



ROOTS

theatre festival

DIGITAL PROGRAMME 2023

29th and 30th September



LOTTERY FUNDED



sponsored by

Rendezvous
Vintage Cinema Cafe

What's On

What's On | FRIDAY

	Concourse	Studio	Theatre
10am – 12noon	Running a company for emerging theatre-makers Emma Ruse & Laura Walker	Marketing for Theatre Morna Ross	
12.15pm – 2.15pm	Creative Scotland Funding Creative Scotland	Leading a Workshop Vicky MacRae	
2.30pm – 4.30pm	Research and Making Theatre Dr. Lesley Mickel	Crafting Podcast and Audio Drama Scripts Stories of Scotland Podcast	
5pm – 6.30pm			UHI Graduate Performances & <i>Now I'm in Therapy</i> <i>The Long Night</i>

FRIDAY

Emma Ruse & Laura Walker | *Running a company for emerging theatre-makers*

Friday 10am-12noon

Morna Ross | *Marketing for Theatre*

Friday 10am-12noon

Creative Scotland | *Creative Scotland Funding for Theatre*

Friday 12.15pm-2.15pm

Vicky MacRae | *Leading a Workshop*

Friday 12.15pm-2.15pm

Lesley Mickel | *Research and Making Theatre*

Friday 2.30pm-4.30pm

Stories of Scotland Podcast | *Crafting Podcast and Audio Drama Scripts*

Friday 2.30pm-4.30pm

Graduate Performances 5pm-6.30pm

Kelly Johnston | *& Now I'm In Therapy*

Fraser Bishop, Liam Barr, and Grant Jamieson | *The Long Night*

What's On | SATURDAY

	Concourse	Studio	Theatre
11am – 1pm	A Producing Journey Susannah Armitage	Industry Skills for Actors Matthew Zajac	
1.15pm – 3.15pm	Dare to Be Seen – Acting Agencies Vella Wozniak	Intro to Technical and Lighting Design Support Simon Gane	
3.30pm – 5.30pm	Touring Theatre in Scotland Margaret-Anne O'Donnell	Acting with Classical Text Megan Lovat	
6pm – 8pm			Scratch Night <i>In Darkness, He Calls</i> <i>Never/Meant to Be Sent</i> <i>Fittin' in or Faan Oot?</i> Budding Collective
8pm – 9.30pm			Networking Free admittance with every ticket to Festival events

SATURDAY

Susannah Armitage | *A Producing Journey*

Saturday 11am-1pm

Matthew Zajac | *Industry Skills for Actors*

Saturday 11am-1pm

Glynis Wosniak | *Dare to Be Seen – Acting Agencies*

Saturday 1.15pm-3.15pm

Simon Gane | *Intro to Technical and Lighting Design Support*

Saturday 1.15pm-3.15pm

Margaret-Anne O'Donnell | *Touring Theatre in Scotland*

Saturday 3.30pm-5.30pm

Megan Lovat | *Acting with Classical Text*

Saturday 3.30pm-5.30pm

Scratch Night Performances 6pm-8pm

Rebecca Martin | *In Darkness, He Calls*

Simon Lyall | *Never/Meant to Be Sent*

Lucy Beth | *Fittin' In or Faan Oot?*

Budding Collective Debut

Networking / Festival Get-Together

8pm-9.30pm

Free to attend for everyone who purchases a ticket for ROOTS Festival

Industry Talks IN THE CONCOURSE

Emma Ruse & Laura Walker | *Work for emerging theatre-makers*

Friday 10am-12noon

[Get tickets here](#) | pay what you can £5-£25



This exciting joint talk between Framework Theatre and Vivid Roots Collective, will look at our approaches to working with emerging theatre-makers, what this looks like in a national and rural context, and how our research informs the work that we do.

The company executives will talk about their journeys to where they are now, and how their companies have taken shape through these experiences. The session will end with a Q&A.

Emma is Chief Executive and co-founder of Framework Theatre, Scotland's support organisation for emerging artists. They are a producer, director and theatre-maker with a focus on levelling the playing field. Framework is designed to provide a platform for emerging artists, creating new work by underrepresented new voices and developing new routes into the sector.



Laura is co-director of Vivid Roots Collective. She is also a freelance theatre director, producer, and researcher, with practice in feminist processes, rural theatre, and advocating for emerging theatre-makers.

