So***by **Lucy Gaizely/21Common** streaming from **Thursday 1 July at 7pm**

**Supported by the ScottishPower Foundation, The Rayne Foundation, the Hugh Fraser Foundation, the John Mather Trust and Scottish Children's Lottery Chance to Connect.**

Following a call-out process in 2020, National Theatre of Scotland commissioned two artists, **Nicola McCartney** and **Lucy Gaizely/21Common** to undertake a six-month project to investigate the impact that the arts can make within a care context across Scotland. As part of the project Nicola McCartney engaged with care experienced adults and young people, community collaborators and sector professionals resulting in a filmed reading of a work in progress script, ***Holding/Holding On****,* which explores and gives voice to authentic narratives around Scotland’s care system. Lucy Gaizely/ 21 Common is working with learning-disabled adults to create a new experimental documentary: ***Non Optimum: When It's Safe To Do So*** addressing personal experiences of care and access to services during the pandemic.

The digital works will be freely available to view for three weeks on the National Theatre of Scotland website and following the first screenings there will be a live online panel discussion around each film’s themes and creative processes.

***Holding/Holding On***

Written by **Nicola McCartney**

Director **Claire Lamont**, Sound Designer **Pippa Murphy**, Filmmaker **Stuart Platt,** BSL Consultant/Dramaturg/Language **Rita McDade**

Cast: **Daniel Cahill**, **Neshla Caplan**, **Callum Cuthbertson**, **Lucy Halliday**, **Finn den Hertog,** **Karen Dunbar,** **Jamie Marie Leary**, **Sam Steel**, **Bea Webster.**

Community Collaborators: **Charlotte Armitage**, **Kenneth Joseph Murray** and **Murdoch Rodgers**

Available to watch on the National Theatre of Scotland website from Wed 30 June, 7pm until Wed 21 July

Playwright and dramaturg Nicola McCartney’s creative enquiry into Scotland’s care system follows 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.’ As part of her creative process, Nicola, who brings many years of experience as a foster carer, met with young people and professionals from across the care system and listened to their stories. She gathered stories in online sessions with social workers, carers, Children’s Panel members, Independent Care Review contributors and care-experienced adults and young people exploring experiences of living and working in the care system. Nicola has been working with participants to help them take control of their narratives and through one-to-one collaboration helps to give voice to their authentic stories.

Working with Kenneth Murray (writer, consultant, campaigner) Charlotte Armitage (campaigner, blogger) and Murdoch Rodgers (producer, director, writer) Nicola has used these conversations as the basis for developing a new script and this work-in-progress filmed reading. At the core of this creative response are the stories from care experienced young people. In a series of thought-provoking scenes and interventions ***Holding / Holding On*** interrogates how society treats those in care, those who are care experienced and the experience of the carers. It highlights the language used to define them; society’s fascination with media tropes; the entanglement of care with class and poverty and most significantly, the role that care plays in the care system. ***Holding/Holding On*** challenges our perceptions and asks important questions about the future of Scotland’s care system.

**Nicola McCartney says***: “Since October 2020, it’s been my privilege to listen to the stories of care experienced people, social workers, foster carers and others who work within the care system. Actively and compassionately listening to people’s voices and experiences seems to be one of the things that’s really missing in the system right now. And I wanted to hold space for those who wanted to share with me. I’m really thankful to the people who did.*

*“From these one-to-one sessions I’ve tried to piece together a sense of not just how the Care system for children and young people works in Scotland, but how it feels to be part of it both as a young person, and as someone who looks after young people. ‘Holding/ Holding On’, gives different perspectives on how we look after our most vulnerable children and where we might go in future. The filmed reading of our work-in-progress puts forward ideas about what’s not working, celebrates some of what is and I hope asks some big questions about what each of us needs to do to really make Scotland ‘the best place in the world to grow up’”.*

**Behind the Themes | Holding / Holding On**

**Wed 30 June, 8.45pm (tbc)**

JoinNicola McCartney, Charlotte Armitage, Charlie McGonigle and Kenneth Joseph Murray directly after the first screening of *Holding / Holding On*, for a free online conversation about the making of the filmed reading and the themes behind it. This will be a panel discussion on Zoom webinar with the opportunity for audience Q&A and will be chaired by National Theatre of Scotland’s Artistic Director Jackie Wylie.

This event will be BSL interpreted by and live captioned.

**Dates and Times**

Streaming online at nationaltheatrescotland.com from 7pm Wed 30 Jun until Wed 21 Jul.

**Tickets**: Free from nationaltheatrescotland.com

**Access Information**

Fully Captioned and Audio Described. Portions of the piece are performed in BSL.

***Non Optimum: When It's Safe To Do So***

Created by **Lucy Gaizely/21Common**

Creative team: **Lucy Gaizely**, **Gary Gardiner**, **Ian Johnston** and **Craig**

Sound Composition and vocal coach **Jennifer Hart,** Sound composition **Joel McDiarmid,** Technical Artist **Daniel Brown**, Facilitator for the Q&A **Jonathan Reid**

Cast: **Ian Johnston**, **Alan McEwan**, **Gavin Mitchell,** **Jaqui Smyth**, **Peter Sproul**

Available to watch on the National Theatre of Scotland website from Thursday 1 July, 7pm until Thu 22 July

In 2020, 21Common, led by artist **Lucy Gaizely** together with Scotland’s leading learning-disabled artist **Ian Johnston,** created an alternative virtual club night for learning-disabled adults on Zoom called Non Optimum. This weekly club provided a virtual space to socialise, dance and reconnect with others in the early months of the Covid-19 pandemic. During this period vital care services that learning-disabled individuals across the country depend on were suddenly stopped and so the club community became an important source of support for attenders.

***Non Optimum: When It's Safe To Do So*** is a short film, documenting those months in lockdown, following the lives of Alan, Jackie, Ian and Peter who met at the club. It takes us on an unpredictable, uncontrolled journey through lockdown celebrating and responding to the group of rockers and ravers who found each other during a global pandemic. The club-goers initially bonded over a shared admiration for Scottish actor Gavin Mitchell. Keen to be involved in the project, Gavin provides narration for the film and his inner monologue becomes part of our fragmented journey through the city. The film disrupts the construct of normality and extracts moments of the mundane and the surreal, centring on endless Zooming, raving, domestic dreaming and the reimagined, forbidden outdoors.

Produced using homemade filmed footage and film shot on location this experimental documentary addresses uncomfortable issues around visibility, ability, ableism and otherness. Engaging, disturbing and funny ***Non Optimum: When It's Safe To Do So*** takes us on a lockdown journey that is not our own.

**Lucy Gaizely says:** “*Non-Optimum: When it's safe to do so has been the most fun I have ever had in the name of research. An ever-evolving project changed by time, restrictions, and those we found or who found us along the way. Without design a motley crew has assembled over the last 8 months, a group of people with far more in common than differences, a group that has loved and laughed its way through Fridays, despite and inspite of everything else.*

*“We have danced, talked, learned everything there is to know about the history of music probably starting in the 80s; practically booked a holiday to Millport; learned intricate details about Gavin Mitchell's CV from someone who knows him better than he knows himself and have seen more hats and hospital scrubs than we thought possible. In exploring the context of Care in Scotland, I have now also found some of the best artists and collaborators in the world!”*

**Behind the Themes | Non Optimum: When It’s Safe To Do So**

**Thursday 1 July, 8pm tbc**

Join Lucy Gaizely, Gary Gardiner, Ian Johnston, Jaqui Smyth, Alan McEwan and Peter Sproul

directly after the first screening of *Non Optimum* for a free online conversation about the making of the film and the themes behind it. This will be a panel discussion on Zoom webinar with the opportunity for audience Q&A.

