

TRAVFEST22

TRAVERSE
THEATRE

Traverse Supporters Newsletter: Festival

Welcome to the last Supporters letter of this Festival! The last month of theatre and live performance has flown by, but - worry not - our Autumn Season begins shortly, with 6 *A Play*, *A Pie and A Pints*, *Soundhouse*, and a host of brilliant partner company work coming to our stages soon. With the bustling Festival season over for another year, we're delighted to deliver one, final round-up of our seasonal newsletter.

Planning and delivering this year's festival amidst the many ongoing challenges to live work – including the pandemic – meant it was far from a 'normal' Festival. This is why we couldn't be more grateful to be back with a bold programme, welcoming so many of you back and feeling your support at each stage of the process. Like many other companies and venues, we saw a dip in audience numbers; analysis of trends and sales are underway, but there's no doubt that the looming cost of living crisis, lingering effects of the pandemic, and travel disruptions all played their part. It is thanks to the continued support and attendance of theatre lovers like you that we were able to return this year. We still have a long journey ahead, but we know we need to continue coming together, being creative and being resilient to ensure we can do it all again – bigger and better – next August, when we mark the Traverse's 60th anniversary.







Top L-R: *This is Paradise*, *The Last Return*, Bottom L-RE: *Happy Meal*, *Wilf*. All photos by Lottie Amor.

Awards and Nominations

Each year the very best in theatre, dance, comedy and live performance at Edinburgh's August festivals is recognised with a host of awards. Some of these awards are long-standing and internationally renowned, others a more recent additions to the mix. Whatever they seek to recognise or give, we are always incredibly proud of the artists and companies from the Traverse programme that see their work acknowledged in this way. So, let's take a look at the round-up from this year:

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TravFest22 Awards

-  The Scotsman Fringe First Award: **Happy Meal** by Tabby Lamb
-  The Scotsman Fringe First Award: **The Last Return** by Sonya Kelly
-  The Stage Edinburgh Award: Michael Dylan in **Wilf** by James Ley
-  Holden Street Theatre Award: **Bloody Elle** by Lauryn Redding, providing the team with the unique opportunity to take the show to Australia and present at the Adelaide Fringe.



Above left: The Bloody Elle team on stage, Above right: The Holden Street Theatres Edinburgh Fringe Award

TravFest22 Nominations

-  The Stage Debut Award: Best Composer, Lyricist or Book Writer: Lauryn Redding - **Bloody Elle**
-  **Wilf** was shortlisted for the Holden Street Award
-  **One-Woman Show** was nominated for Best Show at Dave's Edinburgh Comedy Awards
-  **Blood Harmony** was nominated for Musical Theatre Review's Best Musical Award
-  Amy Molly's performance in **This is Paradise** was longlisted for the Filipa Braganca Award
-  **Happy Meal** was shortlisted for the Popcorn New Writing Award



Above L-R: Druid Theatre team with their Fringe First Award, Tabby Lamb with Happy Meal's Fringe First Award

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And, hot of the press... Critics' Awards for Theatre in Scotland - Nominations

- 🏆 Best Female Performance: Amy Molloy (Kate), ***This Is Paradise*** (Traverse Theatre)
- 🏆 Best Play: Michael John O'Neill, ***This Is Paradise*** (Traverse Theatre)
- 🏆 Best Music and Sound: Julia Taudevin (in collaboration with Nerea Bello, Mairi Morrison and Beldina Odenyo) for ***Move*** (Disaster Plan, in association with Traverse Theatre)

We'll find out if we've won at the ceremony on 11 September, so keep your fingers crossed for us!

#TravFest22 Facts and Figures

- 206 individual performances
- 11 productions
- 4 productions bearing the Traverse Theatre Company stamp
- 30 days of TravFest22
- 28 five star reviews

The TravFest22 programme also included...

- The launch of our digital archive platform [MyTraverse](#),
- 6 networking events for artists and theatre makers,
- 1 digital commission, [Waking the Beast](#) by Sarah McGillivray,
- 1 showcase screening, *Move* by Julia Taudevin,
- 1 work-in-progress reading, *The Grand Opera House Hotel* by Isobel McArthur,
- and the return of the Playwrights' Studio Bookshop.

And welcomed...

- 25,798 audience members
- 243 £1 tickets sold to those on low-income benefits or aged under 25

So thank you all for playing your part in making this year's Festival happen!



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Autumn 2022 at the Traverse

We're looking forward to our full line-up of productions for the Autumn season, including the return of some familiar names at A Play, A Pie and A Pint – including *Wilf*'s James Ley. Here's a bit more on what is in store for our stages:

PPP: Sally by James Ley, Tue 20 - Sat 24 Sep @1pm

Sally's electric performance as Sally Bowles has turned a rural touring production of Cabaret into an unlikely hit. Set to transfer to the Festival Theatre, the West End and Broadway, Sally's been given personal assistant Tyler to help manage her diary. Resistant to him at first, Sally soon tells him her dark secret - she thinks her success in Cabaret is causing the rise of right wing populism and she doesn't know how to stop it.

Tyler tries to reassure Sally, drawing on his experience looking after Juliette Binoche, but Sally is irrepressible in her reckless pursuit of the truth.

Don't. Make. Tea. by Rob Drummond, Wed 5 - Sat 8 Oct @7.30pm

The near future. The benefits system has undergone a transformation. For the better? We shall see.

Chris never wanted to end up here. She's a proud woman and hates asking for help but when her condition deteriorated she had no choice but to claim disability benefits.

Ralph believes in the new system. He knows it works. He knows it can work for Chris. He's here today, in her home, to assess her. To prove to her that there has been no mistake - she is fit and capable of working. Chris knows he is wrong. Knows her life will be over if his verdict stands. Can she persuade him to change his mind? And, if not, how far is she willing to go to save herself?

Alongside our productions, we are starting off our creative engagement projects such as Class Act- our flagship school project, Traverse Young Writers- aimed at writers between 18-25, and our brand-new Creating Space Writers group- a new initiative that recognises the need to create a safe, supportive, and inspiring environment for writers of the Global Majority to develop their work. We look forward to keeping you up-to-date on the progress of these projects in the following months.

Check out our full programme and book your tickets [here!](#)



Goodbye Eleanor!

Sadly, at the end of the Festival, the Traverse team had to say goodbye to our marvellous Literary Manager, Eleanor White. Eleanor has been with us for three years, working on recent commissions *Wilf* by James Ley, *This is Paradise* by Michael John O'Neill, *Still* by Frances Poet, *Crocodile Fever* by Meghan Tyler and *The Monstrous Heart* by Oliver Emanuel.

She has made an amazing contribution to the work of the Traverse, especially in spearheading our new work pipeline, developing artists through Traverse Young Writers and Breakthrough Writers – the legacy of which will be seen on our stages in years to come.

She is moving on to an amazing new role in a film/TV production company based in Dublin. Congratulations Eleanor, you will be missed!

We would like to thank you all for your continued support of the Traverse Theatre. With your help, we can keep these pages full of news and the Traverse as a dynamic centre for performance, experience and discovery – and Edinburgh's 'beating heart of the Fringe' in August.

Laura, Ellen, and Team Traverse

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