

BEYOND WORDS

SCOTTISH INTERNATIONAL
STORYTELLING FESTIVAL '19 18-31 OCTOBER

PROGRAMME PREVIEW

This advanced preview covers all events to date in the Edinburgh and Scotland wide programme. Festival on Tour will be expanded in the complete programme.

The 31st SISF celebrates old traditions and new connections, showcasing how music, dance and story communicate shared experiences that are 'Beyond Words'.

Canada and Scotland have closely interwoven identities and histories, so SISF is delighted to headline 'Canada-Scotland: Coast to Coast' for its International Exchange, thanks to the Scottish Government's Festivals Expo Fund support. In this UN International Year of Indigenous Languages, First Nation and Scottish tradition bearers will share their story, dance and song inheritance, while contemporary narratives of exile, migration and displacement search for healing across a fractured world. Perfectly positioned with Scotland's 'A Year of Conversation 2019', SISF will nurture a space to express shared human values, aspirations and hope for the future.

Invited guests will perform in Edinburgh, in collaboration with their Scottish compatriots, as well as tour Scotland, encouraging grassroots storytelling in the community, alongside our popular SISF Community Programme. SISF will also have an expanded development strand with the 'Global Lab', utilising the values of The Earth Charter with a storytelling focus. SISF partnerships are flourishing due to the PLACE Programme, funded by the Scottish Government – through Creative Scotland - the City of Edinburgh Council and the Edinburgh Festivals.

The final days of the Festival will, in accord with Celtic tradition, lead into the Feast of Samhuinn.

**Whether a storyteller, a listener, or just a lover of humanity and our beautiful planet,
let SISF take you Beyond Words.**

Full programme online **Monday 2 September.**

Tickets go on sale **Friday 6 September**, except for National Library of Scotland events, which can be booked from **Tuesday 17 September.**



BECOME A SUPPORTER

Festival Supporter, £24 – expires on Friday 1 November 2019

- Discounts on many SISF events at the Storytelling Centre
- Discounts on CPD workshops at the Storytelling Centre
- 10% discount at Storytelling Centre's bookshop, during SISF 2019 dates
- 10% discount at Storytelling Centre Café, during SISF 2019 dates
- Invite to launch party on Friday 18 October
- Contributing to the development of the SISF

Buy Your Festival Supporter Pass

Storytelling Centre Supporter, £30 – Annual Membership

- Discounts on many Storytelling Centre events, including SISF
- 10% discount at Storytelling Centre's bookshop
- 10% discount at Storytelling Centre Café
- Invites to special events, including SISF 2019 launch party on Friday 18 October
- Quarterly mailing of What's On guide (by post if desired)

We rely on the generosity of our supporters and funders to help us bring our work to life, share it with the widest possible audience and keep our ticket prices affordable.

Our audience is essential in helping us to deliver high quality storytelling, music and dance events.

With your help, we can do more and do it better.

Call our team on +44 (0)131 556 9579 to book your Supporter scheme for the year, or to discuss your Festival Supporter options.

Email: supporters@scottishstorytellingcentre.com



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du Canada

COMMUNITY PROGRAMME: BEYOND WORDS

Once again, local storytellers will lead events in schools and community venues across Scotland.

There are free, downloadable resources for those wanting to organise their own events and subsidies to ensure you can have a visit from a local storyteller.

To take part in the community programme please contact

Storytelling Network Co-ordinator: Fiona McDougall

fiona@tracscotland.org

The community events are supported by the PLACE Programme, funded by the Scottish Government - through Creative Scotland - the City of Edinburgh Council and the Edinburgh Festivals.

FESTIVAL ON TOUR

(Pg 18 – 22)

Guest Storytellers visit Orkney, Highlands, Angus, Moray, North East, Argyll & Bute, Dundee, Fife, Clackmannanshire, Glasgow, Dumfries & Galloway, Scottish Borders, Perthshire & beyond to meet local performers and audiences. Further details in the full programme.

FESTIVAL EXHIBITIONS

The Long Look

Scottish National Portrait Gallery | 25 May – 27 Oct | Mon – Sun: 10am – 5pm | Free

A collaboration between painter **Audrey Grant** and photographer/printmaker **Norman McBeath** which explores the art of portraiture beyond the conventional artist and sitter relationship through their unique creative exchange. Audrey asked Norman to sit for a charcoal portrait and photograph her sketch at the end of each sitting. She would then erase the drawing and begin the portrait anew. Norman was intrigued by Audrey's approach, which led him to photograph aspects of the process such as Audrey's hands, the sitter's chair, the charcoal, stating, *'I became fascinated by the sheer physicality of Audrey's drawing: the constant back and forth to the easel, the scrapes, rubs and wipes of the charcoal and cloth on the paper, the sharp snap of a new piece of black willow.'* Audrey completed the portrait after two years of sittings, working in tandem on another portrait of Norman and two long-duration portraits of award-winning crime writer Val McDermid. The four finished portraits and Norman's photographs will be on display in this fascinating and revelatory exhibition.



Audrey's Hands © Norman McBeath 2017

Northern Lights: The Scottish Enlightenment

National Library of Scotland | 21 Jun – 18 Apr 2020

Mon, Tue, Thu: 9.30am – 7pm | Wed: 10am – 7pm | Fri & Sat: 9.30am – 5pm | Free

18th-century Scotland was a place with many remarkable individuals, but the conditions that helped create the Scottish Enlightenment were the social and professional networks that allowed these great thinkers to share and develop their ideas. Intellectual Scots in the 18th century lived active and sociable lives with frequent opportunities to debate with their peers: at universities, churches, debating societies, libraries and laboratories to coffee shops, taverns and town houses. Featuring books and manuscripts produced by the leading figures of the age including David Hume, Adam Smith, William Robertson, Robert Adam and Robert Burns.