This event will be BSL interpreted by and live captioned.

**Dates and Times**

Streaming online at nationaltheatrescotland.com from 1 July 7.00pm until 22 July.

**Tickets:** Free from nationaltheatrescotland.com

**Access Information**

Audio Described, Captioned and BSL Interpreted

\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_

**National Theatre of Scotland in partnership with ThinkArts (Kolkata) awarded British Council Creative Commission to develop *Millipede* - a new project for COP 26 exploring climate change through art, science and digital technology.**

**Lead artist** **Shona Reppe with co-creator Andy Manley collaborates with leading scientific and environmental organisations and minds - Science Gallery Bengaluru and Edinburgh Science.**

Following an open call process, National Theatre of Scotland in collaboration with Kolkata-based children’s arts engagement organisation ThinkArts has received a British Council Creative Commission to explore responses to lived experiences of climate change through art, science and digital technology working with award-winning Scottish theatre makers **Shona Reppe** and **Andy Manley**. ***Millipede*** will form part of the British Council’s cultural programme in the run up to the United Nations Climate Change Conference of the Parties (COP26) to be held in Glasgow from **1 – 12 November 2021.**

***Everyone has a carbon footprint so what does yours look like?***

***Millipede*** will be a playful, interactive digital art installation disguised as an online shoe shop. Digital art exhibits, relating to shoes and feet, will be displayed for visitors to discover as part of a specially created website.

The artworks will be created through film, photography, sculpture, spoken word, poetry and song, reflecting personal responses to climate change and the participants’ carbon footprints. ***Millipede***'s exhibits will encourage visitors to reflect on their own carbon footprints and those of others around the world using creative storytelling to inspire and engage.

***Millipede*** is a whimsical celebration of the earth, revealed through a virtual display of shoes and footprints, based on the principle that the answer to climate change is not found in one large leap but the culmination of millions of tiny steps forward.

The project will bring together leading Scottish and Indian artists, scientists and climate change experts, working with participants of all ages from community groups based in both countries, to create ***Millipede*** - a new digital artwork as a response to climate change.

National Theatre of Scotland and ThinkArts, working with leading Scottish artists **Shona Reppe** and **Andy Manley** alongside the **Science Gallery Bengaluru** and **Edinburgh Science** wil**l** host online info sessions for community groups across India and Scotland generating ideas and artistic responses for the collection of digital exhibits.

100 shoes for the digital shoe shop will be created by approx 50 schools and community groups across India and Scotland. National Theatre of Scotland will be engaging with Scottish groups including Viewpark Gardens Trust, Homestart, Bangladesh Association Glasgow and St Teresa’s Primary School, Glasgow and ThinkArts will collaborate with a number of community groups working with children and young people across Kolkata and Bengaluru.

The project collaborators will design a creative engagement programme for the groups looking at the science of climate change and stimulating creative ideas. This programme will also be available online for visitors to explore, to tell their own carbon footprint stories and to take steps towards carbon reduction.

**Shona Reppe** is an internationally acclaimed, multi award-winning theatre maker, designer & performer who creates innovative small-scale theatre projects.

**Andy Manley** is a theatre maker based in the UK.  His work has won numerous awards and tours extensively to UK and international venues and festivals.

Shona and Andy have worked together on several projects, most notably *HUFF, White, Black Beauty* and *Potato Needs a Bath.*

The **British Council** is the United Kingdom's international organisation for cultural relations and educational opportunities. It builds connections, understanding and trust between people in the UK and other countries through arts and culture, education and the English language. The creative commissions programme explores climate change through art, science and digital technology and aspires to stimulate global conversations about climate change, and to inspire transformational change. Funded by British Council, the commissions will be developed by individuals and organisations in the UK working with partners in 28 countries. These partnerships actively involve young people, as well as other groups and communities who are underrepresented in climate change discussions. They are also cross-disciplinary, bringing together artists, technologists, city planners, engineers, thought leaders, activists, scientists and others.

[Find out more about British Council Creative Commissions here.](https://www.britishcouncil.org/arts/culture-development/our-stories/creative-commissions/wwf)

**National Theatre of Scotland and ThinkArts present Millipede by Shona Reppe and Andy Manley and will be launched in November 2021**

\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_

**National Theatre of Scotland celebrates Pride 2021 throughout June**

**Online and at the Gallery of Modern Art in Glasgow.**

**Drag, Drama, Dancing and Dear Delight!**

The National Theatre of Scotland celebrates Pride throughout the month of June with an enticing online offering of digital dancing, drag and drama, plus, a live exhibition and participation in a virtual LGBT film festival. The Pride 2021 events celebrate the National Theatre of Scotland’s ongoing commitment to equality and diversity, bringing audiences together online from around the world and connecting the rainbow community.

This programme will include the following

* ***Dear Deelight* – specially created digital short from Scottish drag artist Jordy Deelight about a drag-ony aunt with relationship woes**
* ***Portraits of an LGBTI+ Generation* – new live exhibition of LGBTI+ Elders in Glasgow’s Gallery of Modern Art**
* ***Adam* – award-winning on-screen drama inspired by the life of Adam Kashmiry selected for Philadelphia virtual Pride film festival available to view on BBC iplayer.**
* ***Around The World in 80 Dance Clubs* – the final online social dance club for LGBTI+ Elders on 13 June**
* ***The Coming Back Out Ball* – a spectacular, interactive digital event celebrating LGBTI+ Elders on 26 June**

***\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_***

**The National Theatre of Scotland presents**

***Dear Deelight***

Written and performed by **Jordy Deelight**

Directed by **Debbie Hannan**

Performer **John Scougall**

Creative consultants **Johnny McKnight** and **Stewart Laing.** Edited by **Lewis Den Hertog**

**Premiering on Thursday 3 June 2021 at 7pm on nationaltheatrescotland.com and available online until 2023.**

Jordy Deelight is an Edinburgh-based non-binary drag artist, DJ and singer from Leith living with cystic fibrosis. The award-winning performer creates work for theatre and television exploring themes of disability, gender and mental health. ***Dear Deelight*** has been commissioned as part of the National Theatre of Scotland’s ongoing digital programme of artistic works created during lockdown and will premiere online as part of the Company’s Pride celebrations in June 2021.

Jordy introduces us to ***Dear Deelight ,*** the Real Housewife of Leith, a world-weary drag-ony aunt with sage advice for every occasion. Dreary dates, bad boyfriends and rocky relationships – **Dear Deelight**has all the answers. But when the camera stops filming, the wig’s pulled off and the make-up is wiped away, Jordy is just Tyler, and Tyler has relationship woes of their own.

**Dear Deelight** was developed remotely during lockdown while Jordy was shielding due to their disability, unable to leave the house or perform live. Describing themselves as ‘Angel Delight on an Aldi budget’ Jordy Deelight uses their platform as a performer combined with their creativity to raise awareness of cystic fibrosis and LGBTI+ issues and to communicate with younger audiences. In 2020 they won the Arts category at the Sunday Mail Young Scot Awards for their inspirational determination. Jordy studied drama and performance at Queen Margaret University and was awarded a Sir Ian McKellen bursary while studying performance art at Edinburgh College of Art.

