



JANUARY TO JUNE 2010

PRESS RELEASE

The National Theatre of Scotland presents a new six month season of work from January to June 2010 including a new Scottish version of a classic adventure story, a thrilling Public Art Carnival experience, a season of new shows for young people, more home grown and local talent at Allotment, a Transform community theatre project in Aberdeen and a New Year appearance at Celtic Connections.

The season at a glance:

January

- Duncan McLean's musical tribute to Thomas Fraser's life, featuring the Lone Star Swing Band, directed by Vicky Featherstone, is back by popular demand. **Long Gone Lonesome** is playing at the Tron Theatre as part of Celtic Connections (21 and 22 January 2010).

February and March

- The National Theatre of Scotland, visual artist Stephen Skrynka and the Ken Fox Troupe join forces to present a spectacular piece of touring public art. **The Wall of Death – A Way of Life** is presented at exhibition centres and show grounds in Glasgow, Edinburgh and Aberdeen (04 to 28 February 2010).
- A further **Allotment** in Govan, in a newly sprouted arts bar at Govan Cross Shopping Mall (19 February).
- The National Theatre of Scotland presents **tfd** - a season of three new shows for young people. Two of the new plays are by Scotland's leading writers for young people; **Empty** by Cathy Forde and **The Miracle Man** by Douglas Maxwell, touring to Glasgow, Musselburgh, Inverness and Aberdeen. **Mr Write** by Rob Drummond, an emerging young theatre maker, will tour to Glasgow and then to schools and colleges in Spring 2010.
- The epic **TRANSFORM** journey ends in Aberdeen with Paddy Cunneen's production featuring music, puppets and young people from Dyce Academy (17 to 19 March 2010). **Transform Aberdeen** is sponsored by ScottishPower, supported by *Determined to Succeed*, in partnership with Aberdeen City Council.

April to June

- John Tiffany directs **Peter Pan**, a new version of JM Barrie's classic adventure by David Greig, relocating the story to Victorian Edinburgh. John Tiffany is reunited with Davey Anderson, Laura Hopkins and Gareth Fry, three of the creative team from *Black Watch*. **Peter Pan** is touring to Glasgow, London, Inverness, Edinburgh and Aberdeen, in a co-production with the Barbican (23 April to 19 June 2010). Cal MacAninch will be taking on the role of Captain Hook.
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The National Theatre of Scotland presents

LONG GONE LONESOME

Written by Duncan McLean

Directed by Vicky Featherstone

Featuring The Lone Star Swing Band

A celebration of the life of Thomas Fraser. An evening of song and story-telling in the hands of Orcadian western swingers The Lone Star Swing Band, with novelist, playwright and musician Duncan McLean at the helm.

Thomas Fraser (1927 - 1978) was a fisherman and crofter from the remote island of Burra, Shetland - and one of Scotland's least known but most fascinating musical heroes.

Obsessed with country and the blues, Thomas mastered the styles of his idols - like Jimmie Rodgers, Hank Williams and Big Bill Broonzy - and made their songs his own. A shy, retiring man, he avoided public performance. Instead, he gave away to family and friends tapes he lovingly recorded in his croft.

Thomas laughed at the idea that the wider world might appreciate his talent. But thirty years after his untimely death, those precious, fragile tapes have been reissued on several CDs and his fame has spread to Nashville.

Long Gone Lonesome, an evening of live music, storytelling and reminiscence is currently touring Scotland. The production will return in early 2010, presented as part of Celtic Connections, at the Tron Theatre on 21 and 22 January 2010.

Venue, date and time: Tron Theatre – Celtic Connections on 21 and 22 Jan 2010 at 8pm

Tickets: £12.50

Box Office: 0141 552 4267

Online: <http://www.tron.co.uk/>

The National Theatre of Scotland, Ken Fox Troupe and Stephen Skrynka present

WALL OF DEATH – A WAY OF LIFE

Directed by Vicky Featherstone and Stephen Skrynka

A THRILLING LIVE PUBLIC ART EVENT

- Experience the Wall of Death.
- Get up close and personal with the Ken Fox Troupe
- Watch *Cyclone Skrinky* take on the challenge of riding the Wall of Death. Will he succeed?