Hamish Henderson (1919 – 2002)

National Library of Scotland | 23 Sep – 12 Nov

Mon, Tue, Thu: 9.30am – 7pm | Wed: 10am – 7pm | Fri & Sat: 9.30am – 5pm | Free

A display celebrating the life and work of poet, songwriter, and folklorist Hamish Henderson, drawn from the collections at the National Library of Scotland.

The Somewhere Else

Scottish Storytelling Centre | 5-31 Oct | Mon – Sat: 10am – 6pm, and before events | Free

'As I get older, I have a sense that the past is a foreign country – a somewhere else.'

Glasgow based artist **Fiona Watson** spent her childhood in Canada thanks to wandering Scottish parents. Her romanticised memories are of icebergs floating into St. John's harbour and skating on the frozen waters of Ontario, surrounded by wild nature. In this series of etching prints the artist expresses her overwhelming visual memory of Canada, evoking the silence and minimalist aesthetic of its snowy landscapes.



"And Then Songs Filled the Air"
© Fiona Watson 2016

365: Stories and Music

Scottish Storytelling Centre | 18-30 Oct | Mon – Sat: 10am – 6pm, and before events | Free

A sound installation of contemporary Scottish stories and music by author **James Robertson** and musician **Aidan O'Rourke** (of Lau). Bold, tender, full of old truths and distilled modern wit, this is an epic built on the beauty of the miniature. A collaboration between artists steeped in tradition but constantly breaking new ground.

Drawing the Story

Scottish Storytelling Centre | 18-31 Oct | Mon – Sat: 10am – 6pm, and before events | Free

Illustrator **Kim Howard** creates real time sketches and drawings of performers, participants and audiences during the SISF, capturing moments of engagement and the connections made between people, place and story.



© Kim Howard

An opportunity to discover the power of storytelling and role of storytellers in the 21st century. Each day features keynote stories, talks, discussions and workshops in open sessions so attendees can move between, as well as feedback ahead of evenings celebrating storytelling in performance.

Day 1, 2, 4 & 5 Venue & Cost Details:

Scottish Storytelling Centre | 11am (5hrs with lunch) | £25 (£22) **£20**

Day 3 Venue & Cost Details:

Royal Botanic Garden Edinburgh | 11am (5hrs without lunch) | £16 (£14) **£12**

Mon 21 Oct

Day 1: Politics of Folktales

Are folktales still subversive, fantastic and anarchic, or mainly entertainment? Are they told for more personal, family or social issues? How do you read an audience and draw out interpretations that they can develop in heart, mind and action? Learn from the approaches of three accomplished tellers – **Jan Blake, Heidi Dahlsveen** and **Ruth Kirkpatrick**.

Tue 22 Oct

Day 2: Earth Stories

As our global crisis deepens, what stories can help us reconnect and provoke real change? Can the stories of indigenous people be restored to a place of honour and inspiration for all? Contributions from **Alette Willis, Grian Cutanda, Dawne McFarlane, Chief RoseAnne Archibald** and **Julie Cajune**.

Wed 23 Oct

Day 3: The Wild Nature & Garden Cosmos

How do traditional and contemporary stories take us into a shared experience of 'the wild'? Are gardens a place where humanity and the natural world converse and commune? How can storytellers channel these experiences and open doors in tactful and inviting ways? Contributions from **Donald Smith, Margot Henderson, Joanna Geyer-Kordesch** and **Giovanna Conforto**. *Note: Lunch is not provided.*

Thu 24 Oct

Day 4: Talking Cures

It's good to talk – internationally, nationally, within communities and families. How can storytelling enable understanding that goes 'Beyond Words'? This special 'Year of Conversation' workshop is held on United Nations Day. Contributions from **Michael Williams, Amanda Edmiston, Tom Pow, Ailie Finlay** and **Edel Roddy**.

Fri 25 Oct

Day 5: Transforming Myth

Myths are one of the richest emotional and intellectual human cultural expressions. They explore our place in nature, our relationships and spirituality. How do artists express that narrative inheritance in their art and why? Experience different traditions and diverse ways of expressing them. Contributions from **Margaret Grenier, George Macpherson, Giovanna Conforto** and **Grian Cutanda**.

MEET THE STORYTELLER: IN CONVERSATION WITH...

Informal Q&A afternoons with traditional stories. Dare to be curious and discover the fascinating backgrounds of our storytelling guests, with insights from Scottish-based hosts.

Scottish Storytelling Centre

5pm (50mins) | £6 (£5) **£4**

Sat 19 Oct

Joseph Naytowhow

Hailing from Saskatchewan, Cree First Nation storyteller **Joseph Naytowhow** is welcomed by Scottish storyteller **David Campbell**.

Sun 20 Oct

Heidi Dahlsveen

Norwegian storyteller **Heidi Dahlsveen** is welcomed by Danish storyteller **Svend-Erik Engh**.

Tue 22 Oct

Robert Seven Crows Bourdon

Coming from Quebec, metis Mi'kmaq and Acadian storyteller **Robert Seven Crows Bourdon** is welcomed by Canadian storyteller **Alette Willis**.

Wed 23 Oct

Louise Profeit-LeBlanc

Hailing from the Yukon, Nacho Nyak Dan First Nation storyteller **Louise Profeit-LeBlanc** is welcomed by Scottish storyteller **Jackie Ross**.