**Jordy Delight says**: “*I was fascinated by how the pandemic had affected relationships and social dynamics. Many were going through turbulent and difficult times so I became a therapist for a lot of people unintentionally whilst I myself received counselling and found myself watching Ted talks and life coach seminars.*

*“I wanted to create a piece that examined what “cheating” was in 2020/21 where Covid 19 was stopping people from being intimate. I am always fascinated by the idea that infidelity could be emotional and not just physical.*

*“I decided to write a drag agony aunt sketch based on a failed YouTube series I did at the beginning of the pandemic and blend that with the idea of “who is the character out of drag”. It is a blurred and fine line I love to look at in my work on the identity of persona, and a reminder that anyone is struggling right now, despite their online presence*.”

Tickets: Free to view on nationaltheatrescotland.com from June 03 2021

Access: Audio described, BSL interpreted and captioned versions are available.

\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_

**The Coming Back Out Ball Social Dance Clubs Online**

A **National Theatre of Scotland** and **All The Queens Men** co-production, in partnership with **Eden Court** and **Luminate**, in association with **Glasgow City Council**.

***Around the World in 80 Dance Clubs -* Sunday 13 June 2021, 2pm**

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 COVID-19 outbreak, the regular LGBTI+ Elders Social Dance Clubs have been 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. Presented around Scotland and beyond since 2019, the clubs are presented in partnership with All the Queen’s Men, the Australian cultural participatory arts pioneers, alongside Eden Court and Luminate, Scotland’s creative ageing organisation, and in association with Glasgow City Council.

The final *Coming Back Out Ball* LGBTI+ online Social Dance Club will take place on 13th June in the lead up to *The Coming Back Out Ball* on 26 June.  *Around the World in 80 Dance Clubs* will feature a brilliant soundtrack and dance moves from around the world and is open to everyone. Dancing is optional.

Each club is led by a team of dance practitioners, including the National Theatre of Scotland’s Creative Lead on the project Lewis Hetherington, 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. T*he Coming Back Out Ball* takes place online on Saturday 26 June, 2021 at 6.30pm.

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 Luminate, Scotland’s creative ageing organisation, in association with Glasgow City Council.

**Social Dance Clubs, free to book:**

[nationaltheatrescotland.com/thelgbtielderssocialdanceclub](https://www.nationaltheatrescotland.com/thelgbtielderssocialdanceclub)

or email **thecomingbackoutball@nationaltheatrescotland.com** for the Zoom link.

\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_

***The Coming Back Out Ball -* a spectacular interactive digital event on Saturday 26 June 2021 - celebrating Lesbian, Gay, Bisexual, Trans and Gender Diverse, and Intersex Elders in Scotland.**

A **National Theatre of Scotland** and **All The Queens Men** co-production, in partnership with **Eden Court** and **Luminate** in association with **Glasgow City Council**.

**Hosted online by Karen Dunbar and Jamie Rea with performances from Horse, Dean Atta, Jo Clifford, Bogha Frois, Malin Lewis and a contribution from Maggie Kinloch**

**Special ‘A Ball in a Box’ delivery for guests**

National Theatre of Scotland Creative Lead: **Lewis Hetherington**

All The Queens Men Creative Leads**: Tristan Meecham and Bec Reid**

Designer **CJ Mahony,** Lighting Design **Karen Bryce**, Video and Animation Design **Jamie Wardrop**

Creative facilitators**: Fraser MacLeod, Chris Stuart Wilson, Emma Jayne Park, Lou Brodie** and **Amy Watt**

***The Coming Back Out Ball*** is the spectacular culmination of monthly Social Dance Clubs for LGBTI+ Elders and allies which have been presented around Scotland and beyond since 2019, moving online in 2020. This unique interactive digital event invites all Social Dance Club participants, allies and the rainbow community to come together and celebrate LGBTI+ Elders across Scotland, UK and internationally.

***The Coming Back Out Ball*** promises a fabulous evening of music, dancing, creativity and chat and is hosted online by Karen Dunbar and Jamie Rea. The event features performances from Scottish icon and long-time project supporter Horse as well as Dean Atta, sensational performance poet and Stonewall 2020 Book Award Winner, alongside legendary playwright Jo Clifford performing new writing inspired by her involvement in the project and a special contribution from Maggie Kinloch. The evening will also include music from Bogha Frois and Malin.

Ticketholders will receive a special ‘A Ball in a Box’ delivery in advance of the event, filled with surprises to ensure that everyone experiences a unique party atmosphere in their own living room.

The first ***Coming Back Out Ball*** and Social Dance Clubs were pioneered in Australia by arts organisation All The Queens Men. ***The Coming Back Out Ball*** project and Social Dance Clubs started in Scotland following discussions in which older members of the LGBTI+ community said they feared they may ‘return to the closet’ as they lose independence with age, particularly if needing to rely on carers or residential care. The project aims to strengthen the LGBTI+ over 50s community and promote their visibility and safety.

**A Social Dance Club participant said** “*So much of last evening pushed me to the boundaries of my emotions. The fact that I felt happy and secure in letting myself experience those emotions just shows how important being with you guys is for me*”

The Social Dance Clubs in Scotland have created an ongoing friendly safe space for an under-represented community. ***The Coming Back Out Ball*** has been developed over the last two years by the Dance Club members and the creative team. The event will reflect and amplify the Elders’ voices and stories, celebrating memories and their dreams together for the future. There will be a final Social Dance Clubs in the run up to the final event.

***The Coming Back Out Ball*** is presented in partnership with All The Queen’s Men, the Australian cultural participatory arts pioneers, alongside Eden Court and Luminate, Scotland’s creative ageing organisation, and in association with Glasgow City Council.

The National Theatre of Scotland Creative Lead on the project is **Lewis Hetherington** and for All The Queens Men, Artistic Directors **Tristan Meecham** and **Bec Reid**.

Join the conversation**: #comingbackoutball**

***The Coming Back Out Ball – Online***

Saturday 26 June 2021, 6.30pm

Running Time: 3 hours

Tickets: Pay what you wish £10-£30 Includes ‘A Ball in a Box’ special delivery

Booking for the Ball will close at midday on 11 June 2021 for customers outside the UK. Booking for UK customers will close at midday on 21 June 2021.

Booking: <https://www.nationaltheatrescotland.com/events/the-coming-back-out-ball>

Access: The event will be BSL Interpreted, Captioned and Audio Described. Access providers TBA.

\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_

**PORTRAITS OF AN LGBTI + GENERATION EXHIBITION**

A **National Theatre of Scotland** and **All The Queens Men** co-production, in partnership with **Eden Court** and **Luminate** in association with **Glasgow City Council**.

**Multi-media exhibition at Glasgow’s Gallery of Modern Art celebrates *LGBTI+ Elders Social Dance Club* members**

Photographer **Tiu Makkonen**  Filmmakers **Graeme Roger, Ania Urbanowska**

Creative Lead **Lewis Hetherington**

Facilitators **Amy Watt, Lou Brodie and Fraser MacLeod**

**Gallery of Modern Art, Glasgow Sat 26 June - Sun 29 August 2021**

LGBTI+ Elders Social Dance Clubs have been presented monthly since 2019 as part of *The Coming Back Out Ball,* a multi-event celebration of lesbian, gay bisexual, trans and gender diverse and intersex elders in Scotland. The Social Dance Clubs have been running throughout Scotland and beyond, moving online in 2020 creating a welcoming, friendly, safe space for the rainbow community to come together, dance, share stories and meet new people.

