

Pick of Hidden Door 2018

2018 programme highlights



Music

Music at Hidden Door steps up a level from previous years. A key highlight must surely be Leith's own sensations **Young Fathers**, playing a heady 'homecoming' gig after their recent UK tour to support their new album, recorded not far from Leith Theatre. The performance is set to show what this amazing venue is truly capable of.

The programme also features international Grammy award-nominated duo **Sylvan Esso** with their perfectly poised electronic pop – the product of sheer alchemy between Amelia Meath's effortlessly acrobatic melodic reflections complimenting Nick Sanborn's dynamic compositions.

The opening night makes a statement of intent by featuring an all-female line-up curated by **The List Magazine**, bringing together the unique, powerful female voice of **Gwenno**, champion of Cornish and Welsh songwriting, plus **Stina Tweeddale** of

Glasgow favourites **Honeyblood**, Brighton-based punk pop outfit **Dream Wife** and headliner **Nadine Shah**, whose jazz-kissed indie rock is described as a blend between PJ Harvey and Nick Cave.

Vox Liminis brings Distant Voices, a project which brings established Scottish musicians into prisons to work creatively with prisoners, to write songs as part of their rehabilitation. The night will bring together a trio of critically acclaimed acts from Glasgow; Mercury Music Prize nominee **C Duncan**, Scottish Album of the Year (SAY) nominees **Admiral Fallow** and Scottish indie icon **Emma Pollock**.

Other highlights include nights curated by **Edinburgh Jazz and Blues Festival** and **The Skinny Magazine**, with more acts, collaborations, late night programmes and DJ sets to be announced soon.

Theatre

The 2018 theatre programme continues Hidden Door's ethos of supporting new and emerging work. The line-up of 12 different companies features several premieres, as well as new iterations of previously developed material. The programme is an eclectic mix, consisting of a variety of theatre formats and styles including; visual theatre, new writing, puppetry, children's theatre and lecture theatre.

Alongside talented solo performers, we are lucky to be hosting productions by community-led theatrical groups **The Golden Trailer Collective**, a group of nurses and mechanics based in Central Belt Scotland, and **Theatre Sans Accents**, an Edinburgh-based company promoting bilingualism through theatre. Leith's very own **Village Pub Theatre** will also be presenting three nights of site-specific mini plays.

Artist and performer **Annie Lord** will stage 'Celluloid', a work of lantern-illuminated lecture theatre in which cinema objects

assume identities before and after use. **Fiona Oliver Larkin** presents 'Salt', a solo puppetry show examining the theme of domestic violence, breaking the silence surrounding a difficult social issue.

Visual Arts

After receiving nearly 200 submissions, 31 artists from diverse creative backgrounds have been selected for Hidden Door 2018. The nine invited artists and 22 selected artists are united through their commitment to local communities and an international outlook.

This global focus is exemplified in **Silas Parry's** practice, which has taken him to Japan, in residencies with **Shiro Oni and Studio Kura**. Rapidly changing ecology and science-fiction futures are central themes in his work, which shares its manifestly imaginative power with **Julia Osborne's** colourful, playful paintings. Whilst Osborne draws upon her Thai heritage to inform the aesthetic features of her work, **Josie Rae Turnbull's** time living in Ho Chi Minh City is reflected thematically in the project which she is due to present, a photo series examining 'the private apparatus of public entertainment' in Vietnamese theme parks.

Film

The Film programme is once again on a cinematic scale with a glittering line-up of collaborations and guest curators including **Africa In Motion, Edinburgh International Film Festival, Edinburgh Short Film Festival, Kino Klub, New Media Scotland and Scottish Queer International Film Festival**.

In a night of vampire thrills, **Edinburgh International Film Festival** will be celebrating the 20th Anniversary of the

seminal horror-thriller **Blade**, which stars Wesley Snipes as Marvel's super-cool vampire hunter, with **EIFF Play: Eternal Night**, a special expanded cinema event staged in partnership with Hidden Door Festival and supported by Sir Ewan and Lady Brown. This visually spectacular cinematic event will feature hip hop electro beats from **DJ Nasty P and DJ EH-1**, and will look and feel like walking into the trailblazing film which paved the way for the Marvel universe as it exists today.

New Media Scotland will be helping us mark both the 80th anniversary of the opening of the State Cinema in Leith and the UK release of Disney's first animated feature – **Snow White and the Seven Dwarfs** – by bringing the silver screen back for one very last time in a multi-sensory experience of this classic.

We have also invited **Scottish Documentary Institute** to screen a special look back at 15 years of their flagship training programme. Every year SDI commission up to six new filmmakers from all over Scotland to make short documentaries on a range of topics. This specially curated collection for Hidden Door showcases the freshest talent from these shores.

