

TRAVERSE THEATRE MEDIA RELEASE

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TRAVERSE THEATRE ANNOUNCES PACKED AUTUMN/WINTER 2022 SEASON



- Programme features the Scottish Premieres of *Redcoat* by Lewis Jobson, *Cell Outs* by Ella Church & Harriet Troup, and *Witch Hunt* by Abigail Dooley & Emma Edwards
- Returning shows include *549: Scots of the Civil War* by Robbie Gordon & Jack Nurse in an expanded production, and Andy McGregor's musicals *Crocodile Rock* and *A New Life*
 - The charming *Once Upon A Snowstorm*, adapted by Jo Timmins, from Lyra supported by Catherine Wheels comes to Traverse 2 at Christmas
 - Get a first look at a new, Traverse-commissioned play from Apphia Campbell
- *A Play, A Pie and A Pint*, produced by A Play, A Pie and A Pint, Òran Mór and presented by the Traverse Theatre, travels around the world with six new plays
- Soundhouse return to the Traverse Bar with a new season of traditional, folk and jazz gigs
 - Further shows soon to be announced
- £1 tickets available for those under 25 and in receipt of low income government benefits*

Following the first full-scale August Festival since 2019, the Traverse is delighted to announce many of the shows in our packed Autumn/Winter season – with more to come. With a mix of returning shows and companies, and those who are brand new to the Traverse, audiences are spoiled for choice with drama, musicals, comedy, readings and regular series on offer.

A PLAY, A PIE AND A PINT

> 20 Sep - 12 Nov

A Play, A Pie and A Pint (Produced by A Play, A Pie and A Pint, Òran Mór. Presented by the Traverse Theatre)

The audience favourite returns with six new plays, each with an international perspective, enjoyed with a hot pie and a drink.

> 20 – 24 Sep

Sally by James Ley: Sally's electric performance as Sally Bowles has turned a rural touring production of Cabaret into a hit and she's given personal assistant Tyler to help manage her diary. Initially resistant, 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.

> 27 Sep – 1 Oct

Break My Windows by Dave Gerow: An uninsured taxi driver crashes into a BMW. Even worse, the BMW belongs to his boss, who also happens to be his new boyfriend's dad. *Meet the Parents* collides with the gig economy in this smashing new comedy about love, lies and loyalties.

> 4 – 8 Oct

He Who Opens the Door by Neda Nezhdana, adapted by John Farndon: Ukraine, the present: two women wake up to find themselves trapped in a morgue. Are they actually dead and being held in limbo...? Is a nuclear war or pandemic outside...? And if the door does open, will it be safe to leave? This black comedy by leading Ukrainian playwright Neda Nezhdana is highly topical, reflecting the limbo for some people in eastern Ukraine, caught between opposing forces.

> 11 – 15 Oct

Made in China by Alice Clark: When Janet discovers a secret note – hidden in a bauble delivered to her Wishaw home – she is bound together with factory worker Hui Ting five thousand miles away. *Made in China* looks into the West's material reliance on the East and the heart-warming parallels between two women a world apart.

> 1 – 5 Nov

Alföld by Joe McCann: A young interracial couple, whose marriage is on the verge of collapse, have a life-altering encounter with a mysterious stranger as they travel through The Great Hungarian Plain. *Alföld* is a dark comedy exploring language, misogyny, politics and racism – and what it takes to survive in Viktor Orbán's illiberal democracy.

> 8 – 12 Nov

Jinnistan by Taqi Nazeer: Based on a true story. When Asiya returns early from a school trip, Malik and Layla are not surprised – but when she starts showing signs of paranormal behaviour, Malik has no choice but to reveal his family's secret. Malik and Layla must now band together to save their daughter and protect the town from an unknown entity.

SEPTEMBER

> 12 Sep – 19 Dec

Soundhouse (Soundhouse Organisation)

The renowned Soundhouse Organisation return to the intimate environs of the Traverse Bar with a series of live gigs from some of the most exciting global country, jazz, traditional and folk acts around.

Includes Adam Holmes, Lizbett Russo, Fiona Hunter, Martin Simpson, Dean Owens & The Sinners, and more, with further acts to be announced.

> 14 Sep

***Quines Cast: Live* (Stellar Quines in association with the Traverse Theatre)**

Quines Cast is a coming together of intersectional feminist thought, music, theatre and literature to provide retreat, renewal and solidarity, recorded live at the Traverse Theatre.

