

13–29 October
2023



 SCOTTISH
INTERNATIONAL
STORYTELLING
FESTIVAL

#RightToBeHuman
sisf.org.uk

Welcome

to the 2023 Scottish International Storytelling Festival.

Join us as we explore, question and celebrate the Right To Be Human. This year, on the 75th anniversary of the Universal Declaration of Human Rights, we consider the many challenges we face, from human health and wellbeing to the health and future of our planet. However, there is also a worldwide movement to meet these challenges, and to exist imaginatively, fairly and in community with the whole diversity of life.

Storytelling has embraced these values from the dawn of culture and stories today can help us be more connected to the world around us, as well as our rights, showing us how to be more alive and creative as humans.

The Festival Team

The Scottish International Storytelling Festival is organised by **TRACS** (Traditional Arts & Culture Scotland), which brings together the **Traditional Music Forum**, **Scottish Storytelling Forum** and **Traditional Dance Forum of Scotland**, from its base at the **Scottish Storytelling Centre**. TRACS showcases Scotland's traditional arts in a contemporary world, making them more accessible to all.

Supported through **Scottish Government's Festivals Expo Fund**, **Creative Scotland**, **City of Edinburgh Council**, **Festivals Edinburgh**, **Digital Expo**. We acknowledge the support of the **Norwegian Honorary Consulate General** and **Bòrd na Gàidhlig**.



Norwegian Ministry of Foreign Affairs

THE SKINNY

About the Programme

Our event categories ensure your storytelling experience is exactly what you are looking for, be it the magic of live storytelling or the occasion for professional development and networking with the best in the field.

How to book

 www.sisf.org.uk

 +44 (0)131 556 9579

 43-45 High Street,
Edinburgh EH1 1SR

All other partner venues and regional events have their own booking outlets, apart from the Royal Botanic Garden Edinburgh events.

Accessibility

A full **Access Statement** is available on our website. A full list of how to engage with our accessible events will be available at sisf.org.uk.

Event Types

Live | Indoor

Live storytelling events in festival venues.

Live | Outdoor

Live storytelling events in outdoor locations.

Live | Workshops

Workshops and presentations held in the Scottish Storytelling Centre.

Online | Workshops

Online workshops and presentations broadcast live from the Scottish Storytelling Centre, with online audience participation.

Festival Pass

We have striven to keep ticket prices as affordable as possible throughout the programme. If you plan to attend multiple events, please take advantage of our Festival Pass!

- Discounted tickets to many live festival events at the Scottish Storytelling Centre, not including live workshops
- Discounted tickets to many online festival workshops
- 10% discount at the Storytelling Centre's bookshop
- 10% discount in the Haggis Box's Storytelling Café



Look for the
Festival Pass prices
in the listings
marked as ★



Another Story

A Scottish Storytelling Podcast

Another Story is a new podcast series exploring some of the themes featured in this year's Festival. Tune in to hear some wonderful storytellers share their favourite tales and chat about storytelling in Scotland and beyond. So, settle down, or speed on up, to join us for another story...

Available wherever you get your podcasts, including Spotify, Apple, Google and Amazon. Follow us by liking and subscribing so you don't miss an episode!



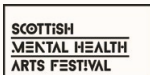
Festival Exhibitions



SAT 7 – SUN 29 OCT

TALK.

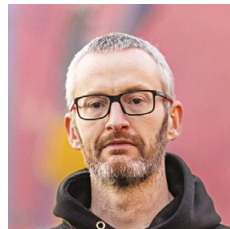
Scottish Storytelling Centre
Mon - Sun: 10am - 9pm
Free



TALK. is an ongoing portraiture project by Edinburgh-based photographer **Graham Williams**, exploring the subject of men's mental health, where the portraits are made after a conversation between photographer and sitter about their own experiences. The project aims to start a wider conversation about a subject which is still relatively under-discussed and to encourage anyone who may be struggling to reach out for help. It's time to TALK.

Part of **Scottish Mental Health Arts Festival**.

www.talkportraits.co.uk
Instagram: @talk.portraits



TALK.

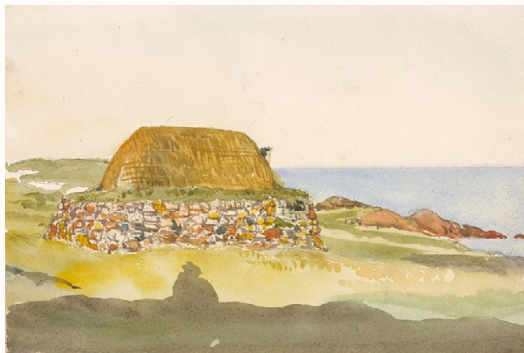
UNTIL 20 APR 2024

Sgeul | Story: Folktales from the Scottish Highlands

Discover the magical Gaelic folktales collected by John Francis Campbell of Islay (1821-1885)

National Library of Scotland
Mon, Tue, Thu: 9.30am – 7pm
Wed: 10am – 7pm
Fri, Sat: 9.30am – 5pm
Free

Scotland is rich in stories but, once upon a time, Scottish Gaelic folktales were almost unknown beyond the Highlands. In 1859, folklorist John Francis Campbell, together with a team of helpers, began to collect Scottish Gaelic folktales. He found a treasure trove. This exhibition displays the manuscript diaries kept by Campbell and the watercolours he painted. Read and listen to some of the folktales he gathered in Gaelic and English, and watch a film about what stories mean to Gaelic speakers of all ages.



*'Black House' painting by John Francis Campbell.
Photo courtesy by National Library of Scotland.*

Right To Be Human

Scottish Storytelling Centre

Live | Indoor

All events are £10
(£8) ★£6 unless stated

On the occasion of the 75th anniversary of the Universal Declaration of Human Rights, creatives within and beyond the storytelling community celebrate and explore aspects of our common humanity. The series includes new shows specially-commissioned for this year's Festival.

Zahra Afsah
Photo by Noel Shelley



FRI 13 OCT

Tales of Exile and Sanctuary

6pm (1hr)

Following her work with refugees and long-term migrants to the UK, storyteller **Gauri Raje** shares a tapestry of stories woven together from Afghanistan, Iraq, Iran, India and the Horn of Africa. In her beautiful storytelling style, Gauri questions the beauty and horrors of exile and what can be nourished through sanctuary.

SAT 14 OCT

The Town Mouse and the Country Mouse

11am (1hr) | £5 per child

Come along on a multisensory adventure with artist/illustrator **Kate Leiper** and storyteller **Ailie Finlay**. Explore this well-loved tale, handling cosy props, soft quilts, crunchy leaves, snug nests and (watch out!) tinkling cat-bells. Then create an artwork inspired by the story, dipping into Kate's wonderful art box and have fun with colours, textures and tactile materials.

Fun for everyone but particularly suitable for children with additional needs and their families and friends.

Wave Riders

8pm (1hr)

Three women, three ships, three voyages. Journey back in time with storyteller **Jan Bee Brown** and musician **Renzo Spiteri** as they share a series of saga-driven sonic stories of Viking pioneers Unn the Deep-minded, Gudrid the Far-traveller and Melkorka the Silent. Setting sail in small boats, our heroines forged better ways to live in peace with rights, freedoms and respect, standing shoulder to shoulder.

SUN 15 OCT

Letters to Jackie

8pm (1hr)

60 years ago, in Dundee, DC Thomson's *Jackie* magazine was a bestseller for the teenage market and young readers flocked to *Jackie's* 'agony aunts' Cathy and Clare with their problems. But where can we seek answers to our present-day dilemmas and challenges? Sgàthach Storytellers **Bea Ferguson, Heather Yule** and **Maria Whatton** bring the power of the old tales to answer the problems of today. Come and join them as agony aunts in an interactive session of story and music!

MON 16 OCT

Joyfully Grimm: Reimagining a Queer Adolescence

8pm (1hr)

1988. One boy is growing up in myth and magic, unaware that Section 28, a 'prohibition on promoting homosexuality', is moving to silence his tale and those of anyone like him. LGBTQIA+ people have always existed joyfully – in stories and real life – and the fabulous eventually wins. Combining traditional fairy tales and original poetry, storyteller **James Stedman** - and a grumpy frog - will guide you through a heartfelt, slightly irreverent look at our history, towards a hopeful future. Directed by **Molly Naylor**.

TUE 17 OCT

The Voice Shall Always Remain

8pm (1hr)

Iranian storyteller **Zahra Afsah** and Syrian storyteller **Khlood Ereksousi** use the traditional technique of *pardeh-khani* (narration through curtains) to interweave an ancient Persian tale with modern day stories. A slave girl humbles the King of Persia and escapes from imprisonment in a tower through her own efforts. As the story unfolds, we explore how many Iranian women are trapped in 'towers' nowadays and how the key to their freedom lies in their own voices and talents. Directed by **Jackie Ross**.



WED 18 OCT

Don Quixote Rides Again

8pm (1hr)

Prepare yourself for a spellbinding experience as Spanish storyteller **Inés Álvarez Villa** and flamenco musician **Danielo Olivera** bring the iconic adventures of Don Quixote to life, transporting you to the heart of Spanish culture. While Cervantes' timeless masterpiece continues to entertain, enlighten and inspire us, this comical yet poignant show explores our right to be human: challenging prejudice, showing compassion, and having the strength to embrace our true selves. Directed by **Jelena Bašić**.

SAT 21 OCT

Odin's Eye and the Art of Seeing

6pm (1hr)

'When a proton beam of radio therapy fires into my eye, ultraviolet auroras appear in my vision. An unexpected moment of beauty in a cancer treatment centre in the Wirral opens the doorway to a world of Æsir and Vanir gods, and their epic quests in the pursuit of *seeing*.' Storyteller **Alice Fernbank** shares a personal story of ill-health and healing, threaded through the Norse tales of Odin, Gullveig, and Mimir. Directed by **Kath Burlinson**.