Spoken Word

Hidden Door has always sought creative innovation, embodied by the renovation and occupation of neglected spaces. This core concept is mirrored in this year's spoken word line-up – featuring 13 spoken word artists alongside a **Flint and Pitch** night curated by Jenny Lindsay and two comedy nights selected by **Gilded Balloon**.

Interrobang are set to revitalise the concept of 'local flavour', taking us on a visit to an alternative history of Edinburgh, via a reinterpretation of the Bible. Duo **Poetry as Fuck** returns to Hidden Door for a night of "regal night of intrigue, Ferrero Rocher, and murder mystery". We are lucky to

be showcasing a wealth of strong female talent featuring **Iona Lee, Nichola Scrutton with Zoë Strachan, Jen McGregor** and **L.A Traynor**.

Sasha de Buyl-Pisco invites us to the **House of 1000 Stories** as writers **Kirsty Logan, Ryan Vance** and **Heather Parry** explore the unexpected, the uncanny and the weird in an immersive event celebrating the art of the short story.

For the first time, we are featuring comedy as part of our main programme and are pleased to be working with **Gilded Balloon** as one of several exciting new partnerships and collaborations we have in store for 2018. Over two nights, Gilded Balloon will present a line-up of Fringe favourites as well as a showcase of new material by faces old and new.

Dance

Building on last year's dance showcase, we are proud this year to present a full programme of critically acclaimed and powerful dance performances selected following an open call which attracted 300 proposals from around the world. From this we selected a broad range of innovative dance performance and choreographers from across Scotland as well as a number of special projects from further afield including Lithuania, Italy and South Korea.

Choreographer **Janis Claxton** and composer **Pippa Murphy**, along with four world-class dancers, present **POP-UP Duets (fragments of love)** – 5-minute, contemporary dance duets designed for a wide range of public spaces. Each duet is accompanied by a track of original music specifically composed for the choreography by **Pippa Murphy**, with vocals by Scottish Album of the Year Award winner **Kathryn Joseph**.

Award-winning contemporary dance company, **Scottish Dance Theatre**, under the direction of **Fleur Darkin**, will showcase

their latest show, the sensual and arresting Velvet Petal. Following rave reviews from the show's opening performance earlier this year, the performance will see the dancers philosophise, seduce and experiment with their bodies, clothing and ideas; all set to a fresh dance-punk score. International award-winning filmmaker and artist **Simon Fildes** presents Pilgrim; an online video installation based on ideas of journeys, loops and cycle, and brought to life by dance artist **Katie Armstrong**.

Elsewhere, Indonesian-Netherlands artist **Claricia Kruithof's** work explores movement languages, physical memory and the effects of trauma, in a piece which will pop up in unexpected places. **All or Nothing** will bring breathtaking aerial acrobatics with dance, theatre and contemporary circus on the wall at the back of the Leith Theatre stage. Glasgow-based **Leeanne Dobbie** is bringing a large, ambitious ensemble performance influenced by her time in Japan.

Special Events

2018 will include an expanded programme of **tours, talks, workshops** and a **full symposium** exploring the challenges facing emerging creative artists and performers in Scotland today. Further details will be announced in the near future along with details of how to get involved.

**David Martin, Creative
Director of Hidden Door,**

said: “This year, Hidden Door feels like it has firmly established itself in the festival canon in Edinburgh. We are really excited to be working with a number of Edinburgh’s acclaimed international festivals, such as Edinburgh International Film Festival, Edinburgh Jazz and Blues Festival, Edinburgh International Children’s Festival and Edinburgh International Science Festival – all bringing something surprising and new to the mix.

“We are proud to create a festival which celebrates the innovation and ambitious experimentation that is so strong in Scotland today. I’m delighted to reveal a programme filled with artists who dare to push the boundaries of their

artforms, yet who are so young in their careers, and so open to responding to and using amazing, unusual spaces. Hidden Door brings a large, diverse cross section of the creative scene together, and it's inspiring to see such a range of new talent in Scotland dedicated to creating a mesmerizing and unforgettable experience for our audiences.

Jack Hunter, Chair of Leith Theatre Trust, said: "We are delighted to be working with and supporting Hidden Door to deliver their Festival in 2018. Following the success of last year's partnership, the event will deliver huge benefits for the Leith Theatre project, raising the profile of the campaign and helping our community-led trust to drive forward the regeneration of this important historic and cultural asset. The Festival will further showcase the building's potential as one of Scotland's most exciting new music and arts venues."