With performances inspired by the theme of Change, Stellar Quines presents words by **Kirstin Innes** (*Scabby Queen*, *Fishnet*), a new play by **Uma Nada-Rajah** (*Exodus*, *Toy Plastic Chicken*) and music from the magnificent **Hailey Beavis**. Each guest will bring their unique take on some of the big questions impacting women and other marginalised genders today.

> 19 – 25 Sep

***Odds On* by Daphna Attias & Terry O'Donovan (Dante or Die)**

Following the award-winning video podcast *User Not Found*, Dante or Die bring you a new, free to watch, interactive short film taking you deep down into the world of online gambling; from that first win, all the way behind the screen to give a game's-eye view of how your fellow players are really doing. Follow Felicity, a valued customer, and peer beneath the murky depths to see how a cheeky spin can spiral out of control.

OCTOBER

> 5 – 8 Oct

***Don't. Make. Tea.* by Rob Drummond (Birds of Paradise Theatre)**

This riveting new dark comedy from Rob Drummond (*Bulletcatch*, *The Majority*) presented by Scotland's disability-led theatre company, explores a near future in which the benefits system has undergone a transformation. For the better? We shall see.

When Ralph arrives at Chris' home to prove she is fit to work, 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?

If you are capable of killing and disposing of a body, can you really call yourself disabled?

This show will have Integrated BSL, Audio Description & Captions for every performance.

> 13 Oct

***Reading: A new play* by Apphia Campbell (Traverse Theatre Company)**

Get your first look at a brand new, Traverse-commissioned play from Apphia Campbell – the 2021 IASH/Traverse Playwriting Fellow – as it makes its way to a full production. Full information coming soon.

> 14 – 15 Oct

***549: Scots of the Spanish Civil War* by Robbie Gordon & Jack Nurse (Wonder Fools)**

Wonder Fool's popular show returns in an expanded production in Traverse 1.

Filled with songs and storytelling, *549* is a timely insight into one of Scotland's almost forgotten conflicts, telling the story of four miners who, 86 years ago, travelled from the streets of Prestonpans to the valleys of Spain to join the Scottish ranks of the Spanish Civil War's legendary International Brigade.

> 19 – 22 Oct

***Beauty Queen of Leenane* by Martin McDonagh (Rapture Theatre)**

A Tony Award-winning dark comedy thriller, *The Beauty Queen of Leenane* combines thrilling elements of farce and melodrama with a searing critique on the Irish belief in the sanctity of the family.

In a lonely, run-down cottage in Connemara, Maureen Folan leads an isolated life with Mag, her demanding, manipulative mother. With the arrival of an unexpected admirer, Maureen finally sees the possibility of escaping her dismal life. However, Mag has other ideas, and the two women are plunged into a desperate conflict which leads to a shocking conclusion.

> 25 Oct

***Crocodile Rock* by Andy McGregor (Sleeping Warrior Theatre Company in association with The Beacon Arts Centre and Cumbernauld Theatre Company)**

It's 1997, it's Millport and Steven McPhail is bored. He's 17 and it's now time to work out what to do with the rest of his life. The problem is, there's only so many options when you find yourself stuck on a Scottish island.

Everything changes when a chance encounter with a glorious drag queen shows Steven a world he never knew existed. A one-man musical featuring original music, *Crocodile Rock* is a story about finding yourself, understanding others and being true to those you love

> 26 Oct

***A New Life* by Andy McGregor (Sleeping Warrior Theatre Company in association with The Beacon Arts Centre and Cumbernauld Theatre Company)**

Robbie and Jess are living the life. He's a successful computer programmer and she is on her way to being a headteacher. Until, totally out of the blue, Jess discovers she is pregnant.

They'll be fine. It's just a baby. I mean...how disruptive to their metropolitan, 21st century lives can that be? They. Have. No. Idea.

A heart-felt, surreal and truthful musical comedy from the creator of *Spuds* that may or may not feature a tap-dancing baby...

NOVEMBER

> 3 – 5 Nov

***The Time Machine: A Radical Feminist Retelling* by Jordan & Skinner (Jordan & Skinner produced in association with Platform)**

In a secret bunker, a group of feminists are taking matters into their own hands as they contemplate impending doom and ask if it's all too late to turn things around. Meanwhile, a traveller lands in the year 802,701 to discover the fate of future humans and tries to unravel how it all came down to this. Join this fiery and furious company of extremists for a tale of time travel, survival and human evolution in a bold and irreverent reimaging of H. G. Wells science fiction classic.