Tiu Makkonen is photographer in residence with *The Coming Back Out Ball* and they along with filmmakers Graeme Roger and Ania Urbanowska have created, in collaboration with Dance Club members, a new multimedia exhibition ***Portraits of an LGBTI+ Generation.***

This series of up to 10 portraits of Scottish LGBTI + Elders, reflecting their own personal experiences, will give us a sense of the varied, rich and remarkable lives of the many LGBTI+ elders living across Scotland.Social Dance Club members were invited to have their photo taken for the exhibition and be interviewed in a place that means something to them, and their experience as an LGBTI+ person.

Dance club members who feature in the exhibition are: Julia Gordon, Jay Ellen Andrew ~~Gordon~~, Stuart and Colin Mitchell, Kay and Fiona Percy, Rosemary Roscrow and more to be announced soon.

***Portraits Of An LGBTI + Generation*** runs at Gallery of Modern Art in Glasgow from **Sat 26 June – Sun 29 August 2021.** The exhibition is free but tickets must be booked in advance from the GOMA website. Tickets will be available to book from 12 noon on 10 June.

A selection of the portraits exhibited have previously been shared online as part of Highland Pride at Eden Court in February 2020.

***Portraits of an LGBTI+ Generation***

COMMONSpace, Gallery of Modern Art, 111 Queen Street, Glasgow G1 3AH

Saturday 26 June – Sunday 29 August

Entry is free but tickets must be booked in advance with GOMA

Bookings at: [Gallery of Modern Art — Glasgow Life - GoMA](https://www.glasgowlife.org.uk/museums/venues/gallery-of-modern-art-goma)

\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_

**Award-winning theatrical on screen drama selected for screening at PrideFLIX Virtual LGBTQ+ Pride Film Festival, Philadelphia and available to view now on BBC iPlayer**

***ADAM***

**Inspired by the life of Adam Kashmiry**

By **Frances Poet**

Directed by **Cora Bissett** and **Louise Lockwood**

Director of Photography **Carlo D'Alessandro**, Designer **Emily James**, Lighting Designer **Lizzie Powell**, Sound Designer **Garry Boyle**, Composer **Jocelyn Pook**

Cast: **Myriam Acharki, Yasmin Al-Khudhairi, Haqi Ali, Neshla Caplan, Adam Kashmiry, Stephen McCole, Rehanna MacDonald** and **Hamish Wyllie**

Produced by **National Theatre of Scotland and Hopscotch Films**

Commissioned by **BBC Scotland and BBC Arts**

**Premiered on BBC Scotland on 6 March 2021 and subsequently broadcast as part of BBC Arts ‘Lights Up’ for New Culture in Quarantine Season on BBC Four on 20 April 2021.**

Inspired by the life of Adam Kashmiry, *Adam* tellsthe remarkable story of a young trans man and his struggle across genders and borders to be himself. Originally a multi-award-winning stage play, *Adam* has been reinvented as a compelling, theatrical on-screen drama, presented by the National Theatre of Scotland and Hopscotch Films. Adam Kashmiry performs, as himself, in the leading role.

Currently available to view on BBC iPlayer, the award-winning on-screen dramahas now been selected for the PrideFLIX Virtual LGBTQ+ Pride Film Festival programme inPhiladelphia presented by qFlix Film Festival. *Adam* will be screened as part of the Festival from June 7 – 14 2021. PrideFLIX is a five-week virtual film festival celebrating LGBTQ+ stories and the full programme will launch on 1 June.

Adam is joined on screen by Myriam Acharki, Yasmin Al-Khudhairi, Haqi Ali, Neshla Caplan, Stephen McCole, Rehanna MacDonald and Hamish Wyllie.

The creative team includes director of photography Carlo D'Alessandro, designer Emily James, lighting designer Lizzie Powell and composer Jocelyn Pook.

The drama features a virtual online trans world choir, brought together for the original award-winning stage production. They appear together on-screen singing Jocelyn Pook’s epic choral original score.

The on-screen adaptation is produced by the National Theatre of Scotland and Hopscotch Films and commissioned by BBC Scotland and BBC Arts. All organisations previously collaborated on the National Theatre of Scotland’s hugely successful *Scenes for Survival* series, which saw 55 dramatic shorts created in isolation by over 200 leading artists and creatives in response to the COVID-19 pandemic.

Join the conversation: **#NTSAdam**

**Watch Adam** [**here**](https://www.bbc.co.uk/iplayer/episode/m000t3h1/lights-up-adam) **now on the BBC iPlayer**

**And at PrideFLIX Virtual LGBTQ+ Pride Film Festival from 7-14 June 2021**

**Full programme details announced on 1 June 2021** [www.qflixphilly.com/PrideFLIX](http://www.qflixphilly.com/PrideFLIX)

\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_

**National Theatre of Scotland** presents

**Black Scots** and **new conversation intro** at **Refugee Festival Scotland 2021**

**Online 14 to 21 June 2021**

National Theatre of Scotland is delighted to be part of this year’s Refugee Festival Scotland presenting *Black Scots****,*** a short film created as part of Scenes for Survival. *Black Scots* is an extract from *First Snow/Premiere Neige* and will offer audiences an exclusive filmed conversation between director Niloo-Far Khan and actor Thierry Mabonga who will be discussing the themes of the piece and how it connects to a real-life story.

A young man recalls escaping the horrors of civil war in Congo as a child, to seek asylum in Glasgow with his mother. He finds surprising parallels between the barbarity and exploitation at the heart of that conflict and the shocking revelations of murder and profiteering painted away beneath the surface of his new homeland’s history

A collaboration between Thierry Mabonga, Davey Anderson, Philippe Ducros, and Linda McLean, directed by Niloo-Far Khan, and original composition by Patricia Panther. Also featuring Fiona Sutherland.

[www.nationaltheatrescotland.com//black-scots](https://www.nationaltheatrescotland.com/black-scots)

Produced by National Theatre of Scotland, in association with BBC Scotland, Screen Scotland, BBC Arts Culture in Quarantine project with support from Hopscotch Films.

\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_

**National Theatre of Scotland launches Green Plan**

The National Theatre of Scotland is committed to ensuring that sustainability and protection of the environment sits at the very heart of the company, its work and its ethos. As an arts organisation “without walls” and with a commitment to bringing theatre to audiences all over Scotland, National Theatre of Scotland recognises the effect its core mission has in terms of carbon and greenhouse gas emissions. To set out its vision supporting a healthy and sustainable environment and to tackle climate change, the company is launching a new Green Plan.

The Green Plan outlines key company-wide commitments: reducing carbon emissions in line with Scottish Government targets; keeping climate and social justice rooted in all its work, activities and actions; placing sustainability at the heart of its work with communities and organisations across Scotland and, recognising that a position of leadership in the sector comes with responsibility to learn, inform, communicate and influence.

The Plan will be delivered through six strategic areas focussing on People, Production, Programme, Places, Partnerships and Procurement. The company will continue to collaborate with organisations, stakeholders, individuals and government bodies on its journey to carbon neutral whilst also seeking out partnerships with others with a shared commitment to support this ambition and to further company knowledge.

We wish to contribute to social change and environmental sustainability through our programme by commissioning bold and playful projects that explore urgent climate ideas. ***Millipede***, our collaboration with ThinkArts, explores carbon footprints through a community engaged interactive website and will be launching as part of COP26 later in the year.