Thu 24 Oct

Michael Williams

Ontario storyteller **Michael Williams** is welcomed by Scottish storyteller **Michael Kerins**.

Fri 25 Oct

Margaret Grenier

Coming from British Columbia, Gitksan and Cree First Nation dancer and storyteller **Margaret Grenier** is welcomed by storyteller **Marion Kenny**.

Sun 27 Oct

Gary Green

Newfoundland and Labrador storyteller **Gary Green** is welcomed by Scottish storyteller **Margaret Bennett**.



OPEN HEARTH

Storytellers and musicians gather round the hearth for a relaxed traditional session of stories from home and abroad, as the darkness closes in and the embers glow with pictures in the fire. The perfect way to end your day!

Note: Fire is symbolic, there's no fireside at the event

Scottish Storytelling Centre

8pm (2hrs) | £9 (£7.50) **£6**

Sat 19 Oct

Hosted by **Beverley Bryant**, with guest storytellers **Joseph Naytowhow** from Canada, **Alexandria Patience** and **Donald McNeill**.

Sun 20 Oct

Hosted by **David Campbell**, with guest storytellers **Deborah Dunleavy** from Canada, **Heidi Dahlsveen** from Norway and **Svend-Erik Engh** from Denmark.

Tue 22 Oct

Hosted by Canadian **Dawne McFarlane**, with guest storytellers **Robert Seven Crows Bourdon** and **Louise Profeit-LeBlanc** from Canada and **Jackie Ross**.

Wed 23 Oct

Hosted by **George Macpherson** with music from **Fin Moore**, with guest storytellers **Julie Cajune** from USA and **Joseph Naytowhow** from Canada.

Thu 24 Oct

Hosted by **Michael Kerins**, with guest storytellers **Chuck Warren**, **Jess Smith** and **Daniel Serridge**.

Fri 25 Oct

Hosted by **Jess Smith** with music from **Calum Macleod**, with guest storytellers **Giovanna Conforto** from Italy, **George Macpherson** and **Bea Ferguson**.

Sat 26 Oct

Hosted by **Margaret Bennett**, with guest storytellers **Gary Green** and **Margaret Grenier** from Canada and **James MacDonald Reid**.

Sun 27 Oct | £10 (£9) **£8** New Moon

Hosted by **Marie Louise Cochrane**, with guest storytellers **Giovanna Conforto** from Italy, **Margaret Grenier** from Canada, **Julie Cajune** from USA, **Linda Williamson**, **Mio Shudo** and **Claire Hewitt**.



FESTIVAL OPENING WEEKEND

Friday 18 October

The Welcome Hearth - Passing It On!

Scottish Storytelling Centre

Live Storytelling

6.30pm (2hrs) | £9 (£7.50) **£6**

An opening night of Scots and Traveller tradition in song and story welcomes our guests. With First Nations protocol and Scottish hospitality. **Donald Smith** hosts storytellers **Jess Smith**, **James Spence** and **Heather Yule**.

Saturday 19 October

Words on the Street

Scottish Storytelling Centre & Museum of Childhood

Family Event

1.30pm (3hrs) | Free (ticketed) | 4+

Street games, stories and songs for all the family! Take part in the vibrant children's games and surreal songs of old Edinburgh and explore the story of the local street outside, as Edinburgh's people reclaim their historic streets from cars. Featuring an array of Scottish storytellers and sessions for all ages.



Scotland & Canada: My Home Canada & My Home-Home Scotland

Scottish Storytelling Centre

Live Storytelling

6.30pm (1hr) | £7.50 (£6) **£5**

When you emigrate where is your home? Where do your stories take you? Can you ever 'Go back where you came from'? And why would you want to? Storyteller **Alexandria Patience** tells stories of her homes, Scotland and Canada, with music from **Donald McNeill**.

Sunday 20 October

Enchanted Garden

Royal Botanic Garden Edinburgh

Family Event

1pm (3hrs) | Free

Join Scottish and international storytellers at the Royal Botanic Garden Edinburgh and treat yourself with a relaxed afternoon of stories for all ages. Meet at the Botanic Cottage and find the cosy spots where stories are shared or let storytellers take you on story journeys into the beautiful surroundings, where trees glow with beautiful autumn colours.

Note: Sessions at Botanic Cottage have limited capacity, free tickets available on the door.



Scotland & Canada: Isobel Gunn

Scottish Storytelling Centre

Live Storytelling

6.30pm (1hr) | £7.50 (£6) **£5**

The year is 1805. A young Orkney lass brazenly disguises herself as a boy and is hired as a labourer by the Hudson Bay Company. Their destination – the vast area of wilderness known as Rupert's Land! This gruelling adventure is brought to life by international storyteller **Deborah Dunleavy**, taking on the role of Isobel Gunn between 1805 – 1808 and the final days of her life some sixty years later. Based on true accounts, the piece unfolds as an epic storytelling poem set to orchestrated music by composer **Howard Alexander**. Developed with the support of Canada Council for the Arts.

Saturday 19 & Sunday 20 October

Mile to the Museum & National Museum of Scotland

Departs from Mercat Cross, beside St. Giles Cathedral

Walking Tour

10.30am (1hr 30) | £25, including tea & scone at the Museum | 5+

Discover the story of Scotland through our capital city and National Museum. Explore key locations and stories hidden around the Royal Mile. See a city of the past – which goes unnoticed for many – where commoners, Queens and criminals once walked. Then tour the National Museum of Scotland to view our nation's treasures, stepping through Scotland's history and exploring how special objects have shaped our past, present and future.