Creative Scotland | *Creative Scotland Funding*
Friday 12.15pm-2.15pm

[Get tickets here](#) | pay what you can £5-£25

Come along for an introduction to Creative Scotland funding from Conner (Theatre Officer) and Sarah (Creative Learning Officer). Whether you're looking for funding for research and development, production and touring, or participatory projects, you can come prepared with ideas and questions to make the most of opportunities for the Q&A and 1-2-1 support.



Creative Scotland is the public body that supports the arts, screen and creative industries across all parts of Scotland on behalf of everyone who lives, works or visits here. We distribute funding from the Scottish Government and The National Lottery.

**Lesley Mickel | Research and Making Theatre
Friday 2.30pm-4.30pm**

[Get tickets here](#) | pay what you can £5-£25

This workshop focuses on the value of research skills for curious theatre-makers, and the value of theatre and performance as an approach to research. Key skills and issues for research will be covered and how research can be used to create exciting and relevant performance. Participants will have the opportunity to think about what makes them curious and how they might develop this to create performance.



Dr. Lesley Mickel teaches drama and literature at the University of the Highlands and Islands, and leads research enhancement for creative arts and literature at UHI Inverness. She is research active in the

fields of theatre history and drama in health care contexts, and supervises postgraduate and PhD research students. She is co-convenor of the UHI Humanities and Arts Research Cluster.

**Susannah Armitage | A Producing Journey
Saturday 11am-1pm**

[Get tickets here](#) | pay what you can £5-£25

Would you like to know more about the role of a producer?

Come along for an informal talk based on Susannah's experience as a producer in Scotland. She will draw on specific examples that demonstrate the breadth and diversity of the role such as developing new writing, international collaborations, and crossing from theatre into film.

The talk will be followed by a Q&A.



Susannah is Senior Producer at Eden Theatre, Scotland's largest multi-artform venue. Our producing work at Eden Court has three distinct and interconnected strands.

- collaboration with artists and companies to produce work in partnership for Highland audiences*
- our summer music festival Under Canvas*
- support for artists living and/or working in the Highlands and Islands.*

Glynis Wozniak | *Dare to be Seen – Acting Agencies*

Saturday 1.15pm-3.15pm

[Get tickets here](#) | pay what you can £5-£25

Are you a recent graduate, or emerging performer? Are you looking to the future and wondering: What now?

For anyone who feels adrift and is looking for those first steps; this workshop offers tools on believing in yourself and how to work with an agent. Glynis offers an insight into what an agent actually does; if self representation works; how to spruce up your Spotlight; thinking about working for or with an agent; and how to be in your power.



Originally a ballet dancer, Glynis lived in Hong Kong and Tokyo before returning to the UK. She studied HND Acting & Performance at Inverness College in 2006 before a BA (Hons) Performance at UWS, Glynis is now Senior Partner at Vella Wozniak Talent Agency – an agency that addresses the creative holistically.

Recognising how often actors and creatives live in self doubt, she utilises her training in transformative modalities to offer tools to raise awareness to help clients live in ease and flow.

Margaret-Anne O'Donnell | *Touring Theatre in Scotland*

Saturday 3.30pm-5.30pm

[Get tickets here](#) | pay what you can £5-£25



I will be sharing my experiences from over 25 years producing and touring live performance in Scotland – from large scale theatres to village halls.

From the very early stages of planning to seeing your work in front of audiences, there are lots of considerations and positive actions you can perform to ensure your tour is as smooth and connected as possible for all.

Now as Raw Material, we are aware we are making work and touring in a new and very challenging environment.

Raw Material is an award-winning, independent, producing company based in Glasgow, Scotland, founded by Margaret-Anne O'Donnell and Gillian Garrity.

The company works to a shared ambition - to develop, create and tour bold, accessible theatre that inspires, entertains and captivates audiences across borders, along with the desire to work across scale from small studios to large commercial venues.

Skill-Building Workshops IN THE STUDIO

Morna Ross | *Marketing for Theatre*

Friday 10am-12noon

[Get tickets here](#) | pay what you can £5-£25

If you dream about producing your own show, or producing for others, but don't know where to start with marketing; this is for you.

Marketing is becoming an increasingly important part of being a creative - whether you want to promote a show, an organisation and/or yourself. This workshop will cover the latest developments on how to grow your presence through social media, print, and word of mouth, in a fun and supportive environment.



Morna is an early-career creative practitioner based in the Highlands. She is the Marketing Coordinator for Framework Theatre and is currently on the socials for A Giant on the Bridge. She was the digital content creator for the A Mother's Song 2023 debut and leads on the promotion of her own local show The Fastest Town in Scotland. She is passionate about community engagement in the arts and is keen for as many people as possible to enjoy theatre.