[The full National Theatre of Scotland Green Plan is available to read here:](https://www.nationaltheatrescotland.com/about/what-we-do/green-plan?x-craft-preview=7iHX1lkl0f&token=BZjHS2HvmPioqt8pyycnZv1okoM2mDZv)\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_

**FULL INFORMATION HERE**: nationaltheatrescotland.com

**NATIONAL THEATRE OF SCOTLAND PRESS OFFICE CONTACTS:**

**Jane Hamilton – Media and Communications officer –** **jane.hamilton@nationaltheatrescotland.com**

M: +44 (0)7967 742491

**Emma Schad – Head of Communications** – **emma.schad@nationaltheatrescotland.com**

Tel: +44 (0)227 9016 M: +44 (0)7930 308018

\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_

**ARTIST BIOGS**

**Dean Atta’s** debut poetry collection, *I Am Nobody's Nigger,* was shortlisted for the Polari First Book Prize and his debut novel, *The Black Flamingo*, won the Stonewall Book Award. He was named as one of the most influential LGBT people in the UK by the Independent on Sunday. Dean’s work often deals with themes of gender, identity, race and growing up – and has appeared on BBC One, BBC Radio 4, BBC World Service, and Channel 4. Dean regularly performs across the UK, and internationally. He is a member of Malika's Poetry Kitchen. Dean is based in Glasgow, and is Co-director of the Scottish BAME Writers Network and a patron of LGBT+ History Month.

**Daniel Cahill** trained at the Royal Conservatoire of Scotland. His previous work with National Theatre of Scotland includes *James I, James II, James III and Truant.*Other theatre credits include *Small Worlds Dir Ron Bain* (Oran Mor), *Lost & His God* (Citizens Theatre), *Macbeth* (INtheatre), *Blackout*(Thick Skin UK Tour/Thick Skin Edinburgh Festivals). TV credits include *Pumped*(BBC), *Bruadar a Bhais* (BBC Alba), *Rocket Surgery* (BBC Scotland) and *River City* (BBC Scotland). Film credits include *Anna and the Apocalypse* (Blazing Griffon), *Blackout* (Oscar Films), *Pulse* (City Films) and *The Goodsouls* (Jumpcut Productions/Sigma Films).

**Neshla Caplan** **trained at the** Royal Conservatoire of Scotland: MA Musical Theatre. **Theatre credits include** *Move~Gluasad,* Disaster Plan; *The Alchemist,* Tron Theatre; *Arctic Oil, The Breakfast Plays;*The Traverse, *Sunshine on Leith;*Leeds Playhouse/UK No 1 Tour; *ADAM;*National Theatre of Scotland; *Toy Plastic Chicken, Wee Free: The Musical, Voices In Her Ear;*Play Pie and a Pint; *The Sunshine Ghost,* Festival Theatre; *Secret Show 1;*Blood Of The Young/Tron Theatre; *Shark in the Park,*Macrobert/Assembly Rooms; *The Choir,*The Citizens Theatre/ATG; *Arabian Nights, The BFG;*The Royal Lyceum Theatre, *Beauty and the Beast,*Glasgow Life. **Film/Radio/Voiceover Credits:** *Christmas Tales*; Royal Lyceum Theatre. *Scenes For Survival-Future Perfect Tense;*National Theatre of Scotland, *From Fact to Fiction: After Midnight;*BBC R4, *Transport Scotland;*Whitespace. *The Bard's Tale;*inXile Entertainment.

**Jo Clifford** is one of the generation of Scottish playwrights who put the Traverse on the international theatrical map in the late 1980s with her *Losing Venice, Lucy’s Play, Playing with Fire, Ines de Castro and Light in the Village.* With her Great Expectations she became the first openly trans playwright to have a play running in London’s West End. James McMillan wrote the music to transform her *Ines de Castro* into an opera (Scottish Opera/Edinburgh International Festival). Other work for the Edinburgh International Festival includes *Schism* in England (National Theatre of Great Britain), *Anna* (Traverse Theatre), *Life Is A Dream* (The Lyceum, Edinburgh) and *Celestina* (Birmingham Rep). Other translations and adaptations include *Faust Parts 1 & 2* and *Anna Karenina* (both for The Lyceum, Edinburgh). Other theatre works includes *The Tree of Knowledge* (Traverse Theatre), *Every One* (The Lyceum, Edinburgh / Chris Goode and Co.). As a performer, Jo has previously worked with Chris Goode on his *Albemarle Sketchbook* (West Yorkshire Playhouse). Solo work includes her own *God’s New Frock* (Tron/Traverse) and *The Gospel According To Jesus Queen of Heaven* (Tron/Glasgay!). *The Gospel*… is currently touring Brazil in Portuguese and will tour Uruguay and Argentina in Spanish later this year. Other work in 2017: *The House of Bernarda Alba* (Graeae and Royal Exchange); a new commission for the Royal Exchange; and *War in America* (The Attic Collective). She is a proud father and grandmother.

**Jordy Deelight** is an Edinburgh-based non-binary artist from Leith who works between Edinburgh and Glasgow creating performance-based work for theatre and television. Their work looks at identity and persona in the art of drag, exploring themes of disability, gender and mental health in autobiographical theatre and auto theory-based work. Jordy’s aim in their work is to bring conversations about the deep-rooted psychology of humans and how they think, feel and act. Jordy Deelight trained at Queen Margaret University (BA Drama and Performance) 2013-16 and at Edinburgh College of Art (MA Contemporary Art Practice) 2018-20. Selected Credits include: *The Tin Forest,* National Theatre of Scotland (performer), *Hey, I’m Alive*, Creative Electric (performer & writer), *Wasted Youth*, Netherbow Theatre (performer, director and writer), *Jordy’s 65 Reasons to Live* , BBC Scotland (performer), *My Mum and Dad Said*… - Birds of Paradise & Imaginate (Writer/Performer/Curator), *The Honeymoon Period*, Netherbow Theatre [in association with Scottish Youth Theatre’s ‘Making Space’ and Young Scot] (writer, performer and director), *My Passion Keeps Me Well*, CF Trust (performer), *Drag, cystic fibrosis and me*, CF Trust, *The Covid Diaries* (Curator/Performer), *Playing Dress Up*- Unite Global Pride/IGYLO (Performer/Writer) Young Scot Arts Finalist 2020 – Young Scot (winner). Tim, Witch & Chorus - *A Christmas Carol* - *The Show Must Go Online* (performer). *Gallathea* - Augur & Dick - The Show Must Go Online (performer). BBC Social (producer & contributor).

**Finn den Hertog**works as a director, writer and actor across stage, screen and radio. He trained at the Royal Conservatoire of Scotland graduating in 2007. Recent directing credits include the award-winning The Afflicted (groupwork) and Square Go(Francesca Moody Productions) which played two sell out runs at the Edinburgh Fringe 2018/19 and a run off-Broadway in spring of this year. Other directing work includes: Anatomy of A Suicide (Royal Conservatoire of Scotland); Escaped Alone (Royal Lyceum Theatre, Edinburgh/Luminate Festival) Signs Preceding The End of The World (Lyceum/Edinburgh Book Festival)TBCTV (A collaboration with designer Chloe Lamford at Somerset House Studios); Men In Blue, Ten New Messages(Young Vic); Light Boxes (Grid Iron); Squash (Oran Mor/Traverse). He has worked as associate and assistant director on productions at the Young Vic, National Theatre, St Ann’s Warehouse and in London’s West End. He is a regular visiting director for the University of Edinburgh’s MSc Playwriting course and has worked as a workshop leader and facilitator for a number of theatres including the Royal Court, Old Vic and Donmar Warehouse. Finn is co-director of [groupwork](https://www.groupworktheatre.com/), a Scottish based company specialising in highly physical cross-discipline theatre. They were recently named in The List Magazine’s 2019 Hot 100.