Shadow Walking

8pm (1hr)

Storytellers **Ruth Kirkpatrick** and **Peter Chand** seek to excavate stories that are not often told, out of the shadows and onto centre stage. Are you sitting comfortably? Well, you may not for long, as these tales touch on uncomfortable, dark themes of jealousy, destruction and vanity. A happy-ever-after is not guaranteed! Accompanied by an amazing, unique jazz score from musician **Tom Lyne** on double bass.

SUN 22 OCT

Orpheus | Orfeo

8pm (1hr)

The story of Orpheus and Eurydice gets a Scottish twist in this dark and dangerous telling of the famous Greek myth. For this first time ever, the Shetland ballad of King Orfeo is swirled into the murky depths of Hades' underworld. Storyteller **Daniel Serridge**, singer **Heather Cartwright** and harpist **Neil Wood** explore grief and loss, inspired by the words of people who live and work most closely with it. They will take you deep below the earth and back again, pushing you forward, dragging you home and demanding that you don't look back!

MON 23 OCT

In the Hartwood

6pm (1hr)

Join storytellers **Jane Mather** and **Heather Yule** on a journey in tribute to those interred in pauper's graves at the now derelict Hartwood Hospital, and the friends who tend the cemetery and make it a tranquil oasis. Let stories and harp music guide you into the faerie realm where dreams are powerful and nature spirits abound.

TUE 24 OCT

Rickle O Stanes

8pm (1hr)

This is a show about Scotland's land: about its rocks and mud, what it's grown, what lives it's sustained, how it's been bought, fought for and wounded. Through powerful and playful storytelling and traditional song, **Shona Cowie**, **Neil Sutcliffe** and dramaturg **Liam Hurley** explore the layers of history on which we stand today, piling up to create a performance as radical as it is entertaining.





Shona Cowie
Photo by Neil Hanna

THU 26 OCT

Arise!

6pm (1hr)

The 'Breadagogues', **Marie Louise Cochrane**, **Suzanne Houston** and **Andrew Whitley** share stories and songs of bread, one of the oldest and most well-loved foods in human history. An extraordinary tale of adulteration, exploitation and mendacious marketing, seen through the eyes of a country baker who took on the system, determined to bake a better future. With an amusing narrative and catchy songs, we are invited to take this vital food into our own hands. Scottish flour, recipes and real bread will be available post-show.

Fire from the Woods

8pm (1hr)

Sometimes fathers are silent while children grow up without stories. How can the children of these fathers release their trapped lips? We humans have the right to know our ancestors' stories. By reimagining old tales from Lithuania and around the world, storyteller **Daiva Ivanauskaitė** and musician **Gaynor Barradell** explore the silence between generations. Let them take you to the deep dark woods and meet the old man with the wire beard, always hungry for unheard stories.

Directed by **Lauren Bianchi**.
Supported by **The Village Storytelling Centre**.

SAT 28 OCT

Once Upon a Time There Was a War

8pm (1hr)

The harsh reality of war meets the magic of love songs and art, as Danish storyteller **Svend-Erik Engh** shares stories from real-life soldiers gathered in a decade of research, whilst musician **Mairi Campbell** sings songs of peace and love, from the canon of Scottish traditional song and her own writings. Danish artist **Tea Bendix** illustrates words and music, bringing another dimension to the stories.

Open Hearths & Special Events

Scottish Storytelling Centre –
unless stated

Live | Indoor

All events are £10 (£8)
★£6 unless stated

Our **Open Hearth** sessions gather together storytellers and musicians for a relaxed evening of stories and music in the Netherbow Theatre. As the darkness closes in and minds glow with pictures in the symbolic fire, this is the perfect way to end your day!

FRI 13 OCT

Open Hearth

8pm (1hr 30)

Featuring **Fiona Herbert, Douglas Mackay, Tim Porteus** and musician **Rachel Newton**.

WED 25 OCT

Open Hearth

8pm (1hr 30)

Featuring **Beverley Bryant, Marion Kenny, John Nicol** and musician **Ryan Young**.

SUN 29 OCT

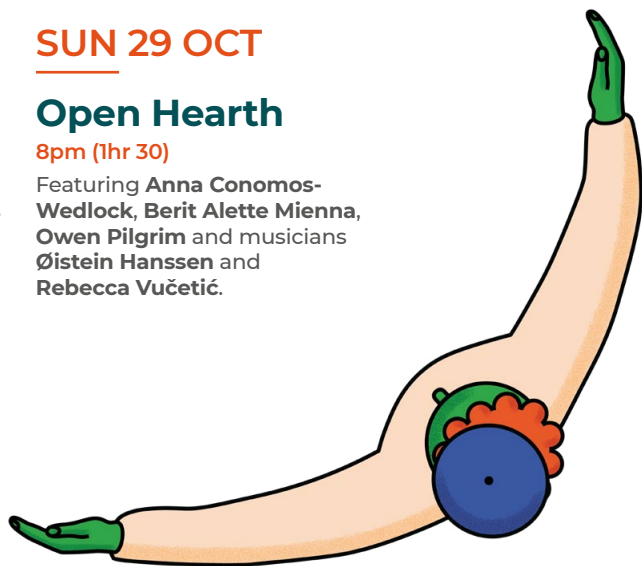
Open Hearth

8pm (1hr 30)

Featuring **Anna Conomos-Wedlock, Berit Alette Mienna, Owen Pilgrim** and musicians **Øistein Hanssen** and **Rebecca Vučetić**.



Anna Conomos-Wedlock
Photo by Perform Story



THU 19 OCT

Red Aphrodite by Amy Murray Presented by Deaf Action

8pm (1hr) | 18+

Amy Murray wants to break down all the taboos about womanhood, expressing some hilarious, tragic and cringy experiences in her life. Red Aphrodite is all about lust, periods, dating and sex – a funny and relatable look at femininity! Originally performed at Edinburgh Deaf Festival, this piece is performed in British Sign Language, with a BSL interpreter providing a voiceover in English.

**FRI 20 &
FRI 27 OCT**

Guid Crack

Waverley Bar
7.30pm (2hrs 30)
By donation | 18+

Two festival specials of Edinburgh's long-running storytelling night, featuring a guest storytellers **Grace Banks** (Fri 20) and **Claire McNicol** (Fri 27). With an open-floor section to share a tale of your own.

FRI 20 OCT

Alba & Èirinn: Òrain & Sgeulachdan na Fèinne

8f (1hr)

San tachartas seo, thèid na laoidhean is sgeulachdan gaisgeil mu dheidhinn Fionn MacCumhnaill agus na Fèinne na thaisbeanadh as ùr.

Le Màrtainn Mac an t-Saoir, Màiri NicilleMhaoil, Mhairi Hall, Gráinne Holland agus Éamon Doorley.

Thèid a chumail tro mheadhan na Gàidhlig is na Gaeilge (le mineachadh sa Bheurla).

Le taic bho Bhòrd na Gàidhlig agus sgeama Colmcille.

Scotland & Ireland: Songs & Stories of the Fianna

8pm (1hr)

Join us for an eloquent blend of story, ballad and music, exploring the tales of Fionn MacCumhnaill and the Fianna. Featuring **Martin MacIntyre, Mairi MacMillan, Mhairi Hall, Gráinne Holland** and **Éamon Doorley**.

This performance will be held in Gaelic, but will be accessible to English speaking audiences.

Supported by Bòrd na Gàidhlig's Colmcille fund.

SUN 22 OCT

SMHAF Writing Awards

2pm (2hrs) | Free, ticketed

Join us for the Scottish Mental Health Arts Festival's 10th annual Writing Awards, an opportunity to celebrate new writing exploring mental health and the SMHAF theme of 'Revolution'.

MON 23 OCT

The Displaced Heart

8pm (1hr)

The displaced heart can be unrequited love, longing for your homeland, or feeling lost in a cold world. The displaced

heart is a hungry heart! An exquisite storytelling and music performance, combining English, Punjabi, and Irish, plus beautiful songs accompanied by guitar and sitar. Performed by **Peter Chand, Gráinne Holland, Eamon Mchcolm** and **Alec Cooper**.

FRI 27 OCT

The Promise

8pm (1hr)

Two seven-year-old best friends, one Greek and one Turkish, live on the outskirts of Smyrna. In 1923, while war and destruction change everything around them, a promise they make to each other will unite them forever. On the 100-year anniversary of those tragic events, storyteller **Anna Conomos-Wedlock** presents a powerful story inspired by the oral testimonies of Asia Minor refugees, drawing on the meaning of homeland, displacement, memory and friendship. Featuring evocative songs and music by **Rebecca Vučetić**.

SUN 29 OCT

Human Library

12pm (4hrs)
Free, drop-in | 16+

Unjudge someone. The Human Library is a library of people. An event where readers can borrow human beings serving as open books, and have conversations they would not normally have access to. Every human book from the bookshelf, represents a group in our society that is often subjected to prejudice, stigmatization or discrimination because of their lifestyle, diagnosis, belief, disability, social status, ethnic origin etc.

Collective Treasures



Scottish Storytelling Centre

Live | Indoor

All events are £8 (£6)

★£4 unless stated

Storytelling is a store of collective memories, experiences and values. Relax, and delve into those treasures in the genial company of the festival's storytellers, as they celebrate our common humanity.

Øistein Hanssen
Photo by Silje Lyngstad

SAT 14 OCT

The Iron Hag and Other Tales

6pm (1hr)

Antrim storyteller and singer **Colin Urwin** dips into the renowned Sam Henry Collection. Join him as he pulls out some treasures of song and story that were gathered in Rathlin Island, and the north coasts and glens of Ireland.