Note: Tour involves cobbled streets, slopes and stairs. The guide will always adapt the route to visitor's needs – full access statement at www.metcattours.com

FESTIVAL WEEK

Monday 21 October

Corryvreckan: Inspiral Tales

Scottish Storytelling Centre

Live Storytelling

5pm (1hr) | £7.50 (£6) **£5**

After a chance encounter with Orwell's son in the whirlpool that nearly killed him, storyteller **Fiona Herbert** was inspired to put her own spin on the maelstrom. Join her for myths reimagined, with Corryvreckan at their swirling heart. With live music and song from **Rona Wilkie**.



Life with My Father, George Orwell

Scottish Storytelling Centre

Talk

6.30pm (1hr) | £6 (£5) **£4**

George Orwell's son **Richard Blair** takes us on a personal and unique journey into the life of his father, including insights into family times on the Isle of Jura.

Home, Heart & A Hint of Horror

Scottish Storytelling Centre

Live Storytelling

8pm (2hrs) | £9 (£7.50) **£6**

Savour the aromas of a Caribbean kitchen and swing from the branches of a Highland Birchwood. Laugh, cry and occasionally curse with our most cherished yet challenging tales on a quest for belonging. Storytellers **Jan Blake** and **Dougie Mackay** explore the dearest, and sometimes darkest elements of family, heritage, heart and home.

Tuesday 22 October

Why Hamish Matters: Local Song in the Global Age

National Library of Scotland

Talk

2pm (1hr) | Free (ticketed)

Ethnologist, singer and community activist **Steve Byrne** reflects on the essential work of Hamish Henderson's collected local songs in areas of Scotland and how, through digitisation, they are being used for community development, considering ideas of cultural confidence, language, personal identity and localism in a globalised world.



The Alan Bruford Lecture – Fenian Heroes at Sea

Scottish Storytelling Centre

Talk

6.30pm (1hr) | £6 (£5) **£4**

Already in some of the earliest surviving traces of the Fenian heroic tradition in medieval Irish literature, in similarly early references to historical Fianna, and in later Gaelic romance and folktale, there is the notion of travel across the sea as a characteristic exploit of those engaged in or resorting to this particular 'mythicized' institution. While heroes often undertake adventures abroad in other heroic story cycles as well, in this presentation we will consider the special significance of Fionn and his men in the maritime context. With **Prof. Joseph Nagy**.



Wednesday 23 October

Garden of Tales: Stories from Lithuania

Scottish Storytelling Centre

Live Storytelling

3.30pm (1hr) | £7.50 (£6) **£5**

Step into the garden, luscious in summer and white with snow in winter. Sit under the blooming branches, taste the apple from the tree of life. Listen to stories from the worlds above, below and our own in between. Lithuanian storyteller **Daiva Ivanauskaitė** introduces us to traditional stories weaved with songs of her Baltic country as part of the **Lithuanian Days in Scotland**. Partners: Lithuanian Culture Institute and Lithuanian Embassy in the UK.

For more information please visit <https://www.facebook.com/LithuanianArtAndCultureUK> or Lithuanian Embassy in the UK website.

Scotland & Canada: Stories from the Yukon

Scottish Storytelling Centre

Live Storytelling

6.30pm (1hr) | £7.50 (£6) **£5**

Nacho Nyak Dan First Nation storyteller **Louise Profeit-LeBlanc** was nurtured by the traditional stories of her grandmother and has dedicated her life to collecting tales from elders in northern Yukon. Let her take you to the outskirts of the Arctic Circle as she shares these treasures.

Thursday 24 October

Scotland & Canada: Stories from the Great Plains

Scottish Storytelling Centre

Live Storytelling

6.30pm (1hr) | £7.50 (£6) **£5**

Coming from the immense grasslands of Saskatchewan, Cree *néhiyaw* First Nation storyteller **Joseph Naytowhow** will transport you to the landscapes of the Great Plains, guiding you through their timeless sounds and stories.

Friday 25 October

A Close Shave! – Barber Shop Stories

National Library of Scotland

Live Storytelling

2pm (1hr 30) | Free (ticketed)

Scottish barber and social satirist John Kay published his first caustic caricature in 1784. His biting wit and satirical style became so popular that Kay refurbished his barber's shop to sell prints of his colourful clientele. There's certainly a story behind every print, and many a close shave...

Storytellers **Jan Bee Brown** and **Beverley Casebow** toast the entrepreneurs of the Enlightenment, from notorious publican John Dowie to dedicated follower of fashion Miss Sibilla Hutton, with audacious aeronauts, dodgy doctors and stony-broke bankers.

Scotland & Canada: Stories from Newfoundland & Labrador

Scottish Storytelling Centre

Live Storytelling

6.30pm (1hr) | £7.50 (£6) **£5**

Born and bred in Newfoundland and Labrador, **Gary Green** was raised on stories of life in the province prior to it becoming part of Canada. Join him for an evening rich with North Atlantic lore, where the boundary between folktales and early settlers' life stories may blur.

Festival Guid Crack: Tales for Samhuinn

Waverley Bar

Live Storytelling

7.30pm (2hrs 30) | By donation (£5, £4)

Samhuinn marks the time of year when the veil lifts between the worlds of darkness and light. Host storyteller **Michael Williams** invites you to celebrate Samhuinn with a feast of spooky tales featuring spirits, sprites and otherworldly characters. Fancy dress welcomed.

FESTIVAL FINALE WEEKEND

Saturday 26 October

Family Samhuinn

Scottish Storytelling Centre

Family Event

12pm (3hrs) | £5 | Children 3-12

Make Samhuinn memorable for all the family and get into the Hallowe'en spirit with a bone chilling afternoon of stories, drama games and songs to ensure youngsters can embrace the ancient traditions of **Beltane Fire Society**.