**Karen Dunbar** is one of Scotland’s best-known comedy actors. She attended The Comedy Unit’s open auditions in 1997. The company immediately put her to work on their sketch show Chewin’ the Fat. She then went on to star in her own show, The Karen Dunbar Show, which received two coveted Golden Rose nominations for Best Comedy Show and Karen herself two personal nominations for Best Comedy Performance. Theatre work includes #71 (Oran Mor/Traverse Theatre), Shakespeare Trilogy (Donmar Warehouse), Witsherface: Funny How…? (Glasgow International Comedy Festival), Priscilla Queen of the Desert The Musical (David Ian Productions Ltd/Edinburgh Playhouse), Henry IV (Donmar Warehouse/St Ann’s Warehouse, New York), Cyrano De Bergerac (Edinburgh Book Festival/Communicado Theatre Co), Can’t Forget About You (Lyric Theatre, Belfast/Tron Theatre), Happy Days (Tron Theatre), The Guid Sisters (National Theatre of Scotland), Men Should Weep (National Theatre), Stand Up Drunk, A Drunk Woman Looks at the Thistle and Ha, Ha, Ha (Oran Mor) and The Vagina Monologues (Mark Goucher Productions). Television work includes River City and An Audience With Burns (BBC Scotland), 2014 Commonwealth Games Opening Ceremony (Jack Morton Worldwide for BBC), MI High: Prison Break (Brown Eyed Boy), Happy Hollidays (Effingee Productions), Chewin’ the Fat and The Karen Dunbar Show (BBC Comedy Unit). Documentary projects include I Belong to Glasgow (Hopscotch Films for BBC) and When Karen Dunbar Met Denise Mina (Artworks Scotland for BBC Scotland). Film projects include Mary Queen of Scots (Focus Features/Working Title) and Rice Paper Stars (Tartan Shorts).

**Lucy Gaizely/21Common** create performance that challenges the accepted and expected, led by artists Lucy Gaizely and Gary Gardiner, Scotland’s leading learning-disabled artist Ian Johnston and Executive Producer Louise Irwin. In 2018 we were pleased to be awarded RFO status by Creative Scotland. Our international hit show *Dancer*, an Unlimited Commission 2014, was developed during a residency at Sense Scotland. Since then *Dancer* has toured – and is still touring – the world, being programmed across the UK, was part of Made in Scotland at the Edinburgh Fringe 2016, toured to South America, Scandinavia and was part of the Made in Scotland Festival in Brussels in 2019. In 2016, building on learning from *Dancer*, we began a similar process to make a new piece of work. T*he Ballad of the Apathetic Son and His Narcissistic Mother* was developed over two years with a 16-year-old boy and his real-life Mum. This was also part of Made in Scotland Showcase at the Edinburgh Fringe 2018 and went on to undertake a significant international tour to Germany, Poland, Sweden, London, Australia and New Zealand. Our most recent work *IN THE INTEREST OF HEALTH AND SAFETY CAN PATRONS PLEASE SUPERVISE THEIR CHILDREN AT ALL TIMES*….featured ten ten-year-old children, high scaffolding, French torch songs and some very scabby mattresses. A deranged disco of a show, it examined society’s reluctance to let children take risks. It was premiered as part of Tramway Presents and Take Me Somewhere Festival 2019 after being developed through Imaginate’s PuSH EU Lab residency since 2017. It received widespread attention, receiving both a five star and a two-star review, with the latter absolutely disgusted by the work. It was also nominated as Outstanding Dance Performance at the Herald Culture Awards 2019 and was selected as part of the Made in Scotland Showcase 2020, now postponed to 2021. Other work includes a commission by National Theatre of Scotland to co-curate a large-scale festival of work for young adults called *Futureproof*, which placed ten international artists working in social practice in ten locations across Scotland

**Debbie Hannan** trained at the **Royal Conservatoire of Scotland** and as Trainee Director at the**Royal Court**. She directs new writing and makes devised theatre. Recent credits include: Girl Meets Boy (developed with National Theatre of Scotland and The Yard); Latir (Compañia Nacional de Teatro, Mexico); The Wonderful World of Dissocia, The Angry Brigade (Royal Conservatoire of Scotland); Pandora (Etch, Pleasance); Killer Joe, Conspiracy (Royal Welsh College, the Gate); The Session (Soho Theatre); The Five Steps,Primetime, Who Cares,Spaghetti Ocean (Royal Court); Lot and His God, Notes from the Underground (Citizens Theatre); Recreation (Arcola); CauseWay, Woman of the Year (Oran Mor); liberty, equality, fraternity (Tron/Traverse); Sucker (Old Vic New Voices); PANORAMA, Roses Are Dead (Arches).

**Lewis Hetherington** is an award-winning playwright and performance maker. His work is rooted in collaboration and storytelling. He is currently Creative Lead on *The Coming Back Out Ball* for the National Theatre of Scotland. Other National Theatre of Scotland work includes Rocket Post! He is an Associate of Playwrights’ Studio, Scotland, was recently IASH Creative Fellow for the University of Edinburgh and the Traverse Theatre, Embedded Artist for Creative Carbon Scotland, and Co-curator and Director on QWERK: a mini festival of new plays from Queer writers from all over the world, for fieldwork performance. Other credits include *BOYS* (The Pappy Show), *The Secret Life of Suitcases* (Unicorn) and *Cloud Man* both with Ailie Cohen Puppet Maker*, Leaving Planet Earth* (Grid Iron/EIF) *Instructions for Butterfly Collectors, A Perfect Child* and *Sea Change* (Oran Mor).As part of Analogue he won two Fringe Firsts and the Arches Brick Award for his work on *Mile End, Beachy Head, 2401 Objects* (with Oldenburg Staatstheater) and *Stowaway.* His work has toured extensively throughout Scotland the rest of the world including performances in Australia, Canada, China, Germany, Japan, Saudi Arabia, Singapore, and the USA.

**Horse** is an iconic and utterly unique singer/songwriter, her voice described as 'a finely honed instrument', together with 'breathtaking stagecraft'. Her music is both moving and uplifting, the audience are totally absorbed whenever she performs. With a successful career expanding over three decades, she has opened and toured with various international artists, including Tina Turner, BB King, Bryan Ferry, Burt Bacarach. One of her best known songs Careful, was covered by Will Young. Her first record deal was with EMI/Capitol circa 1990. To date, she has released nine albums including The Same Sky and God's Home Movie. God's Home Movie on the MCA/Universal label. Her current album HOME was released on her own label Randan Records. In addition to writing and performing, Horse also produces work for other artists - sharing her immense expertise and experience. Horse’s unparalleled live performances showcase, not only her vocal range and the unique texture and tone that is virtually missing from today’s music, but also her relationship to her fans.

**Maggie Kinloch’s** career has seen her travel all over the world, to over 35 countries, touring with productions and visiting drama schools to explore how theatre is taught the world over. As a director, a senior manager, a strategic leader, a teacher, a champion for equality and inclusion and a designer of theatre training, Maggie has created an international reputation. Maggie is Professor Emerita of Royal Conservatoire of Scotland, and won the Lifetime Achievement Award at the Scottish Higher Education Awards in 2014, the Inspiration Award at the Proud Scotland Awards in 2019 and the Lord Provosts of Glasgow’s Gold Medal for services to the cultural life of the city in 2011. She was appointed as one of the first ever members of the Board of Directors of the National Theatre of Scotland at its inception, and served a full eight-year term. She is currently part of the team at NTS who are working on The Coming Out Again Ball project.