SUN 15 OCT

Where the Feather Falls

6pm (1hr)

Storyteller **Jess Smith** and musician **Joss Cameron** share stories and ballads from the fullness of the Traveller's Kist, a treasure of songs and tales that flow like the clear waters of a Highland burn.

MON 16 OCT

Calvino 100

6pm (1hr)

Join storytellers **Anne Hunter**, **Donald Smith** and **Simone Caffari** as they weave a Scots-Italian garland of stories, music and song in celebration of Italo Calvino's centenary.

Prolific writer and political activist, Calvino is also known for translating 200 folktales from their original local dialects, collected in the book *Italian Folktales*.



Dr Valentina Bold
Photo by Mike Bolam

TUE 17 OCT

Up the Middle Road: Stories from the Crichton Royal Asylum

6pm (1hr)

Dr Valentina Bold and storyteller **Amanda Edmiston** present excerpts from Mike Bolam's film *Up the Middle Road* and a live storytelling performance, followed by a discussion on how stories can heal and dispel the stigma around mental health. The event is the natural result of a 2022 project developed at the site of the former Crichton Royal Asylum in Dumfries.

WED 18 OCT

New Wave

6pm (1hr)

The storytelling community in Scotland is an incubator of diverse talent. Enjoy the fresh voices of new and emerging tellers. Hosted by **Janis Mackay**.

★
If you plan to attend multiple events, remember to take advantage of our Festival Pass!



Shonaleigh Cumbers
Photo by Katherine Betteridge

THU 19 OCT

Scots Character

6pm (1hr)

Dour, thrawn, generous, mean, stoic, droll, contrary, wild, gentle... Tour the range of Scots tale and tongue, including some outrageous personal memories. Wha's like us? Damned few, an we're certainly no aw deid yit. With storyteller **James Spence**.

FRI 20 OCT

Sgeul - Mighty and Magic

6pm (1hr)

Experience mighty and magic tales from the John Francis Campbell collection. These are presented in new adaptations, in Gaelic and English. Tradition bearer **Allan MacDonald** teams up with musician **Aidan O'Rourke**. Translation support from **Donald Smith**.

SAT 21 OCT

The Girl's Own Survival Guide to History

4pm (1hr)

Do you need help negotiating your way through the wild world of women's history? Join **Gillian Paterson** and **Nicola Wright** on a whirlwind trip through female pirates and raucous rebels, whilst learning how to avoid being called a witch.

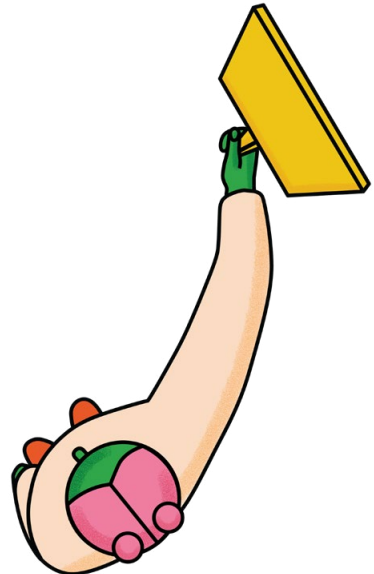
SUN 22 OCT

A Garment for the Moon

6pm (1hr)

Travel back to a place where the sun and the moon feel sorrow and shame, and a humble tailor can journey between worlds to make a

gown as glorious as a skylful of stars. Set at the beginning of time, this traditional Jewish story is told by **Shonaleigh Cumbers** from family tradition, as remembered and taught by her bubbe (grandmother) Edith Marks.



TUE 24 OCT

Alan Bruford Lecture

6pm (1hr) | Free, ticketed

Explore Scotland's unrivalled folklore collections in the annual Alan Bruford Lecture. Presented by **John Shaw**, in partnership with the Department of Celtic and Scottish Studies at Edinburgh University.

**WED 25 &
SAT 28 OCT**

Northern Treasures

6pm (1hr)

Sami culture is a collective treasure in story, song and music. Over two performances, storyteller/ joik singer **Berit Alette Mienna** and musician **Øistein Hanssen** share the deep roots of this northern lifestyle, the threats it faces, and its ongoing struggle to adapt and survive.

FRI 27 OCT

In the World and Out of It

6pm (1hr)

Sheena Blackhall, Maria Sappho and **Kate Steenhauer** present a pilot performance where storytelling, music and live visual art are intertwined in an evocation of traditional tales and ballads handed down from Stanley Robertson, the Scottish Traveller tradition bearer.



The Flying Horse of Earthdom
Image by John Slavin

SAT 28 OCT

The Feast of the Dead

4pm (1hr)

Tonight's full moon invites us to celebrate the collective ancestors in the spirit of Celtic Samhain and Norse Winter Nights. Storyteller **David Brown** shares Cornish, Scottish, Irish and Norse tales, uncanny stories that were familiar to the people that once inhabited these green isles of the grey North Sea.



SUN 29 OCT

The Flying Horse of Earthdom

6pm (1hr)

From the beautiful wonder tales carried by the Williamson Traveller family of Argyll, comes this life-affirming story of survival from prejudice, disability and violence. Told to Duncan Williamson (1928-2007) by an old cousin who had been through World War I, the story is retold for our time by storytellers **Linda Williamson, Jimmy Williamson, David Campbell** and **Mio Shudo**.

Family Events

Scottish Storytelling Centre -
unless stated

Live | Indoor Unless stated



Ailie Finlay and Kate Leiper
Photo by Peter D'Badin

SAT 14 OCT

The Town Mouse and the Country Mouse

11am (1hr)
£5 per child | All Ages

Come along on a multisensory adventure with artist/illustrator **Kate Leiper** and storyteller **Ailie Finlay**. Explore this well-loved tale, handling cosy props, soft quilts, crunchy leaves, snug nests and (watch out!) tinkling cat-bells. Then create an artwork inspired by the story, dipping into Kate's wonderful art box and have fun with colours, textures and tactile materials.

Fun for everyone but particularly suitable for children with additional needs and their families and friends.



Isis and Osiris

2pm (1hr)
£5 per child | 5+

Join belly dancer **Moyra Banks** and storyteller **Fergus McNicol** to dance the ancient Egyptian myth of Isis and Osiris. Prepare to fly, swim and fight with the gods of Ancient Egypt in this fun story-dance for everyone. A fully interactive session so comfortable shoes suggested!

SUN 15 OCT

Royal Botanic Garden Edinburgh
Arboretum Place, EH3 5NZ

Booking and info: Scottish Storytelling Centre -
www.sisf.org.uk, 0131 556 9579

Once There Was a Bug

Live | Outdoor

12pm-1.30pm & 2.30pm-4pm (20min sessions)
Free, drop-in | All Ages

Stories about trees, animals, bugs and much more, for children and their grown-ups.

Rewilding Cinderella: An Eco-Storytelling Concert

Live | Outdoor

1.30pm (1hr 15) | £5 • Storywalk 1 - All Ages • Storywalk 2 - 12+

Follow the Storytelling Choir across the Garden as Cinderella stories from all over the world are woven together to explore the global, local and intimate journey of the ash-child. With **Gauri Raje**, **Kestrel Morton**, **Laura Sampson**, **Wendy Shearer**, **Joanna Gilar** and **Fleur Hemmings**. Poetry from **Tunde Balogun**, music from **Heulwen Williams** and artistic enchantments by **Hannah Battershell**.

The event involves a limited use of hazelnut and walnut shells.

MON 16 OCT – WED 18 OCT

School of Storycraft

10.30am (2hrs)
£15 | 7-12yrs

Storytellers **Sarah Wedderburn-Ogilvy** and **Ailsa Dixon** invite you to a series of fun-filled storytelling sessions. A great introduction to live storytelling for aspiring young storytellers, venturing out to explore stories in their spoken form, through art, games and movement. Come and try to tell your own story!



FRI 20 OCT

Bear with Me: A Polar Bear in Scotland

1.30pm (1hr)
£5 | 8+

Arty is a day-dreaming, inquisitive young polar bear who was born in Scotland but longs to see the world. When he inadvertently ends up on a voyage far from home, Arty discovers more than he bargained for... This moving spoken-word show from critically acclaimed collective **Stuart Kenny** (poet), **Grant Robertson** (musician/composer), **Lottie Whittingham** (musician) and **Lewis Gillies** (illustrator), takes the audience on a rip-roaring adventure across heather, hill, ocean and snow. A sell-out hit at Edinburgh Fringe 2023.

SAT 21 OCT

Macastory's Caddie Capers

Live | Outdoor

11.30am (1hr)
£5 per person | 5+

Join the Old Town Caddies as they take you on a Greatest Hits tour of Auld Reekie in story, song and rhyme. You'll meet characters such as Deacon Brodie and Aggie the Fish Wife as the caddies lead you through the cobbled streets and closes to share the secrets of old Edinburgh with you! Interactive storytelling with the ever-entertaining **Macastory**.

The event involves walking on hilly terrain.

Visual Fun With Sports

by **Petre Dobre** and
Craig McCulloch
Presented by **Deaf Action**

1.30pm (1hr)
£5 | 3+

Get ready to dive into the world of sports in this exciting family show. Watch as Petre and Craig take you on a spectacular adventure where sports come to life through humorous expressions and body language. Originally performed at Edinburgh Deaf Festival, this piece is performed in Visual Vernacular and British Sign Language, with a BSL interpreter providing a voiceover in English.

SAT 28 OCT

Family Samhuinn

12pm (2hrs)
Free, ticketed | 3+

This delightful Beltane Fire Society tradition allows parents to share in the magic of the Samhuinn celebration with their little ones through storytelling, face painting and arts & crafts, in advance of the Samhuinn Fire Parade on Tue 31 Oct.

MON 16 OCT

Makin a Brew

11am (1hr)
£5 per child | All Ages

Musician **Gica Loening** and storyteller **Claire McNicol** share a mix of songs, rhymes, music, dance and stories aimed at small children, with older siblings welcome. Working with children and parents in Early Years Centres in North Edinburgh and Musselburgh over the last few years, Gica and Claire are delighted to create some magic in the lovely Storytelling Court!