Artist Stephen Skrynka will be taking his chances on the Wall of Death with the world famous Ken Fox Troupe, for this unique evening of high drama. The performers in this multi-media event will offer audiences a unique and intimate opportunity to discover a vanishing way of life as the Ken Fox family share with us what happens when you run away and join the circus. **WALL OF DEATH – A WAY OF LIFE** offers a revealing insight into one family's way of life, and their involvement with an artist.

This evocative evening of noise, thrill-seeking and the smell of Castrol R, will also premiere a major new installation by Skrynka which focuses on the emotional response the performance elicits from its audience.

Artist Stephen Skrynka often goes to great lengths to learn other people's trades and then creates artworks from the process. In **Bartered Ride** (2000-2001) he learned to be a cabbie in Glasgow (failing the Knowledge twice). He then offered the public a free taxi ride in exchange for a performance in the back. **My Idea of Heaven** (2007) was a road trip from Glasgow to Paris in a hearse converted into a mobile tanning lounge, offering people a free top up tan in exchange for their view on the afterlife. In **Moveable Feast** (2004) as driver, chef and waiter he offered the opportunity for neighbours on Dumbiedykes Estate in Edinburgh to meet each other over a dinner for two in a

VW camper van converted into a mobile restaurant. He is currently creating a new series of artworks with a firm of road line painters in Cardiff.

Stephen Skrynka's other public artworks in Scotland include **Tunnel** (*Where is your promised land?* 2000) which converted 30 years worth of graffiti into a sound and light installation in the Clyde Pedestrian and Cycle Tunnel and **Borrowed Light** (1996 with Peter McCaughey) which brought to life the Victorian glass pavement lights throughout Glasgow using light and sound.

The Wall of Death first appeared in the United Kingdom in 1929 and throughout the 1930s. By 1950 there were many Walls of Death in the country. Today there are few remaining in the world. There are only two Walls of Death in this country, one of which is the famous Ken Fox Wall. The Ken Fox Troupe is a family affair and includes Ken, his wife Julie, his sons Luke and Alex and Luke's girlfriend Kerri. They are probably most well known for their regular slot on BBC One Channel Trailers.

Touring to Glasgow, Aberdeen and Edinburgh from 04 to 28 February

Press performance on 05 February 2010 at SECC, Glasgow 8.30pm

Venue and date: SECC, Glasgow from 4 to 12 February 2010
Times: 6.30pm/8.30pm 4-5 Feb, 2pm/8pm 6 Feb, 6,30pm/8.30pm 9-12 Feb
Ticket Prices: £10 and £6 concessions
Booking number: 0844 395 4000
Online booking: www.ticketSOUP.com

Venue and date: AECC, Aberdeen from 15 to 17 February 2010
Times: 6.30pm/8.30pm
Ticket Prices: £10 and £6 concessions
Booking number: 08444 77 9000
Online booking: www.ticketmaster.co.uk

Venue and date: Royal Highland Centre, Edinburgh from 20 to 28 February 2010
Times: 2pm/8pm 20 Feb, 2pm/5pm 21 Feb, 6.30pm/8.30pm 23-26 Feb, 2pm/8pm 27 Feb, 2pm 28 Feb
Ticket Prices: £10 and £6 concessions
Booking number: 0131 473 2000
Online booking: www.hubtickets.co.uk

The National Theatre of Scotland presents

tfd

A SEASON OF THREE NEW SHOWS FOR YOUNG PEOPLE

including two world premieres by Scotland's leading writers for young people and a chance to be the star of a new play.

Three nights out.

Three stories from wild imaginations and passionate minds.

Three pieces of work to celebrate the most vivid years of your life.

