

TRAVFEST22

Traverse Supporters Newsletter: Festival 1

TravFest22 is in full swing and the first two weeks have flown past us. We hope you've been enjoying the exciting plays on our stages and beyond. We're utterly delighted to welcome so many of you, in our shows and in the bar, with plenty of debates, news, and stories to share. Earlier this week, we launched *MyTraverse*, our new, interactive digital platform that allows audiences to explore the highlights in Traverse's history in an engaging new way. Next week starts off with a screening of *MOVE*, and a first snippet of reading of Isobel McArthur's *The Grand House Opera Hotel*. Read on for the latest Traverse news & get to know Hannah- the Stage Manager of *This is Paradise*!

Congrats Michael Dylan!



(Photo credit: Alex Brenner)

We are delighted to share that Michael Dylan has been awarded The Stage Edinburgh Award for his performances in *Wilf*. Written by James Ley (*I Heart Maths, Spain*), and directed by the Traverse Theatre's artistic director Gareth Nicholls, the play runs until 28 August 2022.

Mark Fisher for the Guardian gave the play four stars, and said *Wilf* is a "blast of feelgood cheer even though it is about a man who can't resist shagging his Volkswagen Polo"! The Stage's Natasha Tripney said that Michael Dylan "is a joy in James Ley's *Wilf*".

Book your tickets [here!](#)

MyTraverse Launch



Last Monday, we started the celebrations of Traverse's rich and illustrious history, with the launch of our digital platform MyTraverse. MyTraverse allows you to explore highlights from our archive, hear, and share stories as we look ahead to our 60th anniversary!

MyTraverse has been developed in partnership with Cadpeople, funded through the Creative Informatics Challenge Projects Programme. [Explore MyTraverse now!](#)

Can you help us tell the Traverse's story? The Traverse Theatre turns 60 years new in 2023, and to mark this occasion, we've launched MyTraverse, our exciting new digital space. But we can't tell our full story without the audiences who have been at our heart since day one. If you have tales to tell of your times at the Trav, or material connected to us that's languishing in a corner of your attic, we'd love to know! Here you can share your memories and memorabilia! Email your favourite Traverse memory to archive.project@traverse.co.uk.

Extra Performances

Due to high demand, more performances have been added for:

ALOK - Sun 21 Aug, 10:30PM

Bloody Elle - A Gig Musical - Wed 24 & Sun 28, 9PM

This is Paradise - Thu 25, 9PM

Happy Meal - Sat 27, 9PM

So if you've missed out on seeing them before (or want to see them again), you're back in with a chance!

BEST AVAILABILITY FOR TRAVFEST22 SHOWS

TRAVERSE 1

WILF

From Tue 23 Aug

THE LAST RETURN

Good availability on all performances

EXODUS

Good availability on all performances

BLOOD HARMONY

Good availability on all performances

ONE-WOMAN SHOW

Sat 20 & Sun 28 Aug

TRAVERSE 2

THIS IS PARADISE

Good availability on all performances

PSYCHODRAMA

From Sun 21 Aug

BLOODY ELLE

From Tue 23 Aug

HAPPY MEAL

Good availability on all performances

ALOK

Sun 21 Aug

Interview with Hannah Gallardo-Parsons, Stage Manager *This is Paradise*

Q: What inspired you to work in theatre?

A: I studied music and I have been playing instruments from a very young age. When I went to university, I started to learn how to do live sound mixing and those skills are pretty useful, and I started to book some gigs. Then, I also started doing university student theatre and I got absolutely drawn in, and sort of absorbed in that whole world. I did shows more than I did my degree, which I think is what everyone has said when they've done student theatre as well. I did student theatre a lot, and I looked for other opportunities. I spent my first summer of university at the Edinburgh Fringe with the Northern Stage at Summerhall. They then recommended me for a job at Nuffield (Theatre) in Southampton, and it sort of went from there really.



Q: What advice would you give to anyone who'd want to pursue a similar career?

A: Try everything, find what you like doing the most. Look for opportunities proactively and just mention to people you want to get into sound, or these kind of projects or wanting to work with these kinds of people. It's only proactively that you'll be able to pursue a career in the thing you want.

Another note, just make sure you don't work yourself into the ground. It's very easy to overwork yourself in theatre. Just check-in with yourself, think; 'Am I on the right track?'; 'Am I doing too many hours?'; 'Am I still on track for the things I want to be doing?'; and then assess and keep going and talking to friends and colleagues and you'll get to the right place.

Q: When did you first engage with Edinburgh August Festival & what attracted you about it?

A: So, I volunteered for Northern Stage when they were at Summerhall back in 2017 when I was a student in my first year. I think I had gone before as a child, as a really small kid, to the Edinburgh Fringe and it was completely mind-blowing and amazing. I remember it being something I definitely wanted to go back to and then I saw this opportunity to come up and I applied for it. And I got in! So, I went as a child first of all, and then back again to work, watch the Fringe, and meet new people. It's literally a global hub for theatre and all sorts of arts, and you meet everyone here. You meet the best people here and that's what attracted me to it.

Q: Why the Traverse?