THU 19 OCT

Kamishibai Workshop

11am (1hr 30)
£5 per child | 7+

Experience the art of Kamishibai storyboard with renowned storyteller, harpist and Urasenke Japanese Tea Master **Mio Shudo**. Along with enchanting harp music, Mio will welcome you to the world of original Japanese storytelling and show you how to create Kamishibai and some secret tricks! You will also learn manga drawing techniques, story composition and performing skills.



Festival Workshops



Art of the Storyteller

Scottish Storytelling Centre

Live | Indoor

10.30am (2hrs 30) - unless stated

All events are £16 (£12)

People have been sharing stories since language began. It is a subtle, complex and endlessly entertaining way of being human. Spend a morning with the best in the field to improve your skills and raise your ambitions. Hosted by Festival Director **Donald Smith**.

Peter Chand

SAT 14 OCT

Invigorate Your Story

The storyteller's relationship with the audience and their connection to the tale they are telling are vital. Liverpudlian-Irish storyteller **Maria Whotton** will explore ways to create a conducive atmosphere for listening, engaging interest and deepening connection to the different elements within a tale.

Please bring a traditional story of your choice to work on.

SUN 15 OCT

Something Old, Something New

10.30am (3hrs)

Storyteller **Colin Urwin** shares the process he often uses to forge stories that sound as if they've been around for millennia. 'Something borrowed' can be family anecdotes or scraps of folklore; 'something blue' might be a memory or emotion. Colin will guide participants through a process of creation in which 'something old' can be reimagined and turned into a wonder tale that is not just 'something new' but eminently tellable.

FRI 20 OCT

Telling the Big Tales

Telling a long story is like holding a complicated tune from start to finish. Danish

storyteller **Svend-Erik Engh** and **Donald Smith** uncover their different approaches to tackling two mighty tales from the John Francis Campbell collection, and encourage you to make your own choices.

SAT 21 OCT

The Right to be Heard

We all know that stories give a voice to the voiceless. And often the stories we dismiss as meaningless little folktales have the most impact. Stories have given people the strength to speak up and the space to be heard in the most extreme circumstances. How can we work with stories to enable, empower and encounter each other? With storyteller **Shonaleigh Cumbers**.

SUN 22 OCT

Common Sense: Adding Flavour to your Storytelling

10.30am (3hrs)

When we really start using our senses, our story can connect in a much deeper way. Join storyteller **Peter Chand** and let him guide you to add aroma, taste, texture and sound to your story, enabling it to sizzle. You will experience a variety of storytelling techniques, including use of memory and visualisation to help enhance your story, presentation or educational process.

FRI 27 OCT

Storytelling with Children

It is often said children are hard-wired to listen and engage with stories, but that doesn't mean they always make the easiest audience! Storyteller **Daniel Serridge** will explore the tools and techniques to engage younger audiences. From pace, voice, facial expression, rhythm, rhyme and humour, Daniel will break down some of the key tenets of good storytelling, offering you clear guidance on how to bring life to children's tales and leave your audience spellbound.

SAT 28 OCT & SUN 29 OCT

Basket of Stories

The Art of the Storyteller series ends with two relaxed sessions of crafting, storytelling and conversation. Inspired by a Story Blanket gifted by Canadian First Nation tellers, and by Scottish Traveller traditions, **Douglas Mackay** and **Hermione Toulson** reflect on what we can weave today in creative response to land, heritage, culture and the interrelation between them.



Global Lab

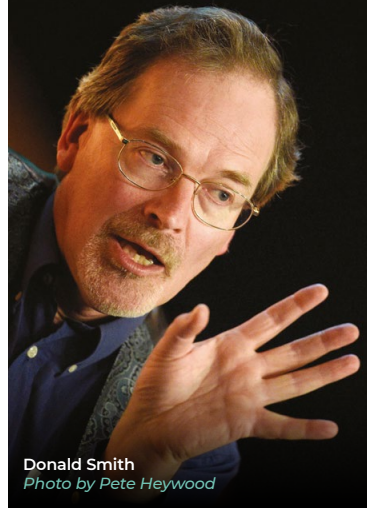
Online | Workshops

2pm (2hrs 30)

All events are £10 (£8) ★£6

The global storytelling community is given the opportunity to share, question and discuss, feeding each other's roots beyond geographical borders.

Hosted by Festival Director **Donald Smith**.



Donald Smith
Photo by Pete Heywood

WEEK ONE

Earth Charter, Earth Stories

Our planet's eco-system is tipping towards breakdown. Yet we know that nature has the capacity to regenerate and heal. In these sessions we look at Earth's own stories for inspiration. Join this week's sessions to experience how ecological passion drives twenty-first century storytelling and contribute your own insights.

In association with **Earth Charter International**.

MON 16 OCT

Rewilding Cinderella

An international collaboration to identify and compare versions of Cinderella turns up some surprising choices, and a chance to explore the doozy heroine's connections with nature. With storytellers **Gauri Raje, Joanna Gilar, Kestrel Morton, Sophie Gibson** and **Tunde Balogun**.

20 Box office: 0131 556 9579

TUE 17 OCT

Just Enough

Storytellers **Cara Roberts** from Scotland and **Catriona Blanke** from Germany explore the Earth Stories Collection and related tales. They invite us to think about how we can live in our human messiness alongside nature without mutual destruction, and on what stories can help us along.

WED 18 OCT

The Sea: Our Last Wilderness

Canadian storyteller **Dawne McFarlane** and Scottish musician **Mairi Campbell** nurture our connection with the sea and explore new ways to renew our broken bond with our planet's last great wilderness. Through story, music, science and the inspiration of indigenous and traditional cultures, we can reconnect and rewild.

THU 19 OCT

Green City: Healing and Hope?

For good or ill, the struggle for sustainability will be won or lost in our cities. This session explores the gardens, where we meet the people who are turning our home city green, in a quest for healing and hope. Gardens reach back into millennia of connection between people and nature, and they are a vital pathway into the future. With **Elly Crichton Stuart, Crian Cutanda** and **Donald Smith**.



WEEK TWO

Shared Lives

2023 marks the 75th anniversary of the **Universal Declaration of Human Rights** and in Scotland consultation has begun on a new Bill of Human Rights.

This week we look at the underlying values and lived experience that inspire a rights-based approach, nationally and internationally. Explore how dignity, respect, equality and compassion can undermine the dehumanizers, abusers and persecutors. It is better to light a candle than curse the darkness.



Cara Roberts
Photo by Chris Scott

MON 23 OCT

Our Place in Nature

In an increasingly online society, how do we connect to our place in nature? In this session we build on the experience of intergenerational community-based workshops and we go in search of our wild spaces, questioning our right to use them and how different generations experience them. With **David Hughes, Joanna Ramasawmy** and **Graham Richardson**.



TUE 24 OCT

Our Human Rights

Hosted by **Jemma Neville**, this session looks at what is involved in a rights-based approach to society, nationally and internationally, bringing together leading rights advocates with lived experiences of today's struggle to be human. How did the Universal Declaration of Human Rights emerge, and how can we move it forward in changed circumstances?

WED 25 OCT

Listening to Children

While children are the voices of tomorrow, we are not always listening to them today. This session explores a variety of approaches to empowering children through respect, collaboration and imaginative companionship with shared stories. Hosted by **Beth Cross**, with contributions from **Dr. Jennifer Markides** and **Donald Smith**.

THU 26 OCT

Our Cultural Rights

TRACS (Traditional Arts and Culture Scotland) has championed a grassroots approach in the field of cultural rights and how they affect education, languages and local arts. This session aims to show how international human rights and UNESCO frameworks can underpin a community led approach to culture. Hosted by TRACS Director **Steve Byrne** and The People's Parish Project Lead **David Francis**, with creative fieldworkers and local participants.



Edinburgh Events

Live | Indoor Unless stated

Discover storytelling events and workshops organised by our Edinburgh partners, featuring venues and outdoor locations in the Old Town and beyond.

Allison Galbraith
Photo by Elaine Livingstone



National Library of Scotland
George IV Bridge, EH1 1EW

Live storytelling | Free, ticketed

Booking and info: www.nls.uk

FRI 20 OCT

The Well at the World's End: Where the Heck Is It?

2pm (1hr) | 6+

Allison Galbraith shares family-friendly folktales collected by John Francis Campbell. Escape with a gang of farm animals as they set out to live the dream. Meet a fox with a flea problem and help solve the age-old riddle: where is the Well at the World's End, and how do you get there? An interactive, vivid storytelling show filled with gentle humour and a Gaelic-singing frog.

WED 25 OCT

Sgeul - Mighty and Magic

5pm (1hr)

Experience mighty and magic tales from the John Francis Campbell collection. These are presented in new adaptations, in Gaelic and English. Tradition bearer **Allan MacDonald** teams up with musician **Aidan O'Rourke**. Translation support from **Donald Smith**.

THU 26 OCT

A Tour and a Tale

11am (1hr) | 12+

Discover more about the NLS's current exhibition *Sgeul | Story: Folktales from the Scottish Highlands* – and about the life and many talents of story collector

John Francis Campbell (1821-1885), with curator **Ulrike Hogg**. There will also be an opportunity to hear one of the stories from *Popular Tales of the West Highlands*, told by **Beverley Casebow**.

TUE 31 OCT

Tales from the Witches Sabbath

5.30pm (1hr) | 14+

The Witchcraft Act of 1563-1736 came into fruition during a period of war, turmoil and famine, when ordinary people could easily fall under suspicion and face interrogation and death. **Joss Cameron, John Tantalón** and **Amy Dudley** take you on a journey of stories of those dark times, intertwined with music and songs.