The Travel Journal

Scottish Storytelling Centre

Workshop

1.30pm (3hrs) | £8 (£7) **£6**

A hands-on workshop with illustrator **Kim Howard** incorporating collage, writing, maps, drawing and painting to create a handmade, personalised sketch diary. Materials will be provided, but attendees may bring their own personal collage items. Exercises are fun, quick and satisfying with no drawing skill necessary to complete your book.



Scotland & Canada – Mutual Relations

National Library of Scotland

Talks

2pm (2hrs) | Free (ticketed)

Explore the close historical and cultural connections between Canada and Scotland, and their continuing legacy. **Margaret Bennett** is steeped in the Gaelic lore of Canada, while Chief **RoseAnne Archibald** is a First Nation activist and educator with family ties to Scotland. **Donald Smith** reflects on the sometimes-troubled relationship between Scots and First Nation peoples through the novels 'River Thieves' by Michael Crummey and 'Sick Heart River' by John Buchan.

Miss Lindsay's Secret – The Yukon Letters

Scottish Storytelling Centre

Live Storytelling

5pm (1hr) | £7.50 (£6) **£5**

Come in. Shut the Door. Open the Box. Concealed for over a century, the intimate tale of seamstress Minnie Lindsay will be revealed. Storyteller **Maria MacDonell**, reader **Alan Finlayson** and musician **Georgina MacDonell Finlayson** unwind threads of gold binding the gentle Glenesk hills to the heady Klondike.



Scotland & Canada: Robert Service – Poet of the Yukon

Scottish Storytelling Centre

Live Storytelling

6.30pm (1hr) | £7.50 (£6) **£5**

Storytellers **David Campbell**, **Barbara McLean** and cellist/singer **Wendy Weatherby** celebrate poet and writer Robert W. Service. Discover his early life in Scotland and meteoric rise to fame with stirring verses of the outback, goldrush characters and wild adventurers, including the iconic Dan McGrew and Sam Magee.

Sunday 27 October

Greyfriar's Bobby & his Four-Legged Friends: Amazing Edinburgh Animals!

Meet at the entrance gate of the Greyfriars Kirkyard, next to the Art Shop

Walking Tour

11am (1hr 15) | £5 (£3) | All Ages

Join **Fergus McNicol** and his tour guide **Chloe the Cockapoo** for a storytelling tour of amazing Edinburgh animal tales! We know about Greyfriar's Bobby, but why is there a (cheeky) monkey on the High Street, an elephant in the Castle and a bear in the Gardens? Enjoy the trail and discover the answers, with story, song and dance along the way!

Note: Children must always be accompanied. Walk has limited accessibility and involves cobbled streets, slopes and stairs.

Guisers Galore

Scottish Storytelling Centre & Museum of Edinburgh

Family Event

2pm (2hrs) | Free (ticketed) | 5+

Come along and join our storytellers to learn a song, a poem and a dance for real Hallowe'en guising, then follow the **Old Town Guisers** parade or prepare for guising in your local area.

Rehearsals at the **Scottish Storytelling Centre** from **2pm** with a performance at the **Museum of Edinburgh** at **3.30pm**. Bring your own costume or mask. Not suitable for children under 5.

Note: Children must always be accompanied.



Canada Inspires

Scottish Storytelling Centre

Talks & Live Storytelling

2pm (2hrs 30) | £7 (£6) **£5** | 12+

Connect with nature the Canadian way. Folklorist **Rosalind Kerven** will explore how the time-honoured stories of Canada's First Nations can motivate the environmental movement, inspired by her latest collection, 'Native American Myths'. **Deborah Dunleavy** reflects on the stories of early settlers, while **Linda Williamson** weaves northern sky lore, the stars of autumn's great Winged Horse and the Inuit creation of Sun and Moon.



Scotland & Canada: Spirit & Tradition

Scottish Storytelling Centre

Dance & Storytelling

6.30pm (1hr) | £8 (£7) **£6**

The **Dancers of Damelahamid** are an Indigenous dance company from British Columbia. Their rich history of masked dance inspires a compelling performance, celebrating the time depth and diversity of Indigenous cultures across Canada. Through dramatic dance, captivating narrative, intricately carved masks and elaborate regalia the Dancers of Damelahamid transform time and space, bridging the ancient with living tradition.



Saturday 26 & Sunday 27 October

Mile to the Museum & National Museum of Scotland

Departs from Mercat Cross, beside St. Giles Cathedral

Walking Tour

10.30am (1hr 30) | £25, including tea & scone at the Museum | 5+

Discover the story of Scotland through our capital city and National Museum. Explore key locations and stories hidden around the Royal Mile. See a city of the past – which goes unnoticed for many – where commoners, Queens and criminals once walked. Then tour the National Museum of Scotland to view our nation's treasures, stepping through Scotland's history and exploring how special objects have shaped our past, present and future.

Note: Tour involves cobbled streets, slopes and stairs. The guide will always adapt the route to visitor's needs – full access statement at www.metcattours.com



Monday 28 October

Beyond the Spectacle: Native North American Presence in Britain

Scottish Storytelling Centre

Display & Talks

1pm (3hrs) | Free

Prof. David Stirrup hosts an opportunity to learn about contemporary Indigenous issues in Canada and the USA. An exhibition of posters highlights the topics, from anti-pipeline protests to cultural appropriation, alongside Scotland's long historical ties with Indigenous communities, from WWI soldiers to Cherokee Chiefs. Native North American speakers will join academics from **Beyond the Spectacle** and Scottish Universities to answer questions inspired by the exhibit. Suitable for all ages and all levels of interest and prior knowledge.