WORLD PREMIERE

THE MIRACLE MAN

A NEW PLAY BY DOUGLAS MAXWELL

Directed by Vicky Featherstone

Designed by Georgia McGuinness

Lighting Designed by Natasha Chivers

Holding on to your virginity, getting a ring for your pains and something to believe in, that's what Dawn, Rob and Fawziya want. Ozzy, their loser PE teacher needs to believe in something too. It will all be fine when the Miracle Man gets here. Won't it?

Douglas Maxwell's most recent production *The Mother Ship* won the Brian Way Award 2009. For the National Theatre of Scotland, his play *Mancub*, in a co-production with Vanishing Point, was revived and toured Scotland in 2006. His previous productions include *Helmet*, (Traverse/Paines Plough), *If Destroyed True* (Dundee Rep/Paines Plough), *The Backpacker Blues* (Òran Mór), *Variety* (Edinburgh International Festival/Grid Iron), *Our Bad Magnet* (Tron Theatre/Borderline Theatre Company) and the award-winning *Decky Does a Bronco*.

His future productions in 2010 include *Promises Promises* for Random Accomplice and a musical for Cumbernauld Theatre called *The Bookie*. He is also writing a new play for young people for the National Theatre's (UK) "New Connections" project 2010. His play *Decky Does A Bronco* will also be remounted by Grid Iron to mark its tenth anniversary.

Cast includes **Keith Fleming** as the Miracle Man, **Sally Reid** as Paula, **Ross Allan** as Chubb, **Shabana Bakhsh** as Fawziya, **Charlene Boyd** as Dawn, and **Jimmy Chisholm** as Lewis.

WORLD PREMIERE

EMPTY

A NEW PLAY BY CATHY FORDE

Directed by Vicky Featherstone

Designed by Georgia McGuinness

Lighting Designed by Natasha Chivers

It's going to be the party to end all parties. Summer has just begun, school's finished and Col's got an empty. With his parents out of town, the house quickly fills up. Perfect Lily and party boy Stevie crack open the champagne while vases are broken and bathrooms flooded. In the midst of frantically trying to avert disaster, Col discovers a stash of hidden letters which bring his world crashing down.

Cathy Forde is an award-winning author who lives in Glasgow. This is her first play. All her novels have young adults as their central character and include *Bad Wedding*, *Dead Men Don't Talk*, *Exit Oz*, *Firestarter*, *Fat Boy Swim*, *I See You Baby* (with Kevin Brooks), *L-L-L-Loser*, *Skarrs*, *Sugarcoated*, *Think Me Back*, *The Finding*, *The Drowning Pond* and *Tug of War*. She won the Grampian Children's Book Award for *Fat Boy Swim*, which was also shortlisted for the Blue Peter Award and Teenage Book Award. *Skarrs* and *The Drowning Pond* were longlisted for the Carnegie Medal and won Scottish Arts Council awards. She has recently been appointed as the Scottish Book Trust's new virtual writer in residence.

Cast includes **Ben Presley** as Col, **Sally Reid** as Bella, **Ross Allan** as Stevie, **Shabana Bakhsh** as Fiona and **Charlene Boyd** as Lily.

WORLD PREMIERE

Mr Write

Created and performed by Rob Drummond

Rob Drummond will write a play for a young person chosen from the audience, to be performed live on stage every night, using the young person's life as his inspiration. Rob Drummond is a young theatre maker from Glasgow who was winner of the Arches Award for Stage Directors in 2008 with *16* and earlier this year wrote, directed and performed *Bullet Catch* as part of The Arches Behaviour Festival. Rob was also involved as a writer on the first National Theatre of Scotland **Allotment** project in October 2009.