National Library of Scotland
George IV Bridge, EH1 1EW

Workshops | Free, ticketed

Booking and info: www.nls.uk

TUE 17 OCT

Sgeulachdan Ghaisgeach ann am Beul-aithris nan Gàidheal Albannach

Hero Tales in Scotland's Gaelic Tradition

2pm (1hr 30)
Donations welcome | 12+

Storyteller **Ruairidh Maclean** takes us on a 'heritage tour' of Gaelic Scotland, introducing some of the heroic characters who appear in traditional tales that were recorded in the 19th and 20th centuries.

WED 18 OCT

Cuilg Mharbhtach Thorc agus Cathan Mòra

Deadly Boar- bristles and Mighty Battles

10.30am (1hr 30)
Donations welcome | 12+

A large number of Scotland's place-names are 'folkloric', in that they commemorate happenings that belong to the realm of story and imagination. Storyteller **Ruairidh Maclean** looks at some of the most famous examples of places in Gaelic Scotland where traditional tales are rooted in name and memory.

sisf.org.uk

THU 19 OCT

Alba & Èirinn: Òrain & Sgeulachdan na Fèinne

Scotland & Ireland: Songs & Stories of the Fianna

11am (1hr 30) | 12+

A group of musicians, singers and storytellers - **Mairi MacMillan**, **Martin MacIntyre**, **Gráinne Holland**, **Mhairi Hall** and **Éamon Doorley** - have been exploring the shared song and lore of Fionn MacCumhail and The Fianna in Scotland and Ireland. In this pre-performance workshop, Mairi and Martin will offer insights into the shared creative journey of the group and give access to some of the key songs and stories, before the performance on Friday 20 October. A knowledge of Gaelic would be useful, but not essential.

FRI 27 OCT

Bùth-Obrach Òrain Luaidh le Rena Gertz Waulking Songs with Rena Gertz

10.30am (2hrs) | Adults

Discover more about the tradition of Gaelic waulking songs with singer **Rena Gertz**. There will be a chance to learn some Gaelic songs, to find out the history of waulking the cloth in the Highlands and islands, to hear a traditional story, and to visit the exhibition *Sgeul / Story: Folktales of the Scottish Highlands*. No experience of Gaelic or singing required.

SUN 15 OCT

Royal Botanic Garden
Edinburgh
Arboretum Place, EH3 5NZ

Booking and info:
Scottish Storytelling Centre -
www.sisf.org.uk, 0131 556 9579

Once There Was a Bug

Live | Outdoor

12pm-1.30pm & 2.30pm-4pm
(20min sessions)
Free, drop-in | All Ages

Stories about trees, animals, bugs and much more, for children and their grown-ups.

Rewilding Cinderella: An Eco-Storytelling Concert

Live | Outdoor

1.30pm (1hr 15) | £5
Storywalk 1 - All Ages
Storywalk 2 - 12+

Follow the Storytelling Choir across the Garden as Cinderella stories from all over the world are woven together to explore the global, local and intimate journey of the ash-child. With **Gauri Raje**, **Kestrel Morton**, **Laura Sampson**, **Wendy Shearer**, **Joanna Gilar** and **Fleur Hemmings**. Poetry from **Tunde Balogun**, music from **Heulwen Williams** and artistic enchantments by **Hannah Battershell**.

The event involves a limited use of hazelnut and walnut shells.

Go Local

Live | Indoor

Unless stated

Autumn is for cosy story gatherings and you don't need to travel far to be part of them. Discover a rich programme of local storytelling events, from the southwest to the very north of Scotland!



Mairi Campbell
Photo by Julia Fayngruen

Angus

Edzell

SUN 22 OCT

Gorge-ous Nature Stories

Live | Outdoor

The Burn Estate, Blue Door Walk, Glenesk, Brechin, DD9 7YP
2pm (2hrs) | £6

Storyteller **Cara Roberts** takes you through the Blue Door, on a story walk beside the beautiful Gannochy Gorge. Come and find out some of the myths and stories associated with our native species and landscape. Hear folktales, and share celebrations of the rivers, trees and birds that have shaped our understanding of the world.

Please be aware the path is uneven.

Booking and info:
Cara Roberts - cara@onenatureeducation.com, www.onenatureeducation.com

Montrose Basin

SUN 22 OCT

Wild Geese and Other Tales

Scottish Wildlife Trust Visitor Centre, Rossie Braes, A92, DD10 9TA
5pm (1hr) | £6

Local storyteller and naturalist **Cara Roberts** shares mythic and real tales of wild geese, and reflects on our need for nature connection and

rewilding. Spend some time in the Scottish Wildlife Trust Visitor Centre, watching the geese land, before or after the performance.

Booking and info:
scottishwildlifetrust.org.uk or Cara Roberts - cara@onenatureeducation.com, www.onenatureeducation.com

Argyll

Isle of Mull

Bunessan

MON 13 NOV

Once Upon a Time there Was a War

Bunessan Community Hall, PA67 6DP
7.30pm (1hr)
Pay What You Can

The harsh reality of war meets the magic of love songs and art, as Danish storyteller **Svend-Erik Engh** shares stories from real-life soldiers gathered in a decade of research, whilst musician **Mairi Campbell** sings songs of peace and love, from the canon of Scottish traditional song and her own writings. Danish artist **Tea Bendix** illustrates words and music, bringing another dimension into the stories. Hosted by **An Tobar and Mull Theatre**.

Booking and info: **www.antobarandmulltheatre.co.uk**



Part of the **Right To Be Human** series



Tea Bendix
Photo by Klaus Nedergaard

Lochawe

SUN 22 OCT

Rickle O Stanes

St Conan's Kirk, PA33 1AQ
3pm (1hr) | By donation

This is a show about Scotland's land: about its rocks and mud, what it's grown, what lives it's sustained, how it's been bought, fought for and wounded. Through powerful and playful storytelling and traditional song, **Shona Cowie, Neil Sutcliffe** and dramaturg **Liam Hurley** explore the layers of history on which we stand today, piling up to create a performance as radical as it is entertaining.

Info: **enquiries@stconanskirk.org.uk**



Part of the **Right To Be Human** series



Oban

TUE 14 NOV

Events hosted by
The Rockfield Centre
Rockfield Brae, 19 Stevenson
Street, PA34 5DQ

Booking and info:
therockfieldcentre.org.uk

The Laughing Mermaid and Other Stories

4pm (1hr)
Pay What You Can | 7+

Welcome to an hour of funny folktales from Denmark with storytellers **Svend-Erik Engh** and **Alice Fernbank** bringing you an assortment of stories from Svend-Erik's book *Danish Folktales*. Meet laughing mermaids, giant snakes, a fat cat, a runaway sledge, giants, devils, and of course Vikings.

Not suitable for children under 7.

Odin's Eye and the Art of Seeing

7pm (1hr) | Pay What You Can

'When a proton beam of radio therapy fires into my eye, ultraviolet auroras appear in my vision. An unexpected moment of beauty in a cancer treatment centre in the Wirral opens the doorway to a world of Æsir and Vanir gods, and their epic quests in the pursuit of *seeing*.'

Storyteller **Alice Fernbank** shares a personal story of ill-health and healing, threaded through the Norse tales of Odin, Gullveig, and Mimir. Directed by **Kath Burlinson**.

RT BH Part of the
Right To Be Human
series

26 Box office: 0131 556 9579

Clackmannanshire

Alloa

**SAT 21 –
FRI 27 OCT**

Wild Hillfoots Storytelling Festival

'Being Human'

Hillfoots Tales welcomes you to Alloa! Enjoy four days of traditional tales featuring guest storyteller **Shona Cowie** and local storytellers **Eleanor Bell**, **Rosie Brown**, **Joanne Dowd**, **Mary Snaddon**, **Tania Dron**, **Sue Bytheway**, **Gail Watson**, **Heather Kirby** and **Laura Allison**.

Full programme, booking and info: www.hillfoottales.co.uk, hillfoottales@gmail.com, 0780 655 906.

21 OCT
Stand Up

Shona Cowie, Joanne Dowd and Tania Dron

25 OCT
Rights of the Round Table
Hillfoots Tales

26 OCT
Finding the Right Story
Joanne Dowd and Sue Bytheway

27 OCT
Storytellers Unleashed
Hillfoots Tales

Dollar

WED 18 OCT

Tales from the Japanese Garden

Live | Outdoor

The Japanese Garden at Cowden, Upper Hillfoot Rd, FK14 7PL
11am (1hr 30)
Tour included in garden ticket

Welcome to Sha Raku En, the place of pleasure and delight. Step through the archway and join a unique story tour around the garden. Hear Japanese tales and of the adventures of its creator Ella Christie with storytellers **Lindsey Gibb** and **Mio Shudo**.

The story tour is suitable for all ages. Please note the paths are loose gravel and slope upwards at various points.

Booking and info:
[Nicola Dibley - cowden-garden.myshopify.com](http://NicolaDibley-cowden-garden.myshopify.com), outreach@cowdengarden.com, 07876 117 703



26 Box office: 0131 556 9579

Dumfries & Galloway

Dumfries

Events hosted by
The Stove Network

Full programme,
booking and info:
www.wildgoosefestival.scot

**THU 19 -
SUN 29 OCT**

Wild Goose Festival

Enjoy our annual exploration of nature, creativity and place across eleven days. The family-friendly programme celebrates the incredible journey undertaken by five species of wild geese from Greenland, Iceland and Svalbard to the Solway estuary, in our very own region. Produced by **The Stove Network** and held in Dumfries and surrounding areas, the festival unites key partners from across the region to promote connection with our natural world through creativity, education and community engagement.

THU 26 OCT

Northern Tales and Tunes

The Stove Network & Café,
100 High St, DG1 2BJ

7.30pm (1hr)
£5 | Adults and 12+

Sami storyteller/joik singer **Berit Alette Mienna** and musician **Øistein Hanssen** travel to Dumfries for a cosy and unique evening of stories, music and songs from the far north.

