

EMBARGOED UNTIL Friday 1 November 2024, 10:00am

Contact: press@traverse.co.uk

**TRAVERSE
THEATRE**

Traverse shakes up theatre this December with stories from Edinburgh's writing talent, young voices with fresh perspectives, and stunning performances that break boundaries and genres



- **First look at the stage adaptation of Paul Tinto's electrifying *Trouble In Spiritland***
- **Award-nominated *Mary: A Gig Theatre Show* stirringly depicts the life of one of Scotland's most iconic historic figures**
- **The Class Act Showcase returns to platform more young voices in Edinburgh**
 - **Hugely popular new writing group 4PLAY returns with four new plays**

Bold stories that question the world and give voice to fear and hope - from Edinburgh and far beyond - fill the Traverse stages and popular bar this December. Curated by the theatre's team of new writing specialists, creative voices belonging to people of all ages and experiences are set to entertain and challenge audiences who come together to coorie doon over the festive season.

Linda Crooks said: “The Traverse is a place where everyone is welcome – on stage and off. It’s warm, it’s inviting, it’s welcoming, and it’s a place where we can come together to explore challenges we face, to celebrate the best of humanity and life. This December we do that through a brilliantly broad range of voices across spoken word, music and song, poetry and new theatre created by young people who can teach us so much, and who share so creatively. With the inspirational and other worldly, the vibrant and fresh-takes set amongst our established partners in Soundhouse, set to bring ten concerts as part of the Winter Festival, and 4PLAY, we look forward to transporting our audiences with an abundance of talented artists.

“It’s especially important to us that this is an affordable offer for all, and so our £1 tickets continue for those receiving low-income benefits or under 25. We would love you to come and experience these stories with us, that make sense of our lives.”

In a time threatened by energy crises, food shortages, corruption of the elites, civil uprising and global war, the Traverse is proud to present Paul Tinto’s ***Trouble In Spiritland***, a tale with an ever-sharpening cultural significance, posing questions of morality and the human spirit’s propensity for compassion in such times. Adapted from the mythic epic narrative poem of the same name, this theatrical spoken-word presentation is a thought-provoking and exciting work, packed with energetic live music and sound scaping, and vibrant and poetic language. Its themes draw parallels with both Scotland’s current social struggles and the individual’s never-ending strive for equality. (17 & 18 Dec).

Nominated in the upcoming Creative Edinburgh Awards, Traverse presents ***Mary: A Gig Theatre Show*** blends folk-rock music and rich spoken word to create a stirring depiction and fresh look upon of the life of Mary, Queen of Scots. The show’s vibrant storytelling questions the treatment and portrayal of women both historically and today. A sell-out during the 2024 Edinburgh Fringe Festival, this remarkable production, created by six sensational early career theatre-makers, has been met with consistent audience and critical acclaim and an overwhelming demand for more. (19 – 21 Dec)

The abundance of talent among Edinburgh’s young minds sees ***The Class Act Showcase*** returning for the second time in 2024! Young people in schools and youth group settings across Edinburgh have been working with professional artists during the Autumn term to explore the craft of playwrighting and write their own scripts. Over three performances this December these new plays bring fresh perspectives and incredible energy to the Traverse’s stage presented by a team of professional theatre-makers. (12 & 13 Dec)

Following two sell-out years for the **4PLAY** team’s scratch nights of new work, this December the new writing group returns with four new full-length plays, supported by the Traverse. These snapshots of life in Scotland’s capital set against familiar backdrops from the city’s Festivals to its East End football club, see Edinburgh playwrights Ruaraidh Murray, Mikey Burnett, Andrea McKenzie and Katy Nixon take to the stage for the first time in two double-bills across four nights. 4PLAY is embedded in the Traverse’s continued commitment to support emerging and early-career artists in the development of their craft. (4-7 Dec)

The inaugural year of **Music at the Traverse** wraps-up with established Scottish music artist and producer **Pictish Trail**, who will appear alongside special guests in their all-day Christmas party – ***HUMBUG!*** Audiences keen on musical adventures can look forward to blissed out folky dreamscapes, break-neck indie rock, mind-warping psychedelia and explorations in electronica. (14 Dec) Our long-term partners Soundhouse share their ***Winter Festival*** and also present ever popular ***Dean Owens & The Sinners*** for a night of unfestive songs, humour, melancholy and great music all intertwined (16 Dec).

The Traverse is proud to continue its relationship with ***Edinburgh Beer Factory***, sponsors of the December Sessions with Paolozzi’s new Session Lager.

-

Full programme and booking: <https://www.traverse.co.uk/whats-on>
More from the Traverse: [Website](#) | [Facebook](#) | [Instagram](#) | [X](#)

-

LISTINGS (IN CHRONOLOGICAL ORDER)

4PLAY

by Ruaraidh Murray, Mikey Burnett, Andrea McKenzie and Katy Nixon

Supported by Traverse Theatre

Traverse 2: Wed 4 – Sat 7 Dec, 7:30pm

On sale now: <https://www.traverse.co.uk/whats-on/event/4play-4-new-plays-from-4-edinburgh-playwrights-autumn-24>

The 4PLAY team are back with four new full-length plays.

Following on from their mega-successful scratch nights in both 2022 and 2023, we are delighted to be welcoming back Ruaraidh Murray, Mikey Burnett, Andrea McKenzie and Katy Nixon with four plays that are now full-length developed pieces. Come along and celebrate them taking to the stage for the very first time.