**Andy Manley** is a theatre artist who specialises in creating performances for young audiences. Andy’s work tours extensively to UK and international venues and festivals.He has worked extensively in the children’s sector across Scotland. His work includes: *White*, *Martha*, *Kappa*, *The Ballad of Pondlife McGurk* with Catherine Wheels Theatre Company; *Potato Needs a Bath and* *HUFF* with Shona Reppe; *Little Light* and *My House* with Starcatchers; *Mikey and Addie* with Red Bridge Arts. Most recently he created *Black Beauty* with Shona Reppe, Andy Cannon and Ian Cameron with Red Bridge Arts and the Traverse Theatre. He created *Night Light,* a new show with Teater Refleksion, Denmark and Red Bridge Arts, commissioned by the Edinburgh International Children’s Festival and performed as part of the 2017 Festival and *Stick by Me*, a new show for 3-6 year olds, commissioned and premiered at Gulbenkian’s Boing Festival in 2017. These works have all gone on to tour extensively. His directing credits include work for Catherine Wheels, Scottish Opera, Glyndebourne, Macrobert Arts Centre, M6 Theatre Company, Polka Theatre, Barneteatret Vart (Norway), Theater o.N and Theater Junge Generation (Germany). In 2012 he was awarded a Herald Archangel for his work in children’s theatre.

**Tiu Makkonen** (b.1989) is a queer immigrant artist and photographer originally from Finland. Since moving to Scotland over 10 years ago, her work has developed from personal reflections on identity and queerness to documenting the LGBTI+ scene in Scotland at large. Using both analogue and digital formats, her work ranges from fine art portraiture projects addressing visibility, representation and empowerment to documentary work shooting underground queer raves, art events and national gender equality campaigns. Since 2017, Tiu has been focusing on creating large scale portrait series of Scottish LGBTI+ elders and older adults over 50. Her series 'Letters to Ourselves' was the first to begin this intergenerational conversation, and it was based on this project that she joined The Coming Back Out Ball as photographer in residence to continue creating portraits of the LGBT Elders' Social Dance Club members for the accompanying 'Portraits of an LGBTI+ Generation' exhibition. These portraits are all shot on medium format film to retain a sense of authenticity and value. The ethos underpinning all of her work is a desire to bolster the community from within, with the projects working as a two-way mirrors: to have us be seen, but also to really see ourselves, full of fierce love and radical vulnerability.

**Nicola McCartney** is a playwright, director and dramaturg. She trained as a director with Citizen Theatre/ G&J Productions and Charabanc Theatre Company Belfast. Nicola was Artistic Director of lookout Theatre Company, Glasgow from 1992-2002, and has twice been an Associate Playwright of Playwrights Studio Scotland. She has worked for a host of organisations as a dramaturg including Vanishing Point and Stellar Quines/ Edinburgh International Festival. Her plays include: *Easy, Heritage*, *Home*, *Standing Wave*: *Delia Derbyshire In The 60s*, *Rachel’s House*, *Cave Dwellers* and *Lifeboat*. She co-authored *How Not To Drown* with Dritan Kastrati (Thick Skin/ Tron/Traverse) which won a Fringe First at the Edinburgh Fringe Festival 2019. She is also a social theatre practitioner and has worked with all sorts of groups including people within the criminal justice system in UK and USA, asylum seekers and refugees, drug users, survivors of domestic violence and childhood abuse. Nicola has worked with Traverse’s flagship outreach programme, Class Act, since 1997, taking it to Russia, Ukraine and India. In 2018 she was a recipient of a Writers’ Guild of Great Britain Olwen Wymark award for encouraging theatre in the UK. Nicola is currently Reader in Writing for Performance at University of Edinburgh where she leads the Masters programme in Playwriting

**Tristan Meecham** is a Queer artist and performer and together with Bec Reid, he is the Artistic Director of All The Queens Men. Tristan has become a leading creative voice within the LGBTI+ community nationally and internationally, specifically for championing the rights of LGBTI+ older people. All The Queens Men projects are presented by leading cultural institutions around the world including: Ansan Street Arts Festival (South Korea), ANTI Contemporary Arts Festival (Finland), Arts Centre Melbourne, Arts House (Melbourne), Bleach Festival (Gold Coast), Brisbane Festival, Darwin Festival, Sydney Festival, National Theatre of Scotland / Luminate Festival / Eden Court, Taipei Arts Festival, Salisbury International Arts Festival and West Kowloon Cultural District (Hong Kong). Recent projects include: *The Coming Back Out Ball*, a spectacular social event celebrating Lesbian, Gay, Bisexual, Transgender and Intersex (LGBTI+) elders; LGBTI+ Elders Dance Club, a free monthly social event for rainbow communities; *Congress*, a citizens’ assembly in which community collaborate with wordsmiths to create political first speeches; *Fun Run*, a riotous performance spectacle in Tristan runs a marathon on a treadmill live on stage supported by hundreds of local community performers; and *Toy*, a gender neutral workshop where children build toys of their dreams. Tristan has also worked as Creative Director of the 2020 Victorian Seniors Festival, a 26-week online festival featuring over 150+ older artists from around Australia and Festival Director *of Give it up for Margaret!,* a month-long festival which explored the current status of arts philanthropy on the centenary of the birth of arts philanthropist Margaret Lawrence.

**Gavin Mitchell**’s theatre work includes: *Still Game, Still Game – The Final Farewell* (Phil McIntyre); *Casablanca The Gin Joint Cut*(Oran Mor and Gilded Balloon); *Priscilla Queen of the Desert*(David Ian/ATG); *Aladdin*(FFE/King’s Theatre); *Canibal Women of Mars*(Tron Theatre); *Cinderalla*(First Family Entertainment). Television work includes: *The Last Czars*(Netflix); *Still Game*(BBC/BBC Scotland); *MI High*(Kudos/BBC); *Rab C Nesbitt*(The Comedy Unit); *Field of Blood*(Slate Films North); *Happy Hollidays*(Effingee Productions); *Taggart 97/Grass*(SMG). Film work includes: *Outlaw King*(Sigma Films/Netflix); *Sawney – Flesh of Man*(Philabeg Films Ltd); *Songs For Amy*(Seafaring Films Ltd); *You Instead*(Sigma Films); *Being Human*(Warner Bros).

**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. In 2020, he 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.

**Bec Reid** is an Australian based performer, producer, director, choreographer and engagement specialist. Bec encourages people to see their world in new ways through highly physical, participatory, practical, collaborative and celebratory actions. For more than 20 years, Bec has passionately worked in the space where professional artists and communities of interest meet; collaborating with communities and artists nationally and internationally. Together with Tristan Meecham, Bec leads All The Queens Men, is a founding member of Everybody Now! with Kate McDonald and Ian Pidd and regularly collaborates with acclaimed artists Madeline Flynn and Tim Humphrey. In 2017-18, Bec was a Fellowship recipient from the Australia Council for the Arts. Bec has continually served on arts boards and regularly mentors young and emerging artists formally and informally.

**Shona Reppe** 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 Imaginate. In 2019, Shona Reppe created *Atlantis Banal: Beneath the Surface*, created with Charlot Lemoine of Velo Theatre which toured Scotland in Autumn 2019. She has recently adapted *Potato Needs a Bath* for a COVID digital audience and livestreamed all over the UK including Orkney.