Wanlockhead

FRI 27 OCT

The Ballad of the Wanlock Ingot

Wanlockhead Community Centre, Manse Road, ML12 6UT
7pm (2hrs) | By donation (suggested £5), on the door

From deep in the earth of the Southern Uplands to the bottom of the ocean at the Cape of Good Hope, fate carries a sailor and a lead ingot far from home. Through traditional stories, live illustration and readings from the original book, **Jean Edmiston**, **Andrew Foley** and **Kirsten Milliken** explore the lives, folklore and customs of Wanlockhead's 18th century miners.

Info: **Kirsten Milliken** -
www.kirstenmilliken.co.uk, millikenkirsten@gmail.com



Jean Edmiston

Dundee

Events hosted by **Blether Tay-Gither**

Booking and info:
Owen Pilgrim - storypilgrim@hotmail.com

SUN 15 OCT

Tales of Care

Live | Outdoor

University of Dundee Botanic Garden, Riverside Dr, DD2 1QH
2.30pm (1hr) | Free, drop-in

Blether Tay-Gither storytellers invite you to the lush green setting of the Botanic Garden as they weave stories on the theme of Care, for the enjoyment of all families.

The event is in conjunction with the Festival of the Future organised by the University of Dundee.

WED 25 OCT

Journey to the South

HMS Unicorn,
S Victoria Dock Rd, DD1 3BP
7pm (2hrs) | £5

Dundee storytellers are pleased to host special guests **Anna Conomos-Wedlock** and **Rebecca Vučetić** in a night of stories and music from Greece, Asia Minor and Scotland. Set sail and get ready for a spellbinding journey from the North Sea to the Mediterranean.

Fife

Events hosted by Lang
Spoon Tales

Booking and info:
Kate Walker - kate.
storyteller@hotmail.co.uk,
07745 957 134

Dunfermline

TUE 17 OCT

Tales of Exile & Freedom

Carnegie Hall Studio
Theatre, East Port, KY12 7JA
7.30 (1hr 30) | £5 (£4)

Argyll-based **Gauri Rajee**
and local Fife storytellers
**David Hughes, Kate
Walker** and **Sarah
Wedderburn-Ogilvy** share
stories of separation and
liberty. Tales of yesterday,
spoken for today.

SAT 11 NOV

Fabulous Fables

Dunfermline Carnegie
Library and Galleries,
1 Abbot St,
KY12 7NL
2pm (1hr 30)
Free, ticketed | 4-10 yrs

Local storytellers **Mary
Snaddon, Kate Walker** and
Sarah Wedderburn-Ogilvy
craft and tell old stories of
wonder and wisdom
tales for today.

Children must be
accompanied by
an adult.

Falkland

THU 19 OCT

Wild Adventures: Stories of Connection

The Stables, KY15 7AF
2pm (2hrs)
£6 (£4) per child, adults free

Storytellers **David Hughes**
and **Sarah Wedderburn-
Ogilvy** host a family session of
stories and wild crafting. Bring
your grown-ups and join us
for some nature crafting as we
search for the wild stories that
connect us.

Booking and info:
wildstoryweaver.eventbrite.com

SAT 28 OCT

Rooted Tales: Stories of Land and Lore

The Stables, KY15 7AF
2pm (2hrs) | £8 (£6)

Storytellers **David Hughes**
and **Sarah Wedderburn-
Ogilvy** share stories to deepen
our connection with land and
with place. Have a go at some
simple wild crafts as you listen
to the tales.

Booking and info:
wildstoryweaver.eventbrite.com

St. Andrews

SAT 14 OCT

Bennachie Speaks

Laidlaw Music Centre,
McPherson Recital Centre,
Queen's Terrace, KY16 9QF
3pm (1hr) | £5

Musician **Mairi McKeown**
and storyteller **Ailsa Dixon**
weave legend and history
with freshly-composed music
to explore the past, present
and future of Aberdeenshire
mountain Bennachie: from
rock formations and 900
year-old love triangles to the
impact of climate change on
its slopes. Through song and
story, the mountain speaks.

Booking and info: **Ailsa Dixon**
- ailsaedixon@gmail.com,
FB: @AilsaDixonStoryteller

Glasgow

Glasgow

TUE 24 OCT

Sangs an' Clatter: Northern Tales and Tunes

Blackfriars, 36 Bell St, G1 1LG
7.30pm (2hrs 30)
Pay What You Can (£5-£15)

Sami storyteller/joik singer
Berit Alette Mienna and
musician **Øistein Hanssen**
join the Village storytelling
crowd for a unique evening of
stories, music and song from
the far north. Hosted by **The
Village Storytelling Centre**.

Booking and info: www.villagestorytelling.org.uk,
info@villagestorytelling.org.uk,
0141 882 3025



Highland

Dornoch

FRI 13 OCT

Tales and Tunes

Dornoch Library, 8 High St,
IV25 3SH

11am (1hr) | Free

Adults and children 7+

Enjoy a morning of stories and music in the company of storyteller **Bob Pegg** and listen to the sounds of Scotland's oldest instruments.

*Info: Bob Pegg -
catsback@gmail.com*

Evanton

SAT 25 NOV

Multicultural Ceilidh

Victoria Diamond Jubilee Hall,
Hermitage St, IV16 9YG
3pm (3hrs) | By donation

Storyteller **Lizzie McDougall** invites you to a multicultural and family-friendly ceilidh of stories, songs and music, with tea and scones. A lively afternoon to celebrate traditional stories and music from Scotland and distant lands, with contributions from international musicians living in the Highlands.

*Info: Lizzie McDougall -
lizzie.mcdougall@gmail.com*

Fort Augustus

SUN 12 NOV

An Cruinneachadh

Fort Augustus Village Hall,
Church Rd, PH32 4DG
2pm (3hrs) | Free

Thighibh cruinn airson cuirm le farsaingeachd de dh'òraidean, fiolm agus ceòl beò a tha a' mealadh dualchas bheartach sgìrean Chill Chuimein, Ghleann a Garadh agus Ghleann Mhoireasdan.

Cluinneamaid bho **Euan Robertson**, dealbhadair fiolm a th' air duaisean a thogail, fìdhleir le daimh dhan àite **Charlie Grey**, eitn-eòlaiche **Raghnaid Sandilands**, **Andrew Grant MacKenzie** eòlaiche eachdraidh agus luchd-ciùil **Munro Gaul**, **Neil Baillie** agus **Ceit Langhorne**. Bheir òigridh na sgìre blasad de sgeulachdan ionadail dhuinn cuideachd.

Mar phàirt de An Cruinneachadh.

*Fios: www.the-gathering.
co.uk, ancrunnjg@gmail.com*

The Gathering

Explore the rich cultural heritage of Fort Augustus, Glengarry and Glenmoriston with filmmaker **Euan Robinson**, local fiddler **Charlie Grey**, ethnographer **Raghnaid Sandilands**, historian **Andrew Grant MacKenzie** and musicians **Munro Gaul**, **Neil Baillie** and **Ceit Langhorne**. Young people from the area will also share local stories.

Part of An Cruinneachadh Community Arts Programme.

*Info: www.the-gathering.
co.uk, ancrunnjg@gmail.com*

Halkirk

SAT 14 OCT

Folklore and Humans: Where Two Worlds Meet

The Ross Institute, B874,
KW12 6XZ

12pm, 3pm & 6pm (2hrs)
Free, ticketed

Join a trio of storytellers exploring the interplay between humans and mystical characters from local folklore.

Jane Mather (12pm) will introduce the magical figures and wise women of Caithness. **Alexandria Patience** (3pm) will examine stories of herbs, health, brews and witches, and **Griogair MacAllein** (6pm) will lead a vivid, immersive workshop on darker local tales.

*Booking and info:
Cally Maxwell - www.
sidhchailleannart.com,
sidhchailleannart@gmail.
com, 07811 873 507*

Inverness

SAT 11 NOV

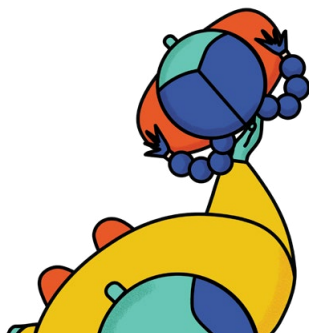
Women Making History Banners

The Bike Shed, Grant Street,
IV3 8BN

3pm (2hrs) | By donation

Journey through equality stories and songs from the Highland banners, made to celebrate 100 years since women got the vote. Storyteller and artist **Lizzie McDougall** will share some of the stories on the banners, with musical and poetry contributions from the many talented women who contributed to the banner making.

*Info: Lizzie McDougall - lizzie.
mcdougall@gmail.com*



Kincaig

TUE 14 NOV

Events hosted by
Storylands Sessions

Booking and info:
badenochstorylands.com

Storylands: Early Show

6pm (1hr)
£5 (£3, child free) | All Ages

Hamish Napier and **Merryn Glover** invite you to an evening of stories, music and poetry for all ages. You are welcome to contribute your favourite stories or songs, or you can just relax and listen! Featuring guest storytellers **Inés Álvarez Villa** and **David Francis**.

Storylands: Late Show

8pm (2hrs)
£10 (£5, child free)

Guest storytellers **Inés Álvarez Villa** and **David Francis** bring their stories to the Cairngorms. Contribute your own favourite stories or songs, or you just relax and enjoy the night! Hosted by **Hamish Napier** and **Merryn Glover**.



Ullapool

SAT 21 OCT

Journeying Towards Equality

Ullapool Village Hall,
Market Street, IV26 2XE
3pm (2hrs) | By donation

Journey through equality stories and songs from the Highland banners, made to celebrate 100 years since women got the vote.

