

# Edinburgh Magic Festival programme announced



This year's Magic Fest was launched yesterday at Lauriston Castle by Magic Fest director and magician Kevin McMahon. The theme for 2013 is Wonderland

From 28 June – 5 July 2013, audiences are invited to immerse themselves in the surreal magical world between fact and fiction.

Breath-taking illusions and awe inspiring magic from performers across Europe and as far afield as Australia will once again take you to the fun fringes of reality. Classic meets close-up, mindreading defies illusion, cabaret clashes with comedy and levitation renders the impossible possible.

The Magic and Variety Gala Show transforms the beautiful Royal Lyceum Theatre into world of unreality. Compered by **THE COLOUR HAM**, the finest award winning magicians from around the world are joined by a dragon, a dule of doves and the world's first magic performing Chihuahua! The Great Lafayette Award makes its third appearance; this year's recipient is anyone's guess in what bodes to be a superb evening of contemporary, cutting edge magic.

Speaking ahead of the launch MagicFest Artistic Director, Kevin McMahon said: "The Gala Opening is one of the highlights of MagicFest and I'm really looking forward to welcoming the best, progressive home-grown and international performers here to Edinburgh. Most of the acts are making their Scottish debut."

✘ Portuguese duo, **TA NA MANGA**, open the Gala with their multi-awarding winning act; integrating theatre and magic, music and comedy. Frenchman **JEROME HELFENSTEIN**'s shadow act is filled with subdued, refined, poetic beauty; an emotive journey to new destinations. Spain's stylish showman and master manipulator, **CHARLIE MAG** presents his award winning act with live doves making them appear as if from thin air. Imagine Jack Dee in a dragon suit, performing jaw dropping magic, with a cute sidekick and you have **PIFF THE MAGIC DRAGON** and Mr Piffles the Chihuahua! International street performer and winner of last year's 'War of the Wizards', Aussie **TONY ROBERTS**, makes his MagicFest debut performing his straight jacket escape. Last, but by no means least, are dashing duo of deception and plucky Victorian prestidigitators **MORGAN & WEST** who travel through time to complete the bill. Once again you can enjoy the Gala afternoon preview show for just £10.

No MagicFest would be complete without its annual intake of budding wizards and wizardesses. **MAGIC SCHOOL** (aged 7-10) wizardry workshops have attracted pupils from as far afield as Norway, France and across the UK, all keen to learn, create and perform their own magic. Enrol now for the brand new 2.5 hour workshops or 5-day course with fun show for parents. **STREET MAGIC MASTERCLASS** offers 11-14 years olds the chance to learn some mind-blowing techniques and the secrets behind sleight-of-hand from magic masters **FRITZ ALKEMADE** from the Netherlands and **LUKE EATON** from the UK.

MagicFest are delighted to bring one of the most polished ✘ and intriguing mind readers to Capital; **LUKE JERMAY**. Having spent the last 3 years headlining the Las Vegas Strip, Luke was the creative consultant to Derren Brown and the man credited with inspiring CBS' multi-awarding winning show 'The Mentalist'.

An adventurous evening out, a delicious three course meal and an immersive magical show are on the **MAGIC DINNER** menu, once

again at the lavish Royal Scots Club in Edinburgh. Wonderland characters bring everyday objects to life, help to find your muchness and promise at least six impossible things before dessert!

Enter the **THE SECRET ROOM** at Lauriston Castle and travel back in time to a world of clandestine laboratories and hidden passages. The finest Scottish magicians animate the castle's mysterious past with stories, performances and illusions related to the history of Lauriston and her intriguing owners.

Are you ready to be conned? The master of scams, **PAUL WILSON**, is back with one of the most immersive, engaging and personal ways to experience magic. Enter the set of BBC's Real Hustle and prepare to be blown away by one of the world's most respected performers of close-up, sleight-of-hand magic.

Returning to Edinburgh after 3 years absence, pioneer of the alternative magic scene, **ALI COOK**, brings the WOW factor with his big illusions and beautiful girls. Star of Penn & Teller: Fool Us, Dirty Tricks, Monkey Magic, Psychic Secrets Revealed with Derren Brown and Jerry Sadowitz's Jerry@Trick sketch show, Ali's hugely impressive show is a spectacle to behold.

Kevin added: "For our fourth year we're really happy to increase access to MagicFest with a series of free events in the line-up. We've also launched a Patron's Programme this year allowing magic lovers to get even closer to the festival without revealing all the secrets!"

Immerse yourself in the surreal magical world between fact and fiction and have fun at the fourth Edinburgh International Magic Festival from the 28 June – 5 July.





## Photos by Colin Hattersley Photography

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