The Tempest & The Teller

Scottish Storytelling Centre

Live Storytelling

5pm (50mins) | £7.50 (£6) **£5**

Shakespeare's *The Tempest* is brought to life by storyteller **Alexander Mackenzie**. Hold on to your seats for a telling infused with ribald imagination from beginning to end, told in a language that is free, bold and poised between imagination and ancient plot. Never done this way before and perhaps never again, *The Tempest and The Teller* weaves old and new, ignited by Alexander's illustrations that colourfully depict the exciting twists and turns of this most allegorical of tales.

Scotland & Canada: Stories from Orkney & Quebec

Scottish Storytelling Centre

Live Storytelling

6.30pm (1hr) | £7.50 (£6) **£5**

After sharing stories at the ceilidhs of the recently finished **Orkney Storytelling Festival**, Quebecoise metis Mi'kmaq and Acadian **Robert Seven Crows Bourdon** and Orcadian **Tom Muir** have even more stories to tell! Come and join them in this unique event where they will take you from coast to coast.



Stories I've Lived In

Scottish Storytelling Centre

Live Storytelling

8pm (2hrs) | £9 (£7.50) **£6**

Salish storyteller **Julie Cajune** shares stories that have shaped her identity as an American woman. These accounts portray the lived experience of her female family descendants from Salish, Nez Perce, Anishinaabe and Scots ancestry. They span shame and pride, fear and forgiveness, exploring the frailties and strengths of our human condition, with the stories enhanced by talented musicians **Hector MacInnes** and **Leighton Jones**.

Tuesday 29 October

Dance Masterclass: Exploring Contemporary Coastal Dance

Dance Base

Workshop

11am (1hr 30) | £15 (£12)

British Columbia's **Dancers of Damelahamid** facilitate a movement-based workshop centred on the contemporary Coastal Indigenous dance form, allowing participants to enjoy the shared experience of dance. Gain awareness of the dynamic and innovative qualities of current Indigenous practices with dance instruction, exploratory work and partnered improvisation.

Note: All levels of dance experience welcome, however the workshop is most catered to those with a dance background. Please dress comfortably and wear moccasins, dance shoes, or bare feet.

Airts o Soons an Een: Scotland's Art in Scots

Scottish National Portrait Gallery

Talk

12.45pm (30mins) | Free

In this lunchtime talk, theatre artist and Scots language advocate **Ishbel McFarlane** will explore Scots language in relation to pieces in the National Galleries of Scotland. She will look at the cultural importance of Scots – also called Doric, Glaswegian, Lallans and many more – and how that linguistic culture interacts with visual culture.



Sgeulachdan na Fèinne san Latha an-diugh

Ionad Sgeulachdan na h-Alba

Bùth-obrach

1f (3u) | £8 (£7) **£6**

Ciamar as urrainn dhuinn a bhith dìleas ri ar dualchas agus aig an aon àm a bhith buntainneach ri Gàidheil an latha an-diugh a thaobh modh is cainnt? Bheir sinn sùil air seann sgeulachdan à dualchas Gàidheil na h-Alba agus mar as urrainn tlachd is toileachas fhaighinn bhuapa fhathast, le **Ruairidh MacIlleathain**. *Bidh a' bhùth-obrach air fad ann an Gàidhlig.*

Stories of the Fianna in a Modern World

Scottish Storytelling Centre

Workshop

1pm (3hrs) | £8 (£7) **£6**

How can we be faithful to our heritage while engaging with modern Gaels, in terms of context, style and vocabulary? **Ruairidh Maclean** presents some old stories that belong to Scotland's Gaelic tradition and highlights how they still resonate.

Note: Workshop in Gaelic.



The Very Curious Herbal

National Library of Scotland

Live Storytelling

2pm (1hr) | Free (ticketed)

Storyteller **Amanda Edmiston** embarks on an enchanted journey into the verdant world of the 18th century. Inspired by Elizabeth Blackwell's 'A Curious Herbal', the first book of its kind created by a woman and published, this multidimensional performance layers history, stories, tastes and remedies to draw us into the garden of plants revealed within the book.



Sgeulachdan seana is ùra tròr n-òrain

Ionad Sgeulachdan na h-Alba

Sgeulachdan Beò

5f (1u 15m) | £7.50 (£6) **£5**

Bidh na seinneadairean **Brian Ó hEadhra** agus **Fiona NicChoinnich** a' gabhail òrain seana is ùra às a' Ghàidhealtachd ann an Gàidhlig is ann am Beurla. Mar phàirt dhan chonsairt sònraichte seo, bidh iad cuideachd a' leughadh eadar-theangaichean dhan bhàrdachd Ghàidhlig. Oidhche sònraichte a bhios ann!

Ciaradh na h-Oidhche

Ionad Sgeulachdan na h-Alba

Sgeulachdan Beò

8f (1u 30m) | £7.50 (£6) **£5**

Tha **Pàdruig Moireasdan, Linda NicLeòid, Seonaidh Mac an t-Saoir, Shona Masson** and **Calum Dòmhnallach** a' toirt sealladh den taigh-cèilidh, mu dh'fhaoide an t-àit' is cudromaiche gus sgeulachdan, òrain, puirt agus seanchas nan Gàidheal a chumail beò thar na linntean. Mar chòignear a tha nan oighrean air cànan is cultar Uibhist agus an t-Eilean Sgitheanach, agus nan cuid-obrach mar luchd-brosnachaidh cultar na Gàidhlig, ann an Ciaradh na h-Oidhche tha iad a' toirt sgairt is beatha dhan t-seann traidisean.

