

Five things you need to know today

Call for Scottish Government to support culture

Foysoł Choudhury MSP the Shadow Culture Minister, has demanded greater support for Scotland's domestic and international culture strategy.

The Lothian MSP was speaking following a contribution in the parliamentary debate on Scotland's International Culture Strategy.

Mr Choudhury spoke in favour of a Scottish Labour amendment, calling for a touring agreement with the EU to ease the regulatory burden on foreign artists and musicians who want to perform in the UK. He also called for an urgent summit with the culture sector to discuss how to protect and support Scotland's festivals with sustainable and predictable funding.

He raised alarm bells over what he said was the Scottish Government's inaction over the cultural sector in Scotland. He said: "Scotland's cultural offering is being threatened by insufficient funding and a chronic lack of adequate support-you only have to look at the number of threatened festivals and closed venues to see that.

"The Scottish Government have committed to more than double culture funding over the next five years but they will have to seriously buck up their ideas if this much-needed investment is to be delivered.

"This cannot be yet another failed promise-the Scottish Government must support domestic culture and think seriously about its long-term international culture strategy if Scotland

is to retain its rightful place on the world stage as a global cultural leader.

“Scotland must develop an international strategy to deepen relationships with our international partners, increasing opportunities for collaboration, and ensure sufficient funding for our world-renowned international festivals to attract global talent and bolster tourism.”

Mr Choudhury said that to support this, a UK Labour Government would push for a touring agreement with the EU, to remove barriers such as regulations and costs currently hurting touring artists, and keep Scotland as the premier place for global talent.

The Edinburgh Award is open for nominations

The prestigious Edinburgh Award is now open for nominations. Anyone can propose a person worthy of winning the award. Previous recipients include Dame Elizabeth Blackadder, Sir Tom Farmer and Ken Buchanan.

[Read more here.](#)



Ken Buchanan with the Edinburgh Award in 2017

General Election 2024

The next General Election could be called anytime but must take place before 28 January 2025.

The five MPs in Edinburgh (Deidre Brock, Ian Murray, Christine Jardine, Tommy Sheppard are all standing for reelection, and some candidates are coming forward all the time for the various political parties. If that is you then we need to speak to you?

Also we would like to know from readers which constituency they live in and what are the important questions to be answered there.

We invite readers to get in touch!

Editor@theedinburghreporter.co.uk



A previous vote is counted

Edinburgh World Heritage talk

Prof Adam Cumming has worked as a research scientist for over 40 years in the defence field. He was made an Honorary Professor in the University of Edinburgh School of Chemistry. He will deliver a talk on 17 May.

Forgotten & Riches

The medieval churches of Edinburgh

With Adam Cumming



[Tickets here.](#)

In person (includes drinks reception):

- Members £8
- Non-members £12

- Online: Member £6
- Non-members £10
- Date: Thursday 16 May 2024
- Start time: 6pm

- Venue: Riddle's Court, 322 Lawnmarket, Edinburgh EH1 2PG

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the Edinburgh Reporter

April 2024

EDINBURGH'S FREE LOCAL NEWSPAPER...A CAPITAL READ FROM START TO FINISH



Lift off at dance festival

Traditional dancers have spring in their step

By PHILIP DIXON

TRADITIONAL DANCE will take centre stage during the Pongopon Festival which showcases international dance on a teaching, learning and performing platform. The still new festival is on at The Scottish Storytelling Centre and other Edinburgh venues from 25-30 April.

Five dance commissions and workshops will be performed, with live music, poetry, and art and the festival invites audiences to take part in ardhls, woolshaps (both in person and live streamed), tours, and talks about traditional dance.

Some of the highlights include a family day with a craft fair all led by Gairne Brockbank of Caledonia, and a matinee showcase by traditional dance artists who are in residence at Edinburgh primary schools, and Bulgarian and Christian language schools in the capital.

Styren Nerliova, Festival Producer and Curator of the Traditional Dance Forum of Scotland said: "It is so satisfying to see that the pongopon ruby seeds of traditional dance that we planted for the first time in spring 2022, once again blossom into Scotland's springtime festival for world traditional dance."

"In a new festival born in times of uncertainty, displacement and border restrictions, we were inspired by a poem by Lee Min-Hwan that captured the zeitgeist."

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