Vicky MacRae | *Leading a Workshop*

Friday 12.15pm-2.15pm

[Get tickets here](#) | pay what you can £5-£25



In this workshop we will explore what makes a successful session together, such as:

- Skills for facilitators
- How to structure a workshop
- Planning and preparation\
- Knowing your outcomes

The workshop will be led with practical examples, with the opportunity to lead your favourite game in a safe, supportive, and creative space.

Vicky works in creative learning as an Arts Practitioner in theatre at Eden Court. Across her youth work, she aims to foster positive creative environments where anything is possible, and everyone is welcome.

Her theatre practice specifically interrogates the potential of our imagination, seeking moments of magic in the everyday.

Stories of Scotland | Crafting Podcast and Audio Drama Scripts
Friday 2.30pm-4.30pm

[Get tickets here](#) | pay what you can £5-£25



Delve into the realm of audio in this workshop looking at the use of storytelling in both factual and fictional podcasts. Learn the tricks of creating scripts to ensure a captivating narrative for the listener; explore techniques that can be used in the audio format to enhance tension and drama; and examine the technical considerations that impact the way we write for audio.

This session will be a mixture of analytical listening, discussion and writing development.

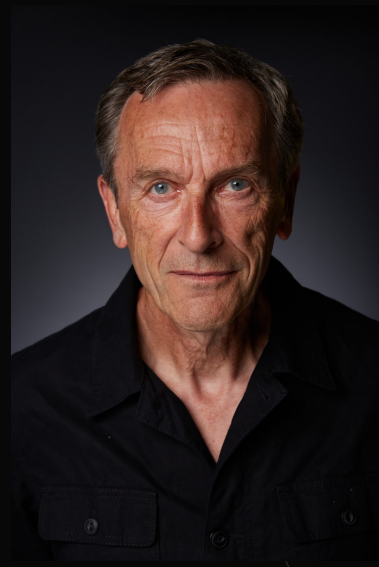
Stories of Scotland is the leading Scottish history and folklore podcast created by environmental scientist Jenny Johnstone and archivist Annie MacDonald. Based in the Highlands, Stories of Scotland engages with traditional Scottish storytelling and comedy to explore Scottish heritage, culture and environments. We have made creative audio drama and storytelling podcasts funded by the Royal Society of Literature, the Edwin Morgan Trust and Northword.

Matthew Zajac | Industry Skills for Actors
Saturday 11am-1pm

[Get tickets here](#) | pay what you can £5-£25

How should you set up your self-tape? Can you do it alone? Participants will produce their own short auditions during the workshop and these will be analysed and discussed with a strong emphasis on peer support and having some fun!

The practical strand of this workshop will last for 90 minutes and will focus on auditioning, both self-tape auditions and live auditions. The final 30 minutes will take the form of a Q&A session with Matthew.



Matthew is an actor, writer, theatre director and producer with over 40 years' experience in all media. He is the Artistic Director of Dogstar Theatre Company and has recently worked on: Happy Valley, We Were The Lucky Ones, State of Happiness, Nightlands, The Tailor of Inverness, and The Stormway Way. Matthew was also the winner for Best Actor (CATS 2009).

Simon Gane | *Intro to Technical and Lighting Design Support*

Saturday 1.15pm-3.15pm

[Get tickets here](#) | pay what you can £5-£25



This session is designed to help the path of communication for theatre-makers.

The workshop will be led by the requirements of the participants, so tell us your questions and experiences in advance.

Simon will offer a guiding hand in the process of getting the most out of your time and technical support team, including an explanation of some of those terms and language unique to that dark space behind the scenes.

Simon is a freelance Designer and Production Manager based in the beautiful North East of Scotland. He trained in his hometown at the Bristol Old Vic as a Technician. Since then, Simon has worked as a venue based Technical Manager for many years, notably TIC TOC in Coventry and The Lemon Tree in Aberdeen.

Megan Lovat | *Acting with Classical Text*
Saturday 3.30pm-5.30pm

[Get tickets here](#) | pay what you can £5-£25

During this workshop, we will take the text off of the page and start getting our minds and bodies working together to understand the language – it's rhythm, and has simple rules.

I will be sharing the techniques that I have developed and gathered over the years to break open classical text and make it more accessible.