Stories Old and New Through Our Songs

Scottish Storytelling Centre

Live Storytelling

5pm (1hr 15) | £7.50 (£6) **£5**

Inverness-based duo **Brian Ó hEadhra** and **Fiona Mackenzie** perform traditional and contemporary songs in Gaelic and English which explore culture and tales from the Highlands, past and present. In this special SISF show, the duo will read some translations of the ancient and new Gaelic verse before singing in their distinctive style and harmonies. Not to be missed!

Note: Gaelic songs' translations available.

Evening Twilight

Scottish Storytelling Centre

Live Storytelling

8pm (1hr 30) | £7.50 (£6) **£5**

Pàdruig Morrison, Linda MacLeod, Seonaidh MacIntyre, Shona Masson and **Calum MacDonald** recreate a vital setting for the transmission of stories, songs, tunes and lore in the Gàidhealtachd (ceilidh-house). The quintet are inheritors of the language and culture of Uist and Skye, who combine to share and celebrate the old tradition we are in risk of losing. The evening will be a fully Gaelic production, led by young Gaels who pursue busy lives promoting Gaelic culture and arts with vigour and passion.

Note: Performance in Gaelic, with summary translation programmes.



Brian Ó hEadhra agus Fiona NicChoinnich

Wednesday 30 October

Flicker

Scottish Storytelling Centre

Dance & Storytelling

7pm (1hr) | £8 (£7) **£6**

As the festival approaches its finale, the British Columbian **Dancers of Damelahamid** showcase a second night of ancient dances and songs which highlight the complexities of contemporary Indigenous identities. Just as light shimmers, *Flicker* represents the moments through which one can cross space and time, as the masked dancers' journey in and out of the spirit world of their ancestors.



Thursday 31 October

The Devil & the Clutch of Fools

Scottish Storytelling Centre

Live Storytelling

10am (12hrs) | Free, drop-in

The culmination of SISF is for you to join in with a story... whoever you are! Experienced bards or complete novices, young or old, grimy or beautiful, we all go into Hallowe'en with a certain sense of foreboding, when the veil between light and dark invites the unholy to be blessed and the innocent to be drowned. This marathon event brings storytellers from different nations together with local people in a storytelling extravaganza, to face off against the demons of Hallowe'en, with a special improvised ceilidh telling of 'Tam O' Shanter' to fire the imagination around 8pm. Come along if you dare. Hosted irrepressibly by storyteller **Alexander Mackenzie**.



Samhuinn Fire Festival

Edinburgh Old Town

Site-Specific

8pm (3hrs) | Ticketed | 10+

The **Beltane Fire Society** celebrates the Celtic New Year by marking the end of summer and welcoming the onset of winter with a stunning torch lit procession featuring acrobatics, fireworks, beautiful costumes and breathtaking performances. www.beltane.org

FESTIVAL ON TOUR

Angus

Sunday 27 October

Stories from the Yukon

Brechin

Live Storytelling

Nacho Nyak Dan First Nation storyteller **Louise Profeit-LeBlanc** was nurtured by the traditional stories of her grandmother and has dedicated her life to collecting tales from elders in northern Yukon. Let her take you to the outskirts of the Arctic Circle as she shares these treasures. On this special night of stories and music, local storyteller **Maria MacDonell** will also introduce you to the extraordinary letters from the Yukon discovered in Glenesk.

Argyll & Bute

Tuesday 22 October – Rothesay

Wednesday 23 October – Dunoon

Thursday 24 October – Campbeltown

Stories from the Caribbean & Beyond

Live Storytelling

Storyteller **Jan Blake** creates a vibrant world of Afro-Caribbean colour, energy, comedy and wicked wit. She is one of our truly great yarn spinners, a force of nature and a delight to hear.

Monday 28 October – Helensburgh

Tuesday 29 October – Oban

Wednesday 30 October – Lochgilphead

Stories from Newfoundland and Labrador

Live Storytelling

Born and bred in Newfoundland and Labrador, **Gary Green** was raised on stories of life in province prior to it becoming part of Canada. Join him for an evening rich with North Atlantic lore, where the boundary between folktales and early settlers' life stories may blur.

Clackmannanshire

Saturday 19 October

Folklore Fusion

Alloa

Live Storytelling

'She Said Storytellers' **Joanne Ross** and **Janet Crawford** welcome guest storyteller **Heidi Dahlsveen** from Norway. Join them for a special afternoon of traditional storytelling and let your imagination span from the Hillfoots of Scotland to the Norwegian Fjords! Hosted by **Hillfoots Tales**.



Dumfries & Galloway

Monday 7 – Sunday 20 October

Scotland and the Arctic: A Conversation

Dumfries

Live Storytelling

Storytelling, film, song, poetry, discussion, presentation, exhibits and 5,000 Barnacle Geese. The project would like to explore the narratives, history, representations (visual and literary), and ecology involved in artistic and environmental connections between Scotland and the Arctic. Celebrate the Wild Geese Weekend (**12-13 October**) with storytellers **Tony Bonning** and **Anne Errington**. Then on **Saturday 19 October**

enjoy stories from home and abroad with Scottish storyteller **Jean**

Edmiston and Canadian storytellers **Louise Profeit-LeBlanc** from the Yukon and **Dawne McFarlane** from Ontario.



