

No ball
games

MOORCROFT

Written and directed by Eilidh Loan



THE SKINNY



THE WEE REVIEW



THE SCOTSMAN



THE GUARDIAN

A Tron Theatre Company production in association with National Theatre of Scotland

A NOTE FROM THE WRITER

What a journey *Moorcroft* has been on and to get to share this story across Scotland is a dream come true for myself, my dad and the *Moorcroft* family. The response to the show at the Tron was absolutely incredible. From people who have never been to the theatre before to those who come all the time.

My Dad used to take me to watch local teams play when I was a wee girl. By this point he was stood, sulking on the side lines in the rain as his knees were 'getting on'. As I got older, my dad would tell me stories about the teams he played for and other parts of his life. Events that I couldn't begin to imagine living through. I soon realised that joining teams to play the games, wasn't why these men put all their time and effort into running these clubs. It was because these men loved each other. Loved each other to the point that we find ourselves in this play. Reliving the past in the hope that it will change the things that haunt us years later and wishing to right the wrongs. Regardless of events that took place, either from their lack of understanding, or at times, unwillingness to understand, these boys truly loved each other. I haven't known friendship like it.

You could listen to the stories my dad and his mates tell for hours. Now this story is inspired by events from different teams and different stages of my dad's life. He played for many teams, but the name 'Moorcroft' always stuck in my head. I always said, 'that's a cracking name for a play'. I wanted to take their stories and push it further, for us, the audience, to learn from the characters' mistakes, laugh at their friendships and normalise their losses in order to see versions of ourselves reflected back to us.

Some of the issues raised in the play are so close to home for a lot of people. Some of the issues you might have never gone through and never will, but I urge you to think about the different journeys *Moorcroft* explores. Especially the ones you have never been on. It's important we learn and grow from other people's honesty and believe me, these characters are honest. We were extremely lucky to have original items of clothing from the boys. Sooty's famous parka jacket he gave to my dad, was given to us. These pieces of clothing are so special, as they have been worn making memories by the boys themselves in real life, and by our actors in the rehearsal room.

Now, we share these memories with you. I love these characters and this story. Even though there are moments that make my heart hurt, I am proud of these boys. I know more about who I am because of what these boys went through. They are incredibly brave and incredibly powerful. This has been more than just writing a play for me. It's been years of pinning down exactly what I wanted to say about this world and why it mattered. It's brought me closer to my dad. It's changed his view on the world we live in, started vital conversations about mental health and helped him find a sense of purpose. That's what I set out to achieve. I wanted working-class people to feel like they were being represented and be proud of their stories. To know I have made my dad proud and that he now feels pride within himself is the best feeling in the world. MON THE CROFT!

Eilidh Loan (Writer and Director), October 2023

CAST

Sean Connor	Paul
Martin Docherty (he/him)	Garry
Kyle Gardiner	Sooty
Bailey Newsome (he/him)	Mince
Jatinder Singh Randhawa (he/him)	Mick
Santino Smith	Noodles
Dylan Wood	Tubs

TEAM

Stephanie Austin (she/her)	Assistant Director
Zeni Bollok (she/her)	Stage Manager
Victoria Brown (she/her)	Costume Supervisor
Gary Cameron (he/him)	Sound Designer & Composer
Odhran Duignan	Tour Technical Manager
Michaela Fee	Lighting Designer
Bryan Gallagher (he/him)	Deputy Stage Manager
Carys Hobbs	Set & Costume Designer
Mark Hughes	Technical Manager
Eilidh Loan	Writer & Director
Johnny McKnight	Dramaturgical Support
Jason McQuaide	Technical Stage Manager
Santino Smith	Associate Director
Laura Skinner	Production Manager

Set Construction by **Pretty Scenic**

Cover image by **Joe Connolly/Jamhot**

Backdrop photography by **Eoin Carey**

ACCESS

Hazel Ann Crawford	Audio Description
Glenda Carson	Captions
Yvonne Strain (she/her)	BSL Performance Interpretation

NTS is proud to be an organisation where all are welcome, so we've invited the cast and creative team to list their pronouns in this freesheet as part of our ongoing commitment to use more inclusive language wherever we can in line with our LGBT Charter for Business Award.

THE COMPANY WOULD LIKE TO THANK:

The Citizens Theatre

ABOUT TRON THEATRE COMPANY

Tron Theatre is a unique and flagship organisation as the West of Scotland's only mid-scale producing venue which delivers challenging new and contemporary performance for the people of Glasgow, Scotland, and worldwide while at the same time playing a vital role at the heart of the Scottish theatre community and facilitating participation in the arts amongst people of all ages, race, ability, and gender.

Recent Tron Theatre Company productions include David Ireland's *Cyprus Avenue*, *La Performance*, a co-production with the International Visual Theatre, Paris, John Byrne's *Underwood Lane*, Eilidh Loan's *Moorcroft*, Gary McNair's adaptation of the Ben Jonson farce, *The Alchemist*, *The Ugly One* by Marius von Mayenberg, Jo Clifford's adaptation of *The Taming of the Shrew*, Enda Walsh's *Ballyturk, Ma, Pa and the Little Mouths* by Martin McCormick, Peter Arnott's *Shall Roger Casement Hang?*, Martin McDonagh's *The Lonesome West* and Isobel McArthur's *Pride and Prejudice** (*sort of).

Tron Theatre Company is supported by Creative Scotland and is a Scottish Registered Charity No: SC012081.

If you would like to make a donation to support the work of Tron Theatre please visit: tron.co.uk/donate/
tron.co.uk

ABOUT NATIONAL THEATRE OF SCOTLAND

National Theatre of Scotland is a Theatre Without Walls. We don't have our own venue, instead, we're able to bring theatre to you wherever you are. From the biggest stages to the smallest community halls, we showcase Scottish culture at home and around the world. We have performed in airports and tower blocks, submarines and swimming pools, telling stories in ways you have never seen before.

We want to bring the joy of theatre to everyone. Since we were founded in 2006, we have produced hundreds of shows and toured all over the world. We strive to amplify the voices that need to be heard, tell the stories that need to be told and take work to wherever audiences are to be found.

Jackie Wylie (she/her) Artistic Director & Chief Executive
Brenna Hobson (she/her) Executive Director
Jane Spiers (she/her) Chair

To find out about the full team at National Theatre of Scotland please visit: nationaltheatrescotland.com/about-our-people or follow us on:



SUPPORT NATIONAL THEATRE OF SCOTLAND

National Theatre of Scotland believes great productions should reach the widest possible audience.

We're bringing the Tron Theatre's *Moorcroft* to nine venues across Scotland.

This couldn't have happened without the support of our donors and sponsors.

Want to help?

Email our Director of Development:

Stella.Litchfield@nationaltheatrescotland.com

If you would like to give us feedback on the show, please email us at feedback@nationaltheatrescotland.com