

# Five things you need to know today

## The Immortal Memory

It is customary to remember Robert Burns on 25 January – his birthday – and all of this week there have been a number of Burns suppers in Edinburgh.

Burns is commemorated in a stained glass window in St Giles' Cathedral. He was born on the 25th of January 1759, in Alloway, Ayrshire, and is widely regarded as Scotland's national poet.

In St Giles' there is an explanation of the window: "Burns is perhaps best remembered as a humanitarian poet who wrote against oppression and injustice. His lyrics condemn man's inhumanity to man and call for the brotherhood of mankind. It's believed Burns took inspiration from the egalitarian ideas of the French Revolution, as well as figures closer to home such as the Scottish political reformer, Thomas Muir

"His egalitarian anthem A man's a man for a' that was famously sung at the opening ceremony of the new Scottish Parliament in 1999. The window in St. Giles was crafted in 1982 to commemorate Burns in a prominent position above the West door of the Cathedral. The Icelandic artist Leifur Breidfjord was selected to develop or a design. The first sketches were made during the 1982 Easter Sunday service in St Giles'. The artist envisioned a window with linking chains, symbolising the Brotherhood of Man, a prevalent theme through Burns' poetry.

"The finished window is split into three sections depicting the principal themes of the poet's work love of nature, love of humanity and love itself embodied by the emblem of the

rose. The poet himself is the lower central figure in the window, below which is a copy of the poet's signature in clear glass."



The stained glass window installed in St Giles' Cathedral to commemorate Robert Burns PHOTO ©2024 The Edinburgh Reporter





The Robert Burns window at the western entrance to St Giles' Cathedral PHOTO ©2024 The Edinburgh Reporter

## Made Scotland

Alexandra Borthwick set up the web based business Made Scotland exactly a year ago today and is celebrating the anniversary with some good Scottish produce. Click on the image below to find out more.



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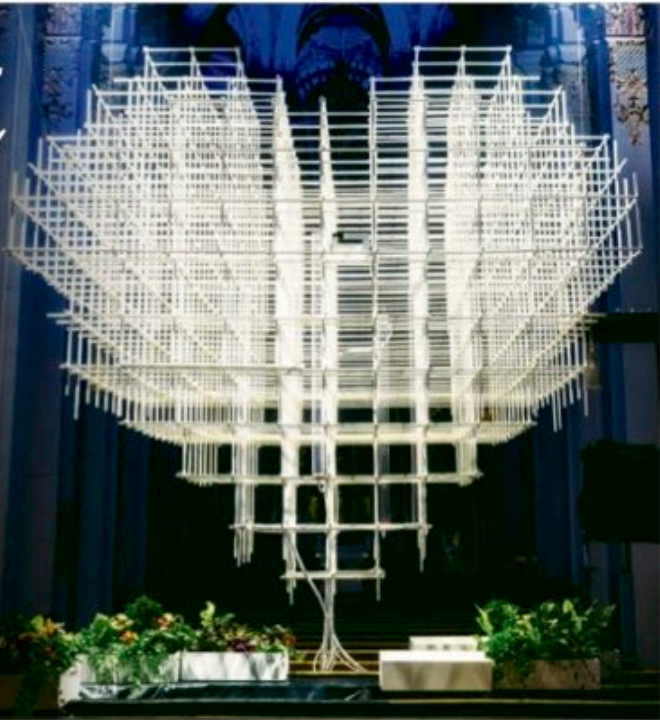
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## Heart and soul



Gifted German artist Michael Pendry to once again transform St Giles' with his newest masterpiece



By **PHYLLIS STEPHEN**

A NEW PUBLIC sculpture created by German artist Michael Pendry, will be sited in St Giles' Cathedral later this month. 'HEART' makes its UK premiere in the

capital in a collaboration between the Burns&Beyond Festival and the St Giles' 900th.

The anniversary marks the founding of the cathedral, to be celebrated with events throughout 2024. This year HEART will light up the

cathedral with the very symbol of life itself, a new three-dimensional work measuring five metres tall, will transform the space with a ticketed evening illumination and soundscape for visitors. The installation will take ten days to build and will be a central part of

the Burns&Beyond Festival which takes place in the city from 25 January to 11 February. What better symbol for the festival which takes its inspiration from Robbie Burns and promotes 'Luv, hope and Kindness', than a heart?