Tony Bonning

Dundee

Tuesday 22 October

Stories from the Grasslands and Beyond

Dundee

Live Storytelling

Coming from the immense Saskatchewan's Great Plains, Cree *néhiyaw* First Nation storyteller **Joseph Naytowhow** joins **Blether Tay-gither** storytellers for an exceptional evening of timeless stories.

Fife

Wednesday 23 October

Scotland to Canada and Back

Inverkeithing

Live Storytelling

Canadian storytellers **Deborah Dunleavy** and **Michael Williams** gather with Fife's redoubtable **Lang Spoon Tales** for a night of travel, adventure and family connections. Criss-cross the Atlantic from the Forth shore.

Glasgow

Thursday 24 October

Sangs an' Clatter: Connections

Glasgow

Live Storytelling

We're delighted to be welcoming Italian storyteller **Giovanna Conforto**, for a cosy evening of stories, music, food and good company. We'll be showcasing the best of Italian & Scottish storytelling to bring a bit of warmth to a chilly Autumn evening! Hosted by **The Village Storytelling Centre**.

Highlands

Saturday 19 & Sunday 20 October
Inverness Story Fest

Inverness

Live Storytelling & Workshops

Come celebrate a feast of traditional and contemporary tales in the heart of the Scottish Highlands. A mixture of local and international tellers, including guest storyteller **Jan Blake**, **Dougie Mackay** and **Ruiridh Mackintosh** will regale with tales from long ago as the nights draw in. More information will be available at www.facebook.com/storyconnectionDM



Friday 25 & Saturday 26 October
Portskerra International Storytelling Festival

Friday 25: Thurso | Saturday 26: Lyth

Live Storytelling

The annual traditional ceilidh and storytelling nights in the Far North of Scotland celebrates its 8th year with a warm welcome to guest storyteller from Norway, **Heidi Dahlsveen**. Traditional stories from the North Sea, with occasional trolls and other mysterious creatures, have never been so lively! Storyteller **Alexandria Patience** and musician **Donald McNeill** will join the story sharing on both nights, with other local story weavers, musicians & singers. Gaelic and Scots. Full programme will be available at www.portskerrastorytellingfestival.weebly.com

Moray

Wednesday 23 October
Spirit & Tradition

Findhorn

Dance & Storytelling

The **Dancers of Damelahamid** are an Indigenous dance company from British Columbia. Their rich history of masked dance inspires a compelling performance, celebrating the time depth and diversity of Indigenous cultures across Canada. Through dramatic dance, captivating narrative, intricately carved masks and elaborate regalia the Dancers of Damelahamid transform time and space, bridging the ancient with living tradition.

North East

Thursday 24 October - Aberdeen Elphinstone Institute

Friday 25 October - Aboyne

Stories from the Yukon

Live Storytelling

Nacho Nyak Dan First Nation storyteller **Louise Profeit-LeBlanc** was nurtured by the traditional stories of her grandmother and has dedicated her life to collecting the elders' tales in northern Yukon. Let her share this treasure with you, while she takes you to the outskirts of the Arctic Circle.

Saturday 26 October

Stories from The Cabrach & Beyond

Huntly

Live Storytelling

The **Cabrach Trust** invite you to an afternoon of captivating stories for all ages, with special guest storyteller **Louise Profeit-LeBlanc** from Canada. Louise has ancestors in Towie, just south of Cabrach and will join our house-storyteller **Jackie Ross** for local stories with a folklore twist. Further information will be available at www.cabrachtrust.org

Orkney

Thursday 24 – Sunday 27 October

Orkney Storytelling Festival

Orkney

Live Storytelling

Enjoy four days of storytelling events throughout Orkney! On this special 10th anniversary we welcome metis Mi'kmaq and Acadian storyteller **Robert Seven Crows Bourdon** from Quebec and visiting Scottish storytellers **Mara Menzies** and **Gordon MacLellan**, joined by Orkney regulars **Tom Muir** and **Fran Flett Hollinrake**. The little festival with the big hearth will keep you warm on those chilly autumn nights! Full programme will be available at www.orkneystorytellingfestival.co.uk

Perthshire

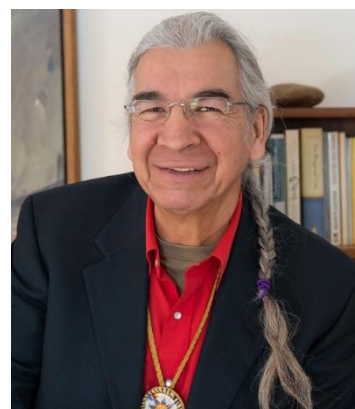
Saturday 26 October

Lore & Land

Aberfeldy

Live Storytelling

Cree *néhiyaw* First Nation storyteller **Joseph Naytowhow** joins **Claire Hewitt** and a gathering of storytellers, writers, poets, singers and artists to share a day 'Giving Voice to the Voiceless' and celebrating the Carrying Stream in our traditions with an evening house ceilidh. 'Maker, ye maun sing them... Tomorrow, songs will flow free again, and new voices be borne on the Carrying Stream.' (*Hamish Henderson*)



Scottish Borders

Friday 18 & Saturday 19 October

Duns Storytelling Festival

Duns

Live Storytelling

This new and exciting Duns Storytelling Festival will showcase four events over two days! Enjoy family storytelling and a pop-up event on Friday, then Macastory and 'The Purple, White and Green' on the Saturday. Our special guest storyteller from Canada **Deborah Dunleavy** joins local tellers **Macastory**, **Donald Nelson**, **Robert Howat**, **Kate Hibbert**, **Michael Kerins**, **Margaret Christison**, **Lea Taylor**, **Nicola Wright** and **Marjorie Leithhead**.