Empty and **The Miracle Man** touring to Glasgow, Musselburgh, Inverness and Aberdeen
Mr Write touring to Glasgow with future dates to be announced

Venue: **Tron Theatre, Glasgow**
Show, date and time: ***The Miracle Man*** (9, 10 March at 7.30pm Under 21's only)
18 - 20 March at 7.30pm
Tickets: £5 Young People only performances, Thurs £10.50/£6.50, Fri/Sat: £14.50/£10.50
Accessible Perfs: Captioned performance 18 March, Audio Described, Signed and Touch Tour 19 March

Show, date and time: ***Mr Write*** (9 - 13 March at 6.15pm Under 21's only) and 16 - 20 March at 7.45pm
Tickets: £5 Young People only performances and £8.50/£6.50 all other dates

Show, date and time: ***Empty*** (11 - 13 March at 7.30pm Under 21's only) and 16 & 17 March at 7.30pm
Tickets: £5 Young People only performances and £10.50/£6.50 all other dates
Accessible Perfs: Audio Described, Signed and Touch Tour 16 March, Captioned performance 17 March
Ticket offers: Book for two shows and receive a £5 discount or book for all three and get £7.50 off.
Under 21's – buy for *The Miracle Man* and *Empty* and see *Mr Write* for £2.50

Box Office: 0141 552 4267
Online: <http://www.tron.co.uk/>

Venue: **Brunton Theatre, Musselburgh**
Show, date and time: ***The Miracle Man***, 23 March at 7.30pm
Tickets: £10.50 / £8.50/ £5 under 18s
Show, date and time: ***Empty***, 24 March at 7.30pm
Tickets: £10.50 / £8.50/ £5 under 18s
Box Office: 0131 665 2240
Online: <http://www.bruntontheatre.co.uk/>

Venue: **Eden Court, Inverness**
Show, date and time: ***The Miracle Man***, 30 March at 7.30pm
Tickets: £10/8/£5 under 18s
Show, date and time: ***Empty***, 31 March at 7.30pm
Tickets: £10/8/£5 under 18s
Box Office: 01463 234 234
Online: <http://www.eden-court.co.uk/>

Venue: **The Lemon Tree, Aberdeen**
Show, date and time: ***Empty***, 2 April at 7pm
Tickets: £10/8
Show, date and time: ***The Miracle Man***, 3 April at 7pm
Tickets: £10/8
Box Office: 01224 641 122
Online: <http://www.boxofficeaberdeen.com/>

Further tour dates for *Mr Write* to be announced.

WORLD PREMIERE

The National Theatre of Scotland and the Barbican present **PETER PAN**

By **JM Barrie**

In a new version by **David Greig**

Directed by John Tiffany

Designed by Laura Hopkins

Sound Designed by Gareth Fry

Lighting Designed by Guy Hoare

Musical Direction and Composition by Davey Anderson

Movement Direction by Vicki Amedume of *Upswing*

In 2010 the National Theatre of Scotland brings **Peter Pan** home, presenting a brand new version of one of the most influential and magical stories ever told by a Scottish writer, in what will be the 150th anniversary of the birth of JM Barrie.

Directed by the National Theatre of Scotland's own Olivier Award-winning John Tiffany and written by multi award-winning Scottish playwright David Greig (*The Bacchae*, *Midsummer*, *Yellow Moon*) this **Peter Pan** re-imagines the Darling family in Victorian Edinburgh with all its mists, gas-lamps, bridges and mystery.

John Tiffany will be reunited with Laura Hopkins (Designer), Gareth Fry (Sound Designer) and Davey Anderson (Composer) from *Black Watch*, and with Guy Hoare (Lighting Designer) from *Be Near Me*. Vicki Amedume joins the creative team as Movement Director.

The production will feature sword fights, flying sequences, acrobats, fire-eaters, the usual ticking crocodile and one great big hook.

Captain Hook is played by Cal MacAninch. Cal MacAninch has appeared in a number of television programmes including *Wild at Heart* (ITV), *Holby Blue* (BBC), *Murphy's Law* (BBC) and *Silent Witness* (BBC). His stage work is extensive and includes *Under the Black Flag* for The Globe, *A Whistle in the Dark* and *Oedipus Rex* (The Citizens Theatre). Cal has worked previously with the National Theatre of Scotland, appearing as Pentheus in *The Bacchae*.