**Graeme Roger** is a visual artist working across film, public art, performance, photography, installation & theatre.  All his projects are collaborative in nature with other artists, musicians, directors and the wider community.  His work has been shown nationally and internationally.

Graeme is the Eden Court Theatre Engagement Producer for Film & Visual Arts Projects and leads the digi team on the Scottish Government’s ‘Cashback for Communities’ program which focuses on providing creative opportunities for young people outwith mainstream education or who face barriers in participation

**Sam Steel** loved working with National Theatre of Scotland and Nicola McCartney on *Holding/Holding On*. She has previously worked with National Theatre of Scotland and Nicola. She had a part in the *Scenes for Survival* play ‘*Future Perfect, Tense’* performing and filming at home during lockdown with her mum Neshla. Along with these great projects, Sam was part of the ‘21 Common’ young company for their performance of *‘In the interest of...’* performed at Tramway as part of the Take me Somewhere festival in 2019.

**Ania Urbanowski** is an award-winning filmmaker who has worked on numerous short fiction and documentary films, as well as collaborated on experimental and artists projects. Ania's core focus is editing but she has also works as a cinematographer on more collaborative, experimental projects. Ania has worked on short films including Factory Talk (2020) that won Best Artists' Film at Aesthetica Short Film Festival, Fashion In the Dark (2019), which won Best New Fashion Film at the Fashion Film Festival in Milan, Where Are We Now (2016), which has received Best Documentary Award at Forbes Under 30 Short Film Festival and These Are My Hands (2018) which won Best Experimental Short at Outfest, Los Angeles LGBTQ Film Festival. Ania formerly worked as Post-Production Coordinator at the Scottish Documentary Institute and now is a Co-Director of Media Education, a social enterprise company that uses media as a community development tool and helps people share their experiences through podcast and video production, creating positive change in their lives and communities. As part of her practice she delivers editing and filmmaker workshops for people of all ages and abilities.

**Bea Webster** is a deaf queer Scottish-Thai actor, writer and theatre-maker who graduated with a BA Performance in British Sign Language and English from the Royal Conservatoire of Scotland. She was a member of Solar Bear’s Deaf Youth Theatre. Bea wrote, performed and directed *House of Ladies* for RCS's On The Verge festival at the Citizens Theatre. She co-wrote and devised *Everything Will Be Perfect*, playing as a drag queen alongside Jamie Rea as Vikki Ryan at Buzzcut: Double Thrills. She has published a poem in both BSL and English titled *Long Lost Lover*, about her birthplace of Thailand. She also wrote and performed in BBC Social's *How not to be d\*cks to deaf people*. Her recent acting work since graduating includes *The Winter’s Tale* (Royal Shakespeare Company) *Peeling* (Taking Flight Theatre Company), *Mother Courage and Her Children* (Red Ladder Theatre Company). Bea is one of the Playwrights Studio Scotland’s mentored playwrights for 2020. She was nominated Best Actress in a Play at The Stage Debut Awards 2019 for her role of Kattrin in *Mother Courage and Her Children*. Bea communicates in both English and British Sign Language.

**NOTES TO EDITORS**

**All The Queens Men** is an Australian independent arts organisation founded by award-winning performance artists Tristan Meecham and Bec Reid. ATQM collaborate with communities of all shapes, sizes, and identities to produce transformative creative experiences that champion equality, social health, and human connection. ATQM values radical optimism, pride, activism, generosity and respect. With over 30 years of combined experience in community committed arts practice All The Queens Men has presented leading large-scale community projects locally, nationally and internationally including at Ansan Arts Festival (South Korea), ANTI Contemporary Arts Festival (Finland), Arts Centre Melbourne, Art House (Melbourne), Bleach Festival (Gold Coast), City of Melbourne, Darwin Festival, Galway 2020 European Capital of Culture, National Theatre of Scotland/ Eden Court Theatre / Luminate Festival (UK), Next Wave Festival (Melbourne), Sydney Festival, Taipei Arts Festival (Taiwan) and West Kowloon Cultural Arts District (Hong Kong) amongst many others. [www.allthequeensmen.net](http://www.allthequeensmen.net) **//** [www.comingbackoutball.com](http://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.

**Edinburgh Science,** founded in 1989, is an educational charity that aims to inspire people of all ages and backgrounds to discover the world around them. The organisation is best known for organising Edinburgh’s annual Science Festival: the world’s first festival of science and technology and still one of Europe’s largest. The two-week Festival gives audiences amazing experiences through a diverse programme of innovative events for adults and families. Alongside the annual Festival in Edinburgh, the organisation has a strong focus on education, running a touring programme, Generation Science, that visits schools around Scotland throughout the year bringing science to life and the annual Careers Hive event which promotes STEM careers to young people. After programming about climate change and the environment for many years, in 2019 Edinburgh Science awarded the Edinburgh Medal to Christiana Figueres, the inspirational Costa Rican diplomat instrumental in the Paris Climate agreement. Inspired by this visit, Edinburgh Science established the Climate Opportunity Ideas Factory, a forum for all sectors to come together and generate collaborative actionable ideas that accelerate our transition to a zero-carbon world. Edinburgh Science also shares its content and expertise internationally through Edinburgh Science Worldwide and operates a large-scale international programme of work. It regularly presents events overseas and is currently the Major Programming Partner of the annual Abu Dhabi Science Festival, helping to curate, produce and deliver the event. For international partners, the team at Edinburgh Science provide engaging content, curatorial advice on programming and business planning support, along with expert staff and training for local science communicators. [www.sciencefestival.co.uk](http://www.sciencefestival.co.uk)

**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 and internationally.  Luminate’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. [www.luminatescotland.org](http://www.luminatescotland.org)

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](http://www.nationaltheatrescotland.com/)

**Science Gallery Bengaluru** (SGB) works at the interfaces between the natural and human sciences, engineering, and the arts through a Public Lab Complex, ever-changing exhibitions, and mentorship programmes, particularly created to engage young adults. It is a member of the Global Science Gallery Network with sister galleries in Atlanta, Detroit, Dublin, London, Melbourne, Rotterdam, and Venice. SGB has worked on several public engagement projects keeping a critical strand of their programming in relation to climate change and sustainability, including past exhibitions titled ‘Submerge’ and ‘Phytopia’. <https://bengaluru.sciencegallery.com/>

**ThinkArts** was founded in 2013 to facilitate high quality, transformative arts events for children and young adults, based on the belief that regular creative experiences are essential to develop imagination and emotional intelligence. The Kolkata-based organization has reached thousands of participants across India through its work in schools, museums, heritage spaces and theatres. Collaborating with over 75 national and international partners, artists and institutions across disciplines, ThinkArts’ diverse programme includes literary, visual art, dance, theatre and story-telling events. Since 2017, ThinkArts has curated the annual Junior Kolkata Literary Meet. The first ThinkArts International Festival for Young Audiences in 2019 saw nearly 100 events held in Kolkata and 3 other cities. While presenting Indian premieres of shows from Germany, Scotland, Wales, Switzerland, the Netherlands, Australia, Italy and Norway, ThinkArts continues to conceive projects that promote local artists and initiatives in a collaborative spirit.The organization also focuses on creating resources and support systems for other stakeholders in arts engagements for children such as educators, parents and artists. ThinkArts has grown to connect and collaborate with artists and institutions working across disciplines, also bringing their focus to children as audiences and participants. <http://www.thinkarts.co.in/>