Storyteller and artist **Lizzie McDougall** will share their stories with musical and poetry contributions from Ullapool community.

Info: **Lizzie McDougall** -
lizzie.mcdougall@gmail.com

Midlothian

Temple

SAT 21 OCT

Myths of Midlothian

Temple Village Hall, EH23 4SQ
2pm (1hr 30) | Free, drop-in

An afternoon of stories and delicious cakes in the remote village of Temple. Hear local storytellers **Stephen McCabe** and **Elaine Robertson** share enchanting tales from the lush countryside and historic towns of Midlothian! There will be space for everyone to contribute stories, be they local legends or just embarrassing tales from your Midlothian childhoods.

Info: **Stephen McCabe** - stephen@naturetherapyonline.net



Lizzie McDougall
Photo by Sunny Moodie

Moray

Findhorn

FRI 24 NOV

Tales from the Fire

Universal Hall, The Park,
IV36 3TZ
7.30pm (2hrs) | £5

Storytellers **Carol Scorer**, **Peter Vallance** and **Margot Henderson** invite you to an evening of stories that have been born from the fire, and that we hope will bring you wisdom, healing and transformation.

Booking and info:
www.universalhall.co.uk

North East

Aberdeen & Peterculter

FRI 6 OCT – TUE 28 NOV

Aberdeen & Beyond Storytelling Festival

Join GAS - Grampian Association of Storytellers and the Elphinstone Institute for a jamboree of stories from Aberdeen and beyond, reflecting the real international character of the area. With special guests **Zahra Afsah**, **Anna Conomos-Wedlock**, **Rebecca Vučetić**, **Linda Williamson** and **Nicola Wright**, joined by local storytellers **Lola Dabiri**, **Khlood Ereksousi**, **Arantxa García de Sola**, **Phyll McBain**, **Jackie Ross**, **Nana Tomova** and many more.

Full programme, booking and info:
www.abdn.ac.uk/elphinstone
www.grampianstorytellers.wordpress.com

6 OCT

First Friday Fling – GAS

18 OCT

The Voice Shall Always Remain –
Zahra Afsah and Khlood Ereksousi

**RT
BH** Part of the
**Right To Be
Human** series

20 OCT

Bennachie Speaks – Ailsa Dixon and Mairi McKeown

24 OCT

The Promise – Anna Conomos-Wedlock and Rebecca Vučetić

27 OCT

The Three Apprentices – Phyll McBain, David G Pullar and
Cara Roberts

30 OCT

Stories from the Gelly – Linda Williamson

3 NOV

First Friday Fling – GAS

7 NOV

Naija-Tales: Tell It Like a Nigerian – Lola Dabiri

17 NOV

Ballads and Stories – GAS and TMSA - Traditional Music and
Song Association of Scotland.

18 NOV

A User's Guide to Stories & Heritage – Nicola Wright

19 NOV

Toilet Tales – Jackie Ross and Nicola Wright

21 NOV

Threads of Gold: Ancient Bulgarian Tales – Nana Tomova

28 NOV

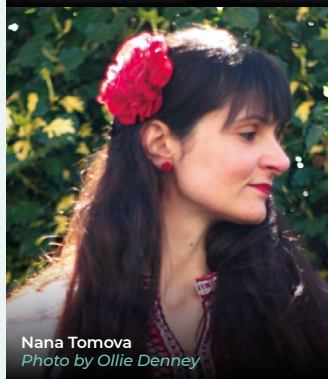
Phyll & Friends – Phyll McBain



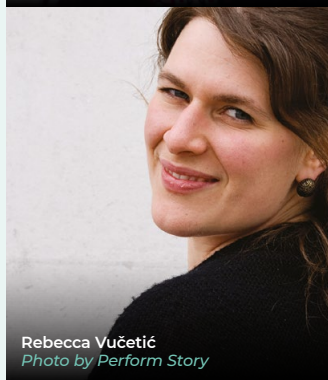
Lola Dabiri
Photo by Rory Raitt



David G Pullar



Nana Tomova
Photo by Ollie Denney



Rebecca Vučetić
Photo by Perform Story

North Lanarkshire

Shotts

SAT 28 OCT

In the Hartwood

Spring Hill Community Hub,
Knoll Croft Road, ML7 5JF
2pm (1hr 30) | Free, ticketed

Join storytellers **Jane Mather** and **Heather Yule** on a journey in tribute to those interred in pauper's graves at the now derelict Hartwood Hospital, and the friends who tend the cemetery and make it a tranquil oasis. Let stories and harp music guide you into the faerie realm where dreams are powerful and nature spirits abound. The event includes Q&A with **Friends of Hartwood**.

Booking and info:
www.spotlightshotts.org



Part of the
Right To Be Human
series

Orkney

**THU 26 –
SUN 29 OCT**

Orkney Storytelling Festival

Welcome to the small festival with a big heart! This year we are honoured to host storytellers **Peter Chand** and **Shonaleigh Cumbers**, joined by renowned artist and illustrator **Katherine Soutar**, who will be creating live art during the storytelling sessions.

32 Box office: 0131 556 9579

Our guests will be joined by local storytellers **Tom Muir**, **Fran Flett Hollinrake**, **Marita Luck**, **Erin Farley** and **Chris Perry** on a four-day celebration of traditional stories in a series of venues throughout the islands, also including 12th-century St Magnus Cathedral.

Full programme, booking and info:
orkneystorytellingfestival.co.uk

Perth and Kinross

Aberfeldy

FRI 20 OCT

Sami Night: Film & Storytelling

Birks Cinema, 1 Dunkeld St,
PH15 2DA
5.30pm (3hrs)
£10, under 18s free

Join us for a film screening followed by a storytelling ceilidh and feast, sharing traditions and foods from Scandinavia. Suitable for families.

Booking and info:
www.birkscinema.co.uk

Yoik
(1hr)

Film

The untold story of one of the oldest music cultures in Europe. This film aims to show how Sami people found their own musical path.

Directed by Maj Lis Skaltje, 2014.

East of the Sun and West of the Moon
(1hr 30)

Live storytelling

A feast of story and song from the Sami tradition with storyteller/joik singer **Berit Alette Mienna** and musician **Øistein Hanssen**. Hosted by local storyteller **Claire Hewitt**.

SAT 21 OCT

Joik Singing Workshop

Lesser Town Hall Aberfeldy,
2 Crieff Rd, PH15 2BJ
2pm (2hrs)
Free, ticketed | Donations welcome

Sami storyteller/joik singer **Berit Alette Mienna** and musician **Øistein Hanssen** guide you through the ancient Sami song tradition of joik. Immerse yourself in the magic of northern sounds. Hosted by **Claire Hewitt**.

Booking and info: **Claire Hewitt** - clairesach12@gmail.com, 07500 118 047



Kenmore

Events hosted by The
Scottish Crannog Centre
Loch Tay, PH15 2HY

Booking and info:
www.crannog.co.uk
info@crannog.co.uk
01887 830 583

**SAT 7 &
SUN 8 OCT**

Celtic Autumn: The Iron Age Bake Off

10am (6hrs) - Tours start
every 45 minutes
£7, under 5s free (family
tickets available)

Celebrate the harvest on Loch
Tay! You can listen to stories
around the fire, explore our
village and taste various
ancient delicacies. Smoked
Loch Tay trout, baked honey
cakes, stewed wild fruits,
take on the role of judge and
decide which of our teams'
dishes is the best! Bog butter
on toast anyone?

TUE 31 OCT

Samhain Festival

7pm (2hrs 30)
£20 (£15 child, under 5s free)

Join us as we celebrate
the ancient Celtic festival
of Samhain. Listen to live
music, storytelling and
song alongside fire and
magic, games with the
Hedgewitches, shadow
puppet performances, and
our famous Ram Burn!

Guisings is encouraged and
there will be prizes for the
best dressed! Remember to
wrap up warm!

sisf.org.uk



Berit Alette Mienna
Photo by Ølstein Hanssen

Shetland

Bigton

SUN 22 OCT

Wave Riders

Hymhus, ZE2 9JF
3pm (1hr)
£10 (£5), on the door

Three women, three ships, three voyages. Journey back in time
with storyteller **Jan Bee Brown** and musician **Renzo Spiteri**
as they share a series of saga-driven sonic stories of Viking
pioneers Unn the Deep-minded, Gudrid the Far-traveller and
Melkorka the Silent. Setting sail in small boats, our heroines
forged better ways to live in peace with rights, freedoms and
respect, standing shoulder to shoulder.

Booking and info: **Jan Bee Brown** – 07799 852 162



Part of the **Right To Be Human** series



Magaidh Smith
Photo by Quay Media

South Lanarkshire

Biggar

SAT 25 NOV

The Wee Folk of the Woods

Wiston Lodge, Millrigg Road,
Wiston, ML12 6HT
12.30pm (3hrs) | £8

Follow the Path of the Little People with storytellers **Kirsten Milliken** and **David Hughes** for a family-friendly story walk with games and creative activities. Enjoy mulled apple juice and toasted marshmallows by the fireside, and hear tales of the creatures that live in the woods, in the branches of the trees and behind the faerie doors.

Booking and info:
www.wistonlodge.com
info@wistonlodge.co.uk

Western Isles

Isle of Lewis

Stornoway

Events hosted by **An Taigh Ceilidh**
16 Church Street, HS1 2DH

Booking and info: www.gaelichebrides.com,
failte@taighceilidh.com, 07554 665 549

THU 5 OCT

Cuairt a Bhaile

Live | Outdoor

2pm (1hr 30) | £6

Cuairt a' Bhaile sa Ghàidhlig an cois **Magaidh Nic a' Ghobhainn** agus na caraidean. Seachas a' chladaich chun Gearraidh Chruaidh.

The Town Walk

A walk around Stornoway with **Magaidh Smith** and friends. Stories from the shoreline to the Castle Grounds.