Megan is an actor with a love for storytelling; she holds an MA in Classical and Contemporary Text, and her performing experience ranges from Shakespeare to children's theatre. Megan has a passion for development, writing, connection, and community; but, above all, I have a love for text and exploration.

Performances by Emerging Theatre-Makers IN THE THEATRE

Graduate Performances | Friday 5pm-6.30pm

A celebration of the phenomenal talent that graduates every year from UHI Inverness.

The graduate performances evening features two exceptional pieces of theatre by 2023 graduates from the UHI Drama and Production (BA Hons) degree. These short performances were developed as part of the Autonomous Performer module, and were performed first at the *Swansong Showcase* in May 2023.

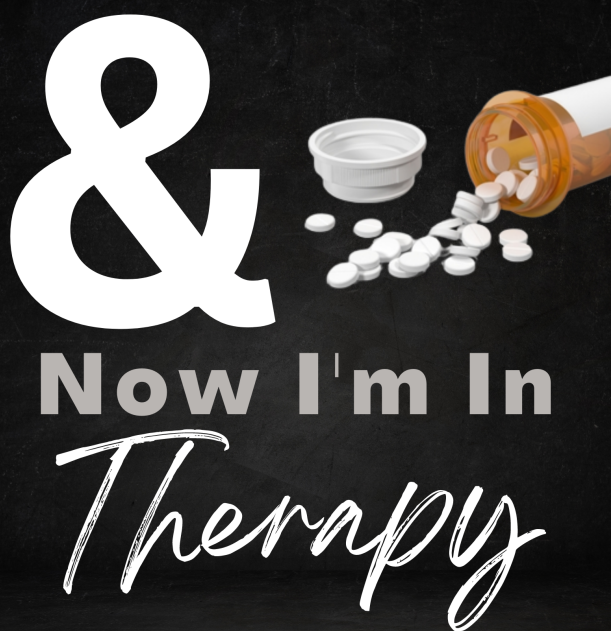
We invited these performers to present their work at ROOTS Festival in response to emerging theatre-makers and students wanting more opportunities to bring their work to the public. We loved watching these very different shows and know that you will too.

& Now I'm In Therapy

Kelly Johnston

Content warnings: alcohol abuse, suicide, mental health depictions, strong language

[Get tickets here](#) | pay what you can £5-£25



Written & Performed By
KELLY JOHNSTON

Kelly is a thirty-something Glaswegian self-starter currently residing within a rehab facility.

We meet Kelly during her mandatory weekly 'doctor-ordered' therapy sessions and follow the journey that has led her here as it is unravelled week by week.

Honest and heart-wrenching, through the failed relationship, battle with alcohol, and suicide attempt, we find Kelly at the start of her recovery, but there is hope.



Kelly is a Glasgow-based performer. Having studied at Motherwell College, she obtained her HND in Musical Theatre and is graduating this year from the BA(Hons) Drama and Production at UHI Inverness. She is the Studio Manager at Dance Glasgow and is going on to work with Reconnect Regal Theatre. In 2018, Kelly and four other creatives established their own theatre company, Green Door Theatre.

The Long Night

Fraser Bishop, Liam Barr and Grant Jamieson as Six Suns Collective

Content warnings: flashing lights, sexual references and strong language

[Get tickets here](#) | pay what you can £5-£25

Join the scientists of a far-away planet grappling with the impending destruction of their society by a devastating solar event.

The Long Night is a new piece of live theatre in the theme of sci-fi / fantasy. The show is a hybrid of both live performance and film. *The Long Night* was not first intended for stage; originally written as a film, the performance has been reimagined to bring the characters and story to life through theatre.

The Long Night is the first project from Six Suns Collective. The collective has been established by UHI Inverness graduates, Fraser Bishop, Grant Jamieson, and Liam Barr – in the future they hope to make more projects in live theatre, film and audio dramas.



Scratch Night Performances | Saturday 6pm-8pm

This scratch night was openly recruited, and we have programmed three diverse pieces of new theatre.

Come along to support these local theatre-makers in the development of their new work, featuring dark histories of Loch Ness, secret letters left unsent, and reflections on the doric language. The Budding Collective will also be making their debut at this scratch night; a group of emerging theatre-makers who have been supporting each other in creating new work.

In Darkness He Calls

Rebecca Martin

[Get tickets here](#) | pay what you can £5-£25

This is not his story. It is about the servants who worked, lived, loved, and feared in Boleskine House.

In Darkness He Calls is set in the 1900's. The play fictionalises the events that occurred in Boleskine House by Loch Ness – owned by the infamous occultist Aleister Crowley. In contemporary retellings and myth about the events which occurred there, *In Darkness He Calls* asks the question: who were the people that served in the shadows?