> 10 – 12 Nov

***Sister Radio* by Sara Shaarawi (Stellar Quines and Pitlochry Festival Theatre)**

Sisters Fatemeh and Shirin have been living together, in the same flat in Edinburgh, for 43 years. In this flat they cook, they read their coffee grains, they think about the fading memories of their childhood in Tehran and they listen to the radio. Although they live side by side, they never talk to one another. When a global pandemic hits and the sisters are locked in their flat, they are forced to reckon with their memories of a betrayal that changed the course of their relationship.

> 16 – 17 Nov

***Witch Hunt* by Abigail Dooley and Emma Edwards (A&E Comedy)**

Following their sell-out, award-winning show *Enter The Dragons*, A&E Comedy (Abigail Dooley and Emma Edwards, “a brilliant comedy coupling” Total Theatre) return with a spell-binding, surreal and darkly hilarious tale, directed by Cal McCrystal.

Witch Hunt weaves a cautionary fairy tale for our time. It celebrates the wisdom of the witch, unpacks the notion of predator and conjures a world of coven-ready weird sisters; imagine Vic and Bob doing The Crucible.

> 17 – 19 Nov

***Redcoat* by Lewis Jobson (The Six Twenty in association with Live Theatre)**

After a sell-out premiere at Live Theatre in Autumn 2021, join Redcoat Lewis on larger-than-life tour as he sets out to make the world a little bit better through his love of entertaining and showing people a good time. Loosely inspired by Lewis’ real-life experience as a Butlin’s Redcoat in Bognor Regis, Redcoat is a fun, life-affirming show about being happy, and how to cope when you’re having an ‘off day’ (and you tell Barney the dinosaur to p*ss off in front of a load of kids).

> 24 – 26 Nov

***Cell Outs* by Ella Church and Harriet Troup (Glasshouse Theatre)**

A dark comedy, with song and silliness, written and performed by two ex-prison officers, *Cell Outs* follows the true experiences of Harriet and Ella as they join a dubious grad scheme which promises to fulfil their wildest social justice dreams. Equipped with their humanities degrees and bright-eyed naivety, they’re catapulted onto the landings of London’s most dangerous jails as fully qualified prison officers - fresh cut keys, squeaky boots and blind enthusiasm. Watch as their worlds descend into burnout and brutalisation.

DECEMBER

> 1 Dec

***4PLAY* by Katy Nixon, Mikey Burnett, Andrea McKenzie, Ruairaidh Murray**

Enjoy four short new plays from Edinburgh playwrights Katy Nixon, Andrea McKenzie, Mikey Burnett and Ruairaidh Murray.

- **Pig Head by Katy Nixon:** It's 2025 and on the eve of an important vote in the House of Lords, new peer David Cameron is visited by a ghost from his murky past.
- **The Perves and Plans of Only Fans by Andrea McKenzie:** Faced with a cost of living crisis a middle aged single mum dabbles in the erotic.
- **McEwan by Mikey Burnett:** An Edinburgh boxer leaves Westerhailes to pursue his dreams in America.
- **Steak Out by Ruairidh Murray:** A butcher and his unorthodox family rob a wealthy competitor of all its best cuts three nights before Christmas.

> 9 – 23 Dec

Once Upon a Snowstorm adapted by Jo Timmins (Lyra supported by Catherine Wheels)

A gentle winter tale for young audiences aged 5-8 and their families.

Based on the beautiful illustration story book by Richard Johnson, it tells the story of a father and son who live an isolated life in the woods. When one day a howling snowstorm separates them, the boy falls asleep in the shelter of the trees. When he awakes, he is surrounded by some inquisitive woodland creatures – are they friends or are they foe?

COMING SOON

Additional winter shows will be announced in coming weeks.

* Excluding *Soundhouse* and *A Play, A Pie and A Pint*.

LISTINGS INFO

Full programme and booking: <https://www.traverse.co.uk/whats-on>

Traverse Theatre, 10 Cambridge St, Edinburgh, EH1 2ED | traverse.co.uk

For more information, interviews or images, contact press@traverse.co.uk

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