

PRESS RELEASE: 1 OCTOBER 2014



Luminate: Scotland's creative ageing festival
Wednesday 1 – Friday 31 October

October is the month to be out and about enjoying yourself during Luminate, taking part in the array of events from Shetland to Dumfries and Galloway. During Luminate, wherever you are there will be an event happening on your doorstep.

The festival offers a hugely diverse programme including theatre, dance, film, music, the spoken word, visual art and outreach events, reaching out across the generations, across the country and bringing us all together, whatever our age, to share stories and explore what ageing means to all of us.

There is so much to choose from in this year's programme but here are some of the highlights:

From 1 October at North Edinburgh Arts Centre, photographer **Colin Gray's** exhibition, **a journey through love, life and death**, includes a selection of works documenting his collaborative journey with his parents. Also in Edinburgh, the ever popular Luminate **Poetry Slam** will be back at Ghillie Dhu on 12 October; and at the National Museum of Scotland on 31 October, join Dr. Chris Lee as he opens **Margaret's Wardrobe**, telling the amazing story of one woman and her unique high end fashion collection – a vital link to her identity during the onset of dementia.

In Dunfermline, Gerry Mulgrew plays the King in The Fife Performance Ensemble's **In The Kingdom That Danced**, an ancient tale for a modern world directed by Alan Lyddiard and featuring a cast of older community performers. Just up the road in Perth, Luminate and The Scottish Mental Health Arts and Film Festival will present the UK premiere of **Alive Inside**, winner of the 2014 Sundance Film Festival Audience Award: US Documentary, on 14 October. Other titles in the Luminate film programme touring Scotland include **Advanced Style**, painting colourful portraits of independent New York women aged 62 – 95, shown in many venues as a double bill with Oscar-winning short documentary **The Lady in Number 6: Music Saved My life**, in which 109-year-old pianist and holocaust survivor Alice Herz Sommer shares her views on how to live a long and happy life.

Luminate 2014 is packed with music across the public and outreach programmes, with opportunities to sing, play or sit back and listen. On 25 and 26 October at Earlston High School in the Scottish Borders the **Scottish Chamber Orchestra**, led by conductor David Watkin, are hosting a weekend of fun and relaxed music-making with **Scrapers and Tooters**, going hand in hand with the **SCO Vocal Weekend** a brand new open choir weekend with Steve King, Director of Music at Heriot-Watt University.

Concerts include The Royal Conservatoire of Scotland's Fridays at 1 series of recitals from RCS students, staff and guests, with an exclusive £5 ticket offer just for Luminare. And at Ayr Town Hall, **The Organist Entertains** series will delight audiences every Monday lunchtime with a programme of music performed on a 1904 Lewis pipe organ. In the Outreach programme, Luminare will once again be working with **Live Music Now Scotland** to deliver a programme of concerts in care homes, sheltered housing communities and local groups across Scotland as well as a brand new initiative on Mull, **Time for Traditional Tunes**, in partnership with Mull Musical Minds and supported by Alzheimer Scotland and Mull and Iona Community Trust.

Blending music, movement and visual arts, **You Said You Liked Dancing** is a photographic exhibition and sound installation at macrobert arts centre, Stirling, the second part of a series of art works created by dance artist and choreographer Janice Parker with photography by Tommy Ka-Gen Wan and sound by Michael John McCarthy. Other unique exhibitions include **Peerie Boxes**, held in a miniature studio in Shetland - a unique display of 'peerie' (meaning small in Shetland dialect) trinket boxes gathered together by 80 year old Laura – and **Changing Room** at The CatStrand, Castle Douglas and Electric Theatre Workshop, Dumfries, in which artists Jo Hodges and Denise Zygadlo explore the rarely talked about menopause in an interactive installation.

In dance, two people and two generations, 32-year-old choreographer and performer Koen De Preter and 88-year-old dancer and pedagogue Alpheia Pouget, share the dream of dancing until the end of their days in **J O U R N E Y** at Woodend Barn, Banchory, in partnership with **DanceLive. Company Chordelia** will tour **Dance Derby**, choreographed by Kally Lloyd Jones and based on the dance marathons of Depression-era America, with performances for Luminare accompanied by workshops with the company for older participants. In the outreach programme, **All or Nothing Aerial Dance Theatre** will offer members of Scottish Ballet's Regenerate the chance to fly in a series of aerial workshops.

Uninvited Guests are staging a truly special event from Stornoway to Hawick: **Love Letters Straight From Your Heart**. Somewhere between a wedding reception, a wake and a radio dedication show, everyone can join this happy occasion by sending a dedication to someone they love and the company will offer workshops for older people to share stories and memories, choose music and write dedications to be included in the show.

One of Scotland's outstanding theatre companies, **Vanishing Point**, will be performing **Tomorrow**, a subtle, delicate show about all our possible futures at Tramway. **Solar Bear** are making their Luminare debut with two productions: **A Guid Blether**, featuring storytelling and visual performance devised with the Deaflinks Group and playwright Sylvia Dow, and **Smokies**, directed by Ramesh Meyyappan, a tasty tale of two lonely old spinsters told without words.

Vital Xposure's **Let Me Stay** is a tender exploration of the impact of Alzheimer's on family relations in which Julie McNamara shares a celebration of life and love through the eyes of her mother, showing that Alzheimer's need not always mean a withdrawal from life. The production tours to Cove, Drumnadrochit and Skye. Heading further north to Sutherland, for **Feed the Spirit**, three generations have come together to share their favourite recipes and tell the stories behind the

food in a special Luminate programme as part of the **Third Annual Portskerra International Storytelling Festival**.

For full programme listings or to download a copy of the Luminate brochure visit www.luminatescotland.org

Luminate is supported by Creative Scotland, The Baring Foundation and Age Scotland

Anne Gallacher, Luminate Director, said: I'm thrilled to see Luminate getting underway for a third time. With activities taking place across the country, there are opportunities to try your hand at something new, to attend performances by older people or visit exhibitions of work by older artists, and to share stories of ageing across the generations. Creativity has no age, and every day in October there are Luminate activities providing evidence of that!

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Notes to editors

Luminate, Scotland's creative ageing festival is now in its third year. During October the festival will host an amazing array of performances, events and activities that shine a light on our creativity as we age.

In addition to events in the public programme, Luminate includes Outreach activities and performances that take the festival into care homes, sheltered housing communities and local groups across the country throughout October.

Creative Scotland is the public body that supports the arts, screen and creative industries across all parts of Scotland on behalf of everyone who lives, works or visits here. We enable people and organisations to work in and experience the arts, screen and creative industries in Scotland by helping others to develop great ideas and bring them to life. We distribute funding provided by the Scottish Government and the National Lottery. For further information about Creative Scotland please visit www.creativescotland.com.

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