CLASS ACT SHOWCASE

by Young People from Firrhill High School, Trinity Academy, Tynecastle High School and Intercultural Youth Scotland

Traverse Theatre

Traverse 2: Thu 12 – Fri 13 Dec

On sale now: <https://www.traverse.co.uk/whats-on/event/class-act-winter-showcase-2024-autumn-24>

The Class Act Showcase is back!

Young people from Firrhill High School, Trinity Academy, Tynecastle High School, and Intercultural Youth Scotland have been working with a team of professional artists for the past three months to write their own scripts, and this December they will be brought to life by a team of professional theatre-makers, directors, actors and musicians live on the Traverse stage.

Class Act is the Traverse's flagship creative engagement project which provides creative support and a safe space for participants to express themselves freely, imagine without inhibition and become writers and storytellers in their own right. The results address what they feel passionate about, and each script crackles with unparalleled energy.

Prepare yourself for a great night out at the theatre, witnessing dynamic storytelling from fresh young talent!

HUMBUG! 2024

Featuring Pictish Trail & Special Guests

Lost Map supported by Traverse Theatre

Traverse 1, 2, Bar: Sat 14 Dec

On sale now: <https://www.howlinfling.com/shhh/p/humbug-2024>

A festive gathering of live music from Pictish Trail's Lost Map label and very special guests, across a whole day.

The line-up is a secret just now ... but you can expect an assortment of blissed out folky dreamscapes, break-neck indie rock, mind-warping psychedelia and explorations in electronica.

DEAN OWENS & THE SINNERS

The Soundhouse Organisation

Traverse 1: Mon 16 Dec, 8PM

On sale now: <https://www.traverse.co.uk/whats-on/event/soundhouse-dean-owens-the-sinners-autumn-24>

Join Leith's favourite son and Soundhouse favourite Dean Owens for the now traditional pre Christmas show at the Traverse. A night of unfestive songs and banter with Dean and his band of Sinners.

Dean occupies the unlikely common ground between the cultures of postindustrial Scotland and America's desert states. And fertile ground it is too! With tales of love and lust, sinners and saints, the displaced, the wanderers and the border ghosts, Dean's spellbinding delivery transports his audience to a dusty half-imagined hinterland of tumbleweeds and cacti, sprinkled with Scottish urban grit.

Humour, melancholy and great songs all intertwined. The Sinners are Craig Ross (guitar), Adam McMillan (double bass) and Philip Cardwell (trumpet) – and will be joined for the night by guest Sinner, drummer Andy Duncan– the same line-up that rocked their appearance at Cambridge Folk Festival this year.

Simultaneously rousing and balm for the soul. Expect old faves and new songs from Dean's upcoming album Spirit Ridge, recorded in Italy in the land of his lion tamer ancestor.

TROUBLE IN SPIRITLAND

by Paul Tinto

Directed by Bryony Shanahan

Traverse Theatre presents

Traverse 2: Tue 17 – Wed 18 Dec, 7:30PM

On sale now: <https://www.traverse.co.uk/whats-on/event/trouble-in-spiritland-autumn-24>

An electrifying spoken-word performance that weaves a mythic tale of revolt, revenge, and redemption.

The Spirit of Hate, born into poverty, whose thirst for justice sets him on a path of destruction wages war on those complicit in society's neglect. Hate seeks vengeance on the Spirits of Love, Kindness, and Compassion, whom he believes abandoned him. But in his quest for revenge, he must confront the true cost of a life driven by hatred.

Performed by the author Paul Tinto, with a powerful live soundtrack Trouble in Spiritland is a challenge to the forces shaping our world and ourselves. Prepare for an unforgettable, thought-provoking experience.

MARY: A GIG THEATRE SHOW

by Rona Johnston

Directed by Katie Slater

Traverse Theatre presents a Knot Tied Theatre production

Traverse 2: Thu 19 - Sat 21 Dec, 7:30PM

On sale now: <https://www.traverse.co.uk/whats-on/event/mary-a-gig-theatre-show-autumn-24>

Chosen by God, but held up by the shaking arms of insatiable men, readying the fall.

Blending haunting original music and rich spoken word, Mary: A Gig Theatre Show is a bold reimagining of Mary Queen of Scots' story. A fresh, feminist retelling of the queen's story and made by early career Scottish theatre makers, Mary delves into the queen's inner world providing an emotional response to the hardships Mary faced at the hands of men.

From Knot Tied theatre, and after an acclaimed run during the 2024 Festival, Mary is an uplifting, rocking journey through time from an extremely talented group of musicians establishing themselves in the Scottish theatre and music scene.

-

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

Traverse Theatre, 10 Cambridge St, Edinburgh, EH1 2ED | [traverse.co.uk](https://www.traverse.co.uk)

For more information, interviews, press tickets or images, contact press@traverse.co.uk
Please find a selection of press images etc [here](#).

The December Sessions are sponsored by:



Traverse Theatre is supported by:



The Traverse is funded by Creative Scotland and The City of Edinburgh Council.

Traverse Theatre (Scotland) is a Limited Company (Registered Number SC076037) and a Scottish Charity (Registered Number SC002368) with its Registered Office at 10 Cambridge Street, Edinburgh, Scotland, EH1 2ED.