

# **The Brooklyn Scotsman on surviving the Big Apple**

## **My Scottish Survival Kit kept me safe on mean streets of New York, says Edinburgh rapper Stevie Creed**

Former Edinburgh boxer and now hip hop star Stevie Creed has told how he managed to survive as a teenager living alone in some of the toughest neighbourhoods of New York.

His Edinburgh accent and daredevil attitude he developed growing up in the city helped him make friends in the black community who adopted him as one of their own.

And his quick-thinking Scottish chutzpah got him out of a few scrapes when he was being robbed at gunpoint by gangs of young hoodlums, in Brooklyn.

**STEVIE CREED** WITH NORMAN MACDONALD

**'A hugely enjoyable book.**

**Bravo!**

Author  
Ian Rankin

**'Totally brilliant and an incredible read. It's a must.'**

Actress  
Linda Lusardi

# THE BROOKLYN SCOTSMAN

How I survived the tough streets of New York  
and went from baby-faced boxer to rap star

In his newly-published autobiography – The Brooklyn Scotsman – Stevie tells the amazing story of how, when he was only 19, he flew out of Edinburgh Airport telling his parents, Elizabeth

and Alastair he was going to the States on a fortnight's holiday to see the sights of Manhattan.

But the truth was that for months the talented young amateur boxer, from the south side of Edinburgh, had been secretly planning to live in Brooklyn and train at the well-known Starrett City Boxing Club gym there.

While in America, Stevie eventually gave up boxing and transformed himself into a hip hop star, recording and releasing rap music albums, making videos and headlining shows on both sides of the Atlantic.

He tells how it was his friends in the Black community who gave the baby-faced white boy boxer-turned-rapper – whose real name is Stephen McGhee – a new moniker of Stevie Creed and dubbed him The Brooklyn Scotsman.

His years in America have played such an important part of his life Stevie's had a giant tattoo of the Brooklyn Bridge, the Statue of Liberty and Edinburgh Castle inked on his back.



Stevie, now 31, is living back home in Edinburgh and is still releasing albums – his latest, *Concrete Jungle* is out now. He continues to make music videos, perform concerts, has

appeared in a television documentary about himself and performed on stage at the Edinburgh Festival Fringe two years in a row.

Stevie said: "I've got a lot to thank Mel Gibson for after his portrayal of William Wallace in the Hollywood blockbuster film about Scots warriors battling it out with the English. When I was living in America, many people thought Scots were all as fierce and brave as Wallace and his battling clansmen.

"I certainly didn't do anything to disavow them of that notion, as the more they thought of me as a mad Scot always ready for a fight, the better."

On one occasion, Stevie was about to be robbed by some teenage gangsters until he pretended to them he was an undercover drugs detective from Scotland, seconded to New York telling them his name was John Kimble – the detective in the Kindergarten Cop movie. The gangsters bought his story and moved on.

Stevie would also keep an old wallet filled with Monopoly money in his pocket and once when two robbers pulled a gun on him demanding money, he handed over the bulging wallet of pretend cash.

"They see the thickness of the notes folded inside the wallet and think they've hit the jackpot," Stevie explains. "The pair then ran off through a darkened outdoor basketball court and disappear into the night.

"I would love to have seen their faces when they realised the wallet was full of Monopoly money and the thick wad they thought was made up of tens and \$20 bills weren't worth a dime to them."

Stevie continued: "Being Scottish, more than being white, was what made me stand out when I was living in America and what drew people towards me and made them want to look out for me.