Peter Pan is presented by arrangement with the Great Ormond Street Hospital Children's Charity and Samuel French Limited.

Touring to Glasgow, London, Inverness, Edinburgh and Aberdeen from 23 April to 19 June

Press Performance at the King's Theatre Glasgow on Tuesday 27 April 2010 at 7.30pm

Press Performance at the Barbican Theatre, London on Thursday 13 May 2010 at 7.15pm

Venue, date and time: **King's Theatre, Glasgow** from 23 April to 8 May at 7.30pm (2.30pm matinee performance 1,5,8 May) (No performances: 25 April and 2 May)

Ticket Prices: £10 - £28

Booking number: 0844 971 7648

Online booking: <http://www.ambassadortickets.com/king's-theatre>

Accessible Perfs: Captioned performance 7 May, Audio Described and Signed 8 May at 2.30pm (Touch Tour at 1.30pm)

Venue, date and time: **Barbican Theatre, London** from 12 May to Saturday 29 May at 7.15pm (2pm matinee performance 15,22,26,29 May) (Sunday 16 and 23 May 3pm) (No performances 17 and 24 May)

Ticket Prices: £10 - £35

Booking number: 020 7638 8891 (on sale from March 2010)

Online booking: <https://www.barbican.org.uk/> (on sale from March 2010)

Venue, date and time: **Eden Court, Inverness** from 1 to 5 June at 7pm (1.30pm matinee 3 and 5 June)
Ticket Prices: £8 - £18.50
Booking number: 01463 234 234
Online booking: <https://www.eden-court.co.uk/>
Accessible Perfs: Captioned performance 4 June, Audio Described and Signed 5 June at 1.30pm (Touch Tour at 12.30pm)

Venue, date and time: **Festival Theatre, Edinburgh** from 08 to 12 June at 7pm (2pm matinee 12 June)
Ticket Prices: £16 - £23.00
Booking number: 0131 529 6000
Online booking: <http://www.eft.co.uk/>
Accessible Perfs: Captioned performance 11 June, Audio Described and Signed 12 June at 2pm (Touch Tour at 1pm)

Venue, date and time: **HMT Aberdeen** from 15 to 19 June at 7.30pm (2pm matinee performance 17 June, 2.30pm matinee performance 19 June)
Ticket Prices: £12 - £22.50
Booking number: 01224 641122
Online booking: <http://www.boxofficeaberdeen.com>
Accessible Perfs: Captioned performance 18 June, Audio Described and Signed 19 June at 2.30pm (Touch Tour 1.30pm)

The National Theatre of Scotland presents
ALLOTMENT
An arts bar created for one-off events in Govan

Made in Govan with help from GalGael Trust, Brechin's Bar, The Magpie's Nest, the LUV Project, Impact Arts and the Bridges Programmes.

Allotment is a night where live performance, new art and music fuse unconventionally and take root in a deserted shop. Each project is nurtured and grown with the help of local community groups and professional artists. The creative team for **Allotment** will be announced in January 2010.

The **Allotment** night in February is presented in conjunction with The Arches.

Dates and Venue: 19 February at Govan Cross Shopping Centre, 795 Govan Road, Glasgow
Time: Open from 8pm – 11.45pm
Price: £3 in advance/ £5 on door
Tickets: Available on the door on the night.
Advance tickets available in person from: Brechin's Bar, 803 Govan Road, Govan and The Magpie's Nest, 25 Burleigh Street, Govan
Limited tickets available to reserve online at www.allotment-glasgow.co.uk
Note: Allotment is a licensed event. Age 18+ only.