THU 2 NOV

Blàr air Mointeach Leòdhais

2pm (1hr 30) | £6

Feasgar sheachas mu na làraich far an robh cath agus othail air mòinteach Leòdhais an cois **Magaidh Nic a Ghobhainn** agus na caraidean.

Clan Battles in Lewis

An afternoon of stories of battle and clan wars in the Lewis landscape with **Magaidh Smith** and friends.



Douglas Mackay
Photo by Roslin Animate

Events hosted by Museum Nan Eilean

Booking and info:
www.outerhebridessheritage.org.uk
w.seaborne@cne-siar.gov.uk

THU 19 OCT

Storytelling Day

Guest storyteller **Douglas Mackay** travels to Stornoway to present a number of Halloween-themed sessions for all ages and invites you to join the fun.

Interactive Family Storytelling

Museum nan Eilean,
Lews Castle Grounds,
HS2 OXS

11am & 1pm (1hr)
Free, ticketed

Family-friendly sessions
featuring storytelling, arts
and crafts.

Open Hearth

Lews Castle Bar,
Lews Castle, HS2 OXS
7pm (2hrs)
£6 (drop-in), £4 (online)

Informal and relaxed
storytelling evening,
with the chance to
contribute your
stories.

Map of Stories

Enjoy an hour of multimedia storytelling where a world of local Scottish stories unfolds through the live voices of traditional storytellers and site-specific film footage of the landscapes they emerge from. Produced by **Transgressive North** as part of VisitScotland's Year of Stories 2022.

www.mapofstories.scot



Community Programme

MON 2 OCT – THU 30 NOV

The Big Scottish Story Ripple

The SISF Community & Family Programme pairs local storytellers with schools and community groups in live and digital settings throughout Scotland. Take part in The Big Scottish Story Ripple by holding a storytelling event led by a storyteller from the Scottish Storytelling Forum's Directory. Groups can apply for a subsidy that will cover the cost of the storyteller's fees and in return, successful applicants must offer a good deed back to their local community on, or before, St Andrew's Day.

For more information contact:
storytelling@tracscotland.org



Photo by Ludovic Farine

The Stone Soup Collective

Scottish Storytelling Forum in partnership with **Re-Act: Refugee Action Scotland** will work with groups of women from refugee communities across Edinburgh on the theme of 'Right To Be Human' to bring out the stories that are important to them.

Through participatory workshops the women will learn new skills, improve their confidence and have a platform to make their voices and their stories heard. The project will culminate in a sharing of work which will be open to the public, so please keep an eye on our website and social media platforms for more updates:

www.storytellingforum.co.uk @scotstoryforum

Funded by **EVOC**
(Edinburgh Voluntary Organisations Council)



Festival City Stories is a project between JACK ARTS SCOTLAND and Festivals Edinburgh. Find out more: www.edinburghfestivalcity.com/about/stories

The Haggis Box

Haggis, Neeps
& Tatties

Traditional, Vegetarian & Vegan (NGCI)

Coffee, Scotch Eggs,
Quiche, Soup,
Ice Cream, Local
Beers, Cakes &
Traybakes

Sit in
or take
away!

Find us on the
Royal Mile in the
Scottish Storytelling Centre
43-45 High Street, Edinburgh

Open Daily from 10am



Festival Diary

Edinburgh



DATE	TIME	EVENT	LOCATION	PAGE
FRI 13	6pm	Tales of Exile and Sanctuary	SSC	07
	8pm	Open Hearth	SSC	10
SAT 14	10.30am	Invigorate Your Story	SSC	19
	11am	The Town Mouse and the Country Mouse	SSC	07
	2pm	Isis and Osiris	SSC	16
	6pm	The Iron Hag and Other Tales	SSC	13
SUN 15	8pm	Wave Riders	SSC	07
	10.30am	Something Old, Something New	SSC	19
	12pm	Once There Was a Bug	RBGE	16
	1.30pm	Rewilding Cinderella: An Eco-Storytelling Concert	RBGE	16
	6pm	Where the Feather Falls	SSC	13
MON 16	8pm	Letters to Jackie	SSC	07
	10.30am	School of Storycraft	SSC	16
	11am	Makin a Brew	SSC	17
	2pm	Rewilding Cinderella	Online	20
	6pm	Calvino 100	SSC	13
TUE 17	8pm	Joyfully Grimm: Reimagining a Queer Adolescence	SSC	07
	10.30am	School of Storycraft	SSC	16
	2pm	Sgeulachdan Ghaisgeach ann am Beul-aithris nan Gàidheal Albannach	NLS	23
	2pm	Just Enough	Online	20
	6pm	Up the Middle Road: Stories from the Crichton Royal Asylum	SSC	13
WED 18	8pm	The Voice Shall Always Remain	SSC	07
	10.30am	School of Storycraft	SSC	16
	10.30am	Cuilg Mharbhtach Thorc agus Cathan Mòra	NLS	23
	2pm	The Sea: Our Last Wilderness	Online	20
	6pm	New Wave	SSC	13
THU 19	8pm	Don Quixote Rides Again	SSC	08
	11am	Kamishibai Workshop	SSC	17
	11am	Alba & Èirinn: Òrain & Sgeulachdan na Fèinne	NLS	23
	2pm	Green City: Healing and Hope?	Online	20
	6pm	Scots Character	SSC	14
FRI 20	8pm	Red Aphrodite	SSC	11
	10.30am	Telling the Big Tales	SSC	19
	1.30pm	Bear with Me: A Polar Bear in Scotland	SSC	17
	2pm	The Well At the World's End: Where the Heck Is It?	NLS	22
	6pm	Sgeul - Mighty and Magic	SSC	14
FRI 20	7.30pm	Guid Crack	WB	11
	8pm	Alba & Èirinn: Òrain & Sgeulachdan na Fèinne	SSC	11

DATE	TIME	EVENT	LOCATION	PAGE
SAT 21	10.30am	The Right to be Heard	SSC	19
	11.30am	Macastory's Caddie Capers	SSC	17
	1.30pm	Visual Fun with Sports	SSC	17
	4pm	The Girl's Own Survival Guide to History	SSC	14
	6pm	Odin's Eye and the Art of Seeing	SSC	08
	8pm	Shadow Walking	SSC	08
SUN 22	10.30am	Common Sense: Adding Flavour to your Storytelling	SSC	19
	2pm	SMHAF Writing Awards	SSC	11
	6pm	A Garment for the Moon	SSC	14
	8pm	Orpheus Orfeo	SSC	08
MON 23	2pm	Our Place in Nature	Online	21
	6pm	In the Hartwood	SSC	08
	8pm	The Displaced Heart	SSC	11
TUE 24	2pm	Our Human Rights	Online	21
	6pm	Alan Bruford Lecture	SSC	15
	8pm	Rickle O Stanes	SSC	08
WED 25	2pm	Listening to Children	Online	21
	5pm	Sgeul - Mighty and Magic	NLS	22
	6pm	Northern Treasures	SSC	15
	8pm	Open Hearth	SSC	10
THU 26	11am	A Tour and a Tale	NLS	22
	2pm	Our Cultural Rights	Online	21
	6pm	Arise!	SSC	09
	8pm	Fire from the Woods	SSC	09
FRI 27	10.30am	Storytelling with Children	SSC	19
	10.30am	Bùth-Obrach Òrain Luaidh le Rena Gertz	NLS	23
	6pm	In the World and Out of It	SSC	15
	7.30pm	Guid Crack	WB	11
	8pm	The Promise	SSC	11
SAT 28	10.30am	Basket of Stories	SSC	19
	12pm	Family Samhuinn	SSC	17
	4pm	The Feast of the Dead	SSC	15
	6pm	Northern Treasures	SSC	15
	8pm	Once Upon a Time There Was a War	SSC	09
SUN 29	10.30am	Basket of Stories	SSC	19
	12pm	Human Library	SSC	11
	6pm	The Flying Horse of Earthdom	SSC	15
	8pm	Open Hearth	SSC	10
TUE 31	5.30pm	Tales From the Witches Sabbath	NLS	22

Location Key

- NLS** National Library of Scotland
RBGE Royal Botanic Garden Edinburgh
SSC Scottish Storytelling Centre
WB Waverley Bar



How to get here



Scottish Storytelling Centre | 43-45 High Street | EH1 1SR

The **Scottish Storytelling Centre's** award-winning building is the hub of the Festival, located halfway down Edinburgh's Royal Mile, within easy walking distance of Princes Street and Waverley train station. There is no parking directly outside the Centre, but the Lothian bus number 35 stops outside with a taxi rank close by.



Tickets

0131 556 9579 | sisf.org.uk

[f](#) [@](#) [t](#) @scotstoryfest #RightToBeHuman



TRACS (Traditional Arts & Culture Scotland) (SCIO SC043009) is a co-operative network which champions our shared traditions of music, song, storytelling, dance, crafts, customs and local languages. TRACS celebrates the local distinctiveness of Scotland's places: our intangible cultural heritage. TRACS brings together the Traditional Music Forum (SCIO SC042867), the Scottish Storytelling Forum (SCIO SC052330) and the Traditional Dance Forum of Scotland (SCIO SC045085). Supported by Creative Scotland and The City of Edinburgh Council.



Our Partners



Special thanks to Edinburgh partners: National Library of Scotland, Royal Botanic Garden Edinburgh, University of Edinburgh - School of Scottish Studies Archives, Scottish Mental Health Arts Festival, Waverley Bar, Beltane Fire Society.

Special thanks to our regional partners in Angus, Argyll, Clackmannanshire, Dumfries & Galloway, Dundee, Fife, Glasgow, Highland, Midlothian, Moray, North East, North Lanarkshire, Orkney, Perth & Kinross, Shetland, South Lanarkshire and Western Isles.