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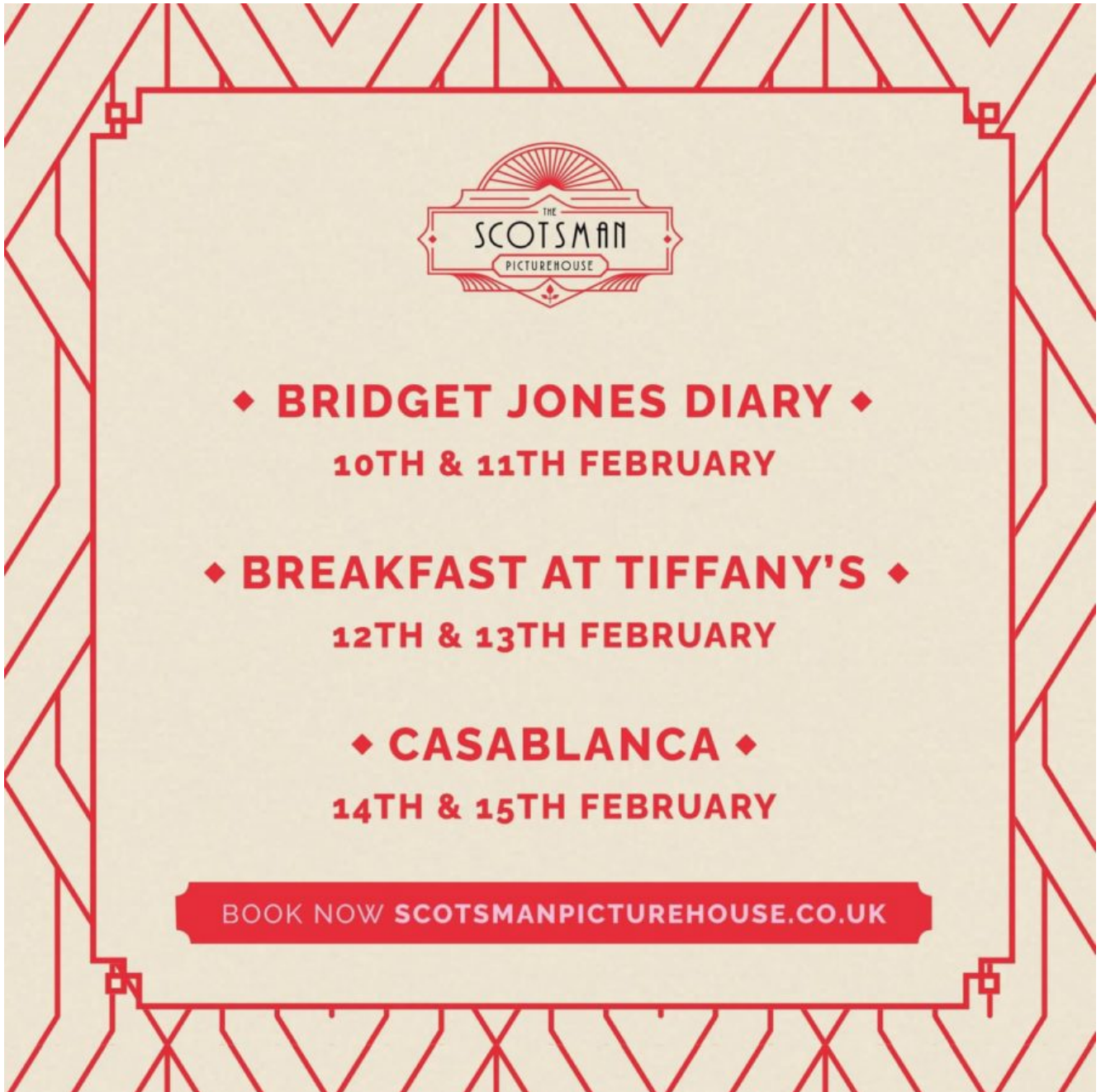
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## Planning ahead

Looking ahead Valentine's Day is just around the corner, so have a look at what is on at the Scotsman Picturehouse to entertain you and your beloved.

<https://scotsmanpicturehouse.co.uk>



## Scottish Historic Buildings Trust

SHBT run events – and their next is at Riddle's Court on the High Street on 21 February 2024.

[TICKETS HERE.](#)



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