National Theatre of Scotland Learn
Sponsored by ScottishPower, supported by *Determined to Succeed*, in partnership with Aberdeen City Council, presents TRANSFORM ABERDEEN
A major theatre education project

The National Theatre of Scotland is delighted to be returning to Aberdeen with **Transform Aberdeen** – a major theatre education project, developed in partnership with Aberdeen City Council. **Transform Aberdeen** is directed by Paddy Cunneen, the award-winning theatre director, playwright and composer. Paddy Cunneen is working on the project alongside a team of leading professional theatre artists including Lewis Hetherington, Jen Edgar and Ailie Cohen. Students from Dyce Academy in Aberdeen and members of the local community will work closely with the National Theatre of Scotland team throughout the project. Together, they will create a major theatre event in Aberdeen in March 2010 to mark the culmination of the project. The hunt is currently on for an interesting venue in an unusual location in Aberdeen. Transform Aberdeen started in Dyce Academy in September 2009 with the team leading a programme of workshop sessions involving drama, music, movement, creative writing and puppetry.

Transform is a major collaborative education project between National Theatre of Scotland Learn, ScottishPower and the Scottish Government's *Determined to Succeed* programme that allows schools and communities to transform their approaches to learning. By bringing schools together with theatre professionals, communities and audiences, the partnerships produce high impact theatre events that use the local environment as a backdrop to tell compelling stories. **Transform** aims to enthuse and motivate participants and enable them to develop key skills they can adopt in life and the world of work.

Eight major education projects will have been produced by the National Theatre of Scotland's Learn team from March 2009 to March 2010. Teams of leading artists are taking up residency in communities across Scotland, working with secondary schools and community groups to produce eight full-scale site-specific productions. Projects for 2009 have taken place in Fife, Dumfries, East Renfrewshire, Moray, Orkney and Caithness. Following the **Transform Glasgow** project in November 2009, **Transform Aberdeen** is the final of the Company's eight Transform projects.

Dates: 17 to 19 March

Further information to be announced in January 2010.

PRESS PERFORMANCES

Wall of Death – A Way of Life in Glasgow at the SECC on 05 February at 8.30pm

The Miracle Man at the Tron Theatre, Glasgow, on 10 March at 7.30pm

Empty at the Tron Theatre, Glasgow on 12 March at 7.30pm

Mr Write at the Tron Theatre, Glasgow on 12 March at 6.15pm

Peter Pan at the King's Theatre, Glasgow on 27 April at 7.30pm

Peter Pan at the Barbican Theatre, London on 13 May at 7.15pm

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Press Images:

There is a selection of images for current productions available for download from

www.nationaltheatrescotland.com/press

Please do contact the press office for a password.

NOTES TO EDITORS

GENERAL INFORMATION ABOUT THE NATIONAL THEATRE OF SCOTLAND

The National Theatre of Scotland is supported by the Scottish Government.

Since its launch in February 2006, the National Theatre of Scotland has been involved in creating 117 productions in 114 different locations. With no building of its own, the Company takes theatre all over Scotland and beyond, working with existing and new venues and companies to create and tour theatre of the highest quality. It takes place in the great buildings of Scotland, but also in site-specific locations, airports and tower blocks, community halls and drill halls, ferries and forests. The company has performed to over 468,000 people, across three continents.

National Theatre of Scotland Learn opens up great theatre experiences to as many people as possible across Scotland. Since the launch of the National Theatre of Scotland in February 2006, National Theatre of Scotland Learn has created many educational and outreach theatre projects, involving over 104,000 participants and audience members, has delivered over 4900 workshops and worked with over 90 schools in 26 Scottish local authority areas.

Awards 2009:

Manchester Evening News Award 2009: Best Visiting Production for BLACK WATCH

Laurence Olivier Awards 2009: Best New Play – Gregory Burke for BLACK WATCH

Best Director – John Tiffany for BLACK WATCH

Best Theatre Choreographer – Steven Hoggett for BLACK WATCH

Best Sound Design – Gareth Fry for BLACK WATCH

New York Drama Critics' Circle Awards 2009: Best Foreign Play for BLACK WATCH

Arts and Business Award 2009: Arts & Business Scotland Sustainability Award for the partnership with Scottish Power on Transform

Ends