A: I really love working with new writing, and emerging productions which aren't so established (yet), because they are the most interesting; they have the most likelihood to be interesting and better because they're malleable and there can be direct inputs from the creative team that's working on it. New writing is very exciting for me. I've worked in commercial environments before, and it doesn't really interest me as much. It just feels like a huge thing that is never going to change. The Traverse is full of new writing, has some amazing stories from all sorts of people. I am THRILLED with the amount of queer programming, especially in Trav 2! It's incredible. It's run by a lot of young, emerging, and early-career people and that's really good. They all love the job and want to change the scene for the future, wanting to make it better and more inclusive for more people and I think that's the really amazing thing of working here! And also, the Traverse has the friendliest staff in the world, I think. It's probably the friendliest place I've ever worked.

Q: What shows are you planning to see this Festival?

A: Oh. All of the Traverse ones! All of the shows at the Roundabout at Summerhall, because that's amazing. Darkfield, which is an audio experience in shipment containers- I think they have 3 up this year, Séance, Eulogy and Flight, that's them. I'm an audio nerd- I love this sorts of shows! I, in fact, have a spreadsheet full of(- this is so nerdy, don't include this-) I have an entire spreadsheet of shows I am going to see, a shared calendar so that my friends can see what shows I am seeing and when. On it, there's a lot of shows of companies I've worked with before and want to see again, including North Wall, including Chronic Insanity, and a whole lot of comedy things. A special shout out to Elf Lyons' Raven, which is a comedy-horror show I love- it's amazing. And She Wolf, which is also an amazing piece of one-person theatre, with an amazing sound design. And also, another mention to 52 Souls and Some Other Mirror, both produced by Chronic Insanity (A company I made digital work with before, they're pretty incredible!). This could go on for ages! There's also Two Fingers Up in Summerhall, which is about the Irish sex education system and how terrible it is. There's much more I could recommend but I think I'll stop there for now, otherwise it will get out of hand. I'm also seeing a few gigs; I'm seeing Kate Tempest and Sons of Kemet with the international Festival as well.

Q: What have you enjoyed the most about this gig so far, and are there more things you'd hope to experience while working with the Traverse?

A: What I've enjoyed most about this gig is the people. The people are so nice. Everyone is so friendly. So, I am the company Stage Manager, which mean I'm in the backstage quite a lot and I share the backstage management office a lot with some incredible people from NTS, from the Traverse itself and from a lot of visiting companies.

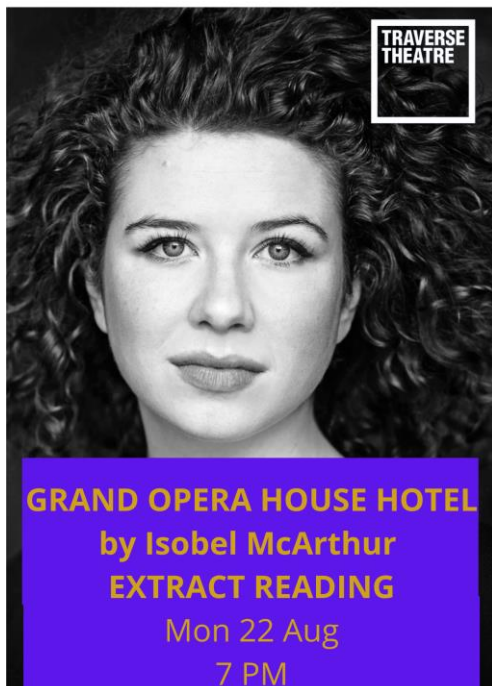
Next Up

A special screening of *MOVE* by Julia Taudevin (Mon 22 Aug)

Inspired by ancient keening rituals, *MOVE* is about migration, loss and communal healing. Weaving storytelling, choral soundscape and Gaelic song, five women portray the ebb and flow of people across the globe throughout the ages.

Join us for this special screening event of the acclaimed TravFest21 show as it returns from a unique open-air tour of Scottish beaches.

Disaster Plan is a new company led by Julia Taudevin and Kieran Hurley. We make accessible, exciting, cross-artform theatre in pursuit of new audiences across Scotland and beyond.



A first look at *The Grand House Opera Hotel* by Isobel McArthur (Mon 22 Aug)

A reading of *The Grand Opera House Hotel* a new play by Oliver Award winning writer Isobel McArthur. Directed by Traverse Artistic Director Gareth Nicholls with Musical Supervisor Michael John-McCarthy. The piece is under commission and in development with the Traverse Theatre due for production in 2023.

The newly-built Opera House Hotel is attracting a lot of customers. It is contemporary, affordable, clean and utterly soul-less. Apart from those souls which seem to linger... somewhere on the fringes of reality. Or so the rumours about the supernatural phenomena taking place in its corridors would suggest...

Aaron is a shy, often tongue-tied, newly-employed chambermaid. He has always considered himself something of a peripheral character, even in his own life-story. Until one day, he finds a cassette tape whilst cleaning – and everything changes...

A dynamic ensemble comedy packed with operatic music new and familiar that investigates the nature of reality and self-worth when we work the hardest jobs.

PANEL AND Q&A: THE WRITER-COMPOSER RELATIONSHIP

MON 22 AUG, 8PM

Hosted by Playwrights' Studio, Scotland, a panel of writers and composers, including Isobel McArthur and MJ McCarthy, discuss and answer questions about the unique relationship between playwrights and composers. Additional panellists include Alice Mary Cooper and Niroshini Thambar, and will be hosted by Louise Stephens (Creative Director, Playwrights' Studio Scotland).

On behalf of all of us at the Traverse, we thank you for your continued support and for joining us during Travfest22.

**With your help, we can keep these pages full of news and ensure the Traverse continues to be a trailblazing home for powerful, new theatre.
Thank you.**

Laura, Ellen, and Team Traverse