Lorna Duguid, Multi-artform Manager at Creative Scotland, one of the festival's supporters, said: "Hidden Door has once again produced an excitingly ambitious programme encompassing Music, Theatre, Visual Arts, Spoken Word, Dance, Film and Comedy. Collaborations including Edinburgh International Film Festival, Edinburgh Jazz and Blues Festival and Guided Balloon, and partnerships with The Skinny and The List, all add to the varied programme.

"The Festival creates a dynamic platform for Scotland's emerging cultural producers and creative talent, supporting and enabling them to make ambitious new work and develop their creative practice. The festival tradition of discovering forgotten spaces is important in raising awareness of the value of the arts, place, identity and the potential resource a dormant space is for the city."

Mark Adams, Artistic Director, Edinburgh International Film Festival said: “We are thrilled to present our special event EIFF Play: Eternal Night, which will take audiences on an exciting journey into the heart of the Blade legacy, with seamless integration of this trailblazing film into a dark and mysterious vampire club night. Prepare to expect the unexpected! We are delighted to be partnering with the brilliant Hidden Door Festival at the spectacular Leith Theatre – it really will be a thrilling night to remember.”

Yasmin Sulaiman, Editor-in-Chief at The List, said: “Last year’s Hidden Door was one of the highlights of Edinburgh’s cultural calendar. Kicked off by two sold-out nights curated by The List, the festival put Leith Theatre back on the map as a great Scottish gig venue. We can’t wait for Hidden Door’s 2018 return, and to see what they have in store for Great Junction Street’s State Cinema.”

Katy Koren, Artistic Director at Gilded Balloon, said: “Gilded Balloon is beyond excited to be presenting two comedy shows at Hidden Door Festival in 2018. We are incredibly proud to host some of the best local talent as well as those from further afield. Our line ups for Hidden Door feature varied styles of comedy and writing that we think suits what Hidden Door is all about. From those trying out new material in advance of the Fringe to others laying down their very best jokes, there is something for everyone!”

Festival Highlights – at a glance

Music

Young Fathers, Sylvan Esso, Nadine Shah, Gwenno, Stina Tweeddale (Honeyblood), Dream Wife, C Duncan, Admiral Fallow, Emma Pollock, DJ Food, DJ Nightwave, She Bang Rave Unit. Many more acts to be announced in the coming weeks.

Theatre

Selected Artists: Annie Lord, Modest Predicament, Tragic Carpet, Rob Jones with Matt Regan, Hannah Jarrett-Scott and Isobel MacArthur, The Golden Trailer Collective, Fiona Oliver Larkin, Alice Mary Cooper, Public Burning Theatre, Rosanna Hall and Drew, Theatre Sans Accents, Company of Wolves, Village Pub Theatre.

Visual Art

Invited Artists: □Silas Parry, Tess Glenn, Rachel Sharpe, Stephanie Mann, Clara Halstrup, Charlie Cook, Lucy Wayman, Julia Osborne, and Zoe Griffin.

Selected Artists: □Calum Scott, Camila Cavalcante, Cat Madden, Clara Rider, Daniella Turbin, Emma Rogers, Imogen Hales, Isobel Lutz-Smith & Dorine Aguerre, Jennie Bates, Jill Boualaxai, Josie Rae Turnbull, Louis Mchugh, Mara Marxt Lewis & Tyler Lewis, Marine Lefebvre, Mark Doyle, Martin Elden, Nils McDiarmid, Oana Stanciu, Rachel Turner, Robyn Braham, and Rachael Simpson.

Dance

Invited Artists: Janis Claxton, Scottish Dance Theatre, and Simon Fildes.

Selected Artists: All or Nothing, B&B, Claricia Kruithof, CollettivoXL, Elinor Lewis, Éowyn Emerald, Hagit Yakira, Joseph Reay-Reid, Jung In Lee, Leanne Dobbie, Kai-Wen Chuang and Lucas Chih-Peng Kao, Natalia Barua and Owa Barua, Rebecca Namgauds, and SHHE.

Poetry and Spoken Word

Invited Artists: The Unsung.

Selected Artists: Interrobang, Sonnet Youth, Colin Mcguire, Iona Lee, Stuart Kenny, Sascha de Buyl-Pisco, Nichola Scrutton and Zoë Strachan, Bibi June with Ross McFarlane, Ellen Renton and Shannon O'Neill, Jen Mcgregor, L.A Traynor, David Macpherson, Poetry as Fuck.

Curated night from Flint and Pitch, and two nights of comedy with Gilded Balloon.

Film

Collaborations, curated screenings and special events with Africa in Motion, Edinburgh International Film Festival, Edinburgh Short Film Festival, Kino Klub, New Media Scotland, Scottish Documentary Institute, Scottish Queer International Film Festival.