Rebecca Martin | Playwright

Highland stories and Highland voices are important to me. I'm also motivated to produce work that represents mental health issues, uplifts women and tells stories that celebrate the neurodiverse experience.



Never/Meant to Be Sent

Simon Lyall

[Get tickets here](#) | pay what you can £5-£25

We've all done it; written, and rewritten, letters that were never meant to be read. What would you do when these secrets, letters never meant to be sent, begin to receive replies?



Simon Lyall | Playwright/performer

Simon is a freelance writer and performer with over 20 years' experience writing, directing, producing and performing theatre. Simon is a Drama Tutor at Eden Court, Junior Florians Leader, a Florians Committee Member, and a member of Inverness Musical Theatre and Inverness Playwrights. He is currently writing his first play about life in the world of amateur dramatics.

Fittin' In or Faan Oot?

Lucy Beth

[Get tickets here](#) | pay what you can £5-£25

You are invited to Reenie's flat party.

Reenie's flat is going to be destroyed tomorrow and she is having one last party to celebrate!

She will tell you that she has had an exciting and fulfilling life, but – as Reenie desperately tries to be the party host that she definitely cannot be – you will begin to see that it has been a lonely one where she has had to alter her identity and suppress her Doric dialect to fit in.

She is now in a state of crisis.

In an attempt to connect with you, her guests and colleagues, she will continually implicate you in party activities that she thinks will uplift the mood.



Lucy Beth | Playwright / performer

Lucy Beth is a professional performer currently studying on the MLitt Theatre and Performance Practices course at the University of Glasgow. Prior to postgraduate study, Lucy was working as a drama lecturer at the North East Scotland College and was course leader for both the first year Higher National Diploma in Acting and Performance and the National Progression Award in Technical Theatre.

The Budding Collective Debut

[Get tickets here](#) | pay what you can £5-£25

They don't fear us enough.

What if I made a noise?

These are the starting points for a surprise performance by the Budding Collective.



The Budding Collective is a new initiative by Vivid Roots Collective; bringing together emerging theatre-makers in the Highlands to create work and support each other's creative development.

Beneath the ROOTS

FUTURES Research

In May 2023, we published *FUTURES*, a report that was funded by National Lottery via Creative Scotland. The report used interviews and focus groups with over 30 emerging theatre makers to evidence the needs of emerging theatre makers in the Highlands.

Festivals, events, workshops, networking, and showcases were all identified in the report as being important stepping stones to starting a career in the creative industries, and vital in celebrating the talent that is often overlooked in rural areas.

ROOTS was born from this research, which we will host annually to celebrate Highland theatre, forge connections across the creative industries, and to develop industry skills for emerging, early career, and Highland theatre-makers.

Recruiting Artists

This year is our first ever festival, and we are so excited to be bringing this to you. This is also a first for the area; Inverness has never before seen a theatre festival that is about emerging talent, and local artists.

Lots of firsts come with a lot of unknowns so, this year, we have recruited artists through our networks to run workshops and talks. In the future we will openly recruit these roles, and we hope that you understand why we have made this decision for our first festival.

For our graduate performances, we attended the *Swansong Showcase* in May 2023 at UHI Inverness and invited some of the performers to present their work at the festival. In the future, we hope to include other UHI partners – come and talk to us so that we can visit your talented graduates next year.

For our scratch night, we hosted an open call for local theatre-makers with a budget of £250 for each of the three performers. We know that unpaid opportunities are extremely inaccessible for emerging and rural theatre-makers, so we are trialling a subsidised engagement for the scratch night.

Our primary sponsor

We would like to thank the Rendezvous Cafe for sponsoring our event. Without sponsorship, this event couldn't have happened.



Located in the heart of Inverness, Rendezvous Cafe offers a unique and inviting atmosphere. With its cosy ambiance and comfortable seating, it is the perfect place to relax and enjoy our delicious legendary breakfast menu including options such as a full Scottish breakfast, pancakes, porridge, and vegetarian choices.

For lunch and brunch, we offer a variety of soups, ciabattas, salads, and burgers. With our warm hospitality; exciting CBD menu of drinks, cakes, edibles and more; and unbeatable location, we are proud to be one of the most famous eateries in the city.

Visit us today and experience the best of Scottish cuisine.



ROOTS

theatre festival

Produced by Vivid Roots Collective

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COLLECTIVE