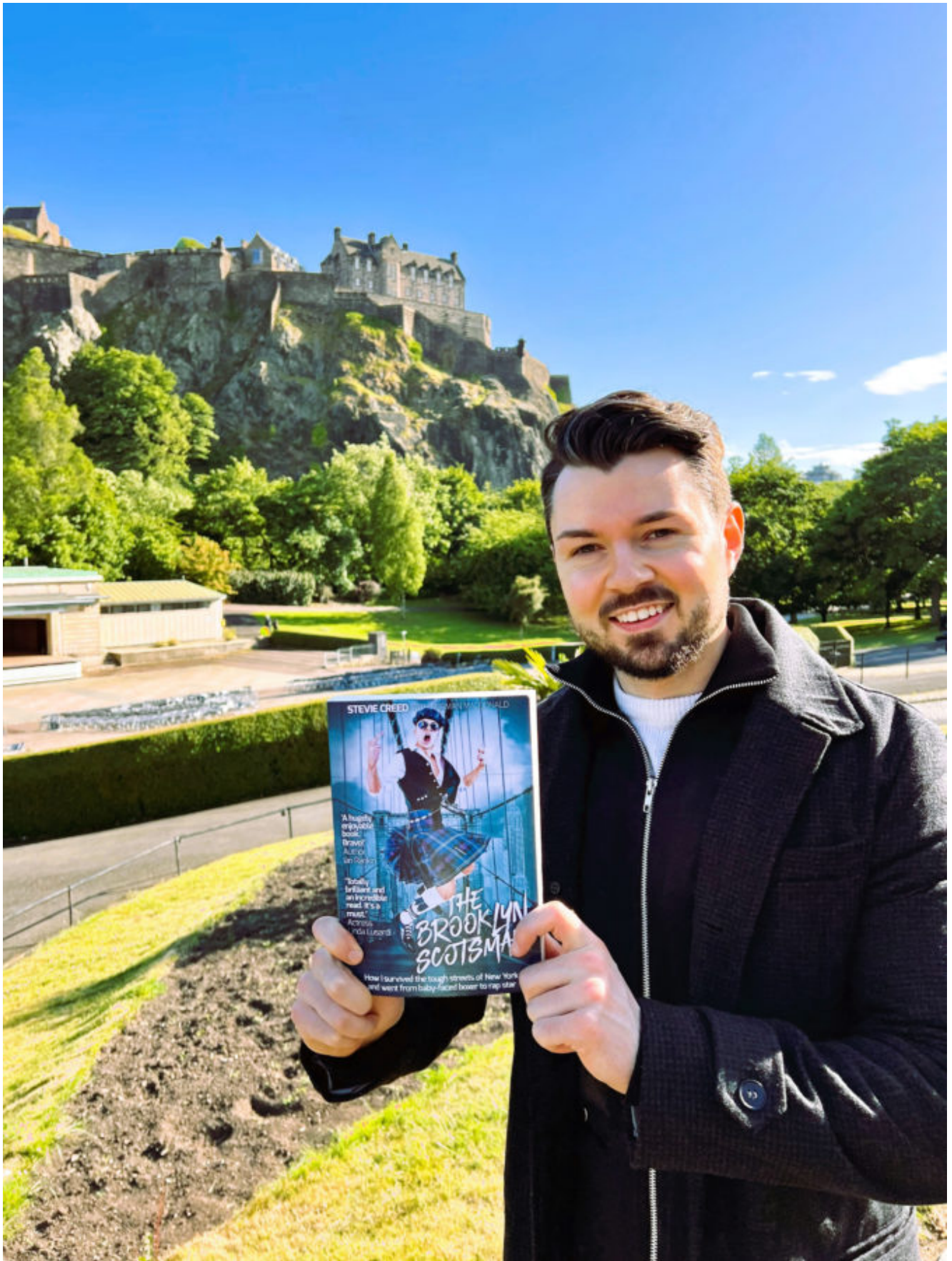
“The people in Brooklyn – particularly those from a black culture and background – seemed to find a common bond with me because of my Scots heritage.

“People noticed my accent before the colour of my skin and the way I spoke was a real bonus when I came to live in Brooklyn. I’m sure out of all the different accents and dialects the Brooklynites were hearing, a Scots accent wasn’t one of them, so that set me apart from other white guys and got me noticed.

“Everyone seemed to love the accent and it was a great hit with the girls I’d come across in bars or even on the subway train.

“It’s not the first time I’d be within earshot of a girl I’d taken a fancy to and I’d pretend to be talking to someone on my mobile phone just so she would hear my accent. Now, that was a great conversation starter!”

You can get your copy of The Brooklyn Scotsman published by Macdonald Media Publishing for only £12.99 from [www.thebrooklyns Scotsmanbook.com](http://www.thebrooklyns Scotsmanbook.com)













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