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**Press Release: 05 October 2021**

**National Theatre of Scotland presents**

***CARRY ME HOME – A FERRY TALE***

**A new short film by Seth Hardwick**

Directed by **Seth Hardwick,** scripted by **Seth Hardwick** and **Viv Gee,** Music by **Josie Duncan,** Director of Photography **Gavin Hopkins,** Sound Recording by **Shaun Clark**

Cast: **MJ Deans, Bruce Fummey, John Kazek** and **David Rankine**

**Celebrating Scotland’s Year of Coasts and Waters 20/21, with the support of Caledonian MacBrayne & their ferries.**

**Streaming from 27 October 2021 on the National Theatre of Scotland website and social platforms.**

***Carry Me Home – A Ferry Tale,*** is a new short digital artwork celebrating the waters surrounding Scotland’s western isles and the voyages over them made by thousands of locals, workers and visitors each year.

Inspired by the National Theatre of Scotland’s ***Ferry Tales*** project in 2020, the performance of which was sadly not able to go ahead due to COVID 19, filmmaker Seth Hardwick has made a new short film ***Carry Me Home – A Ferry Tale,*** featuring some of the original artistic talent.

Having found what she was looking for, Mairi takes the last ferry home and a community folds its arms around her. Hopeful and uplifting, *Carry Me Home – A Ferry Tale* ebbs and flows through a journey of loss, understanding and acceptance.

The film takes its inspiration from the unique and timeless world of ferries. It follows a return journey home to the islands, reflecting the warm, welcoming heart of Scotland’s coastal communities. Filmed on a Cal Mac ferry in the West of Scotland, *Carry Me Home – A Ferry Tale* features the stirring, authentic music of Scottish folk singer Josie Duncan.

Josie Duncan’s song *Carry Me Home,* which features in the soundtrack, was commissioned by National Theatre of Scotland for the original on-board theatre production in 2020 and featured in a lockdown musical recording from BBC Alba last year.

Seth Hardwick is Video Producer for the National Theatre of Scotland having made over 600 trailers, promotional films, and behind the scenes videos. He was Director of Photography for the recent critically acclaimed film *Distance Remaining* (Helen Milne Productions)*.* He has created video design and content for the Royal Conservatoire of Scotland, Good Chance Theatre, 7:84 Theatre Company, Hackney Empire, Strathclyde Fire and Rescue, and Action for Children.

Viv Gee is an award-winning stand-up comedian, a performance poet, actor and writer. She has performed worldwide and was co-writer for the BBC Radio Scotland sitcom The Gates. Viv also created the popular stand-up comedy course for the University of Strathclyde and has been teaching comedy and poetry skills for over 20 years.

Josie Duncan is a folk singer and songwriter from the Isle of Lewis. Having been immersed in Glasgow's fast moving traditional music scene for the past few years where she studied at the Royal Conservatoire of Scotland, Josie's crystal-clear voice is equally at home in Gaelic, Scots or English. In 2017, Josie was awarded BBC Radio 2's Young Folk Award alongside guitarist Pablo Lafuente. Following the release of the duo’s debut album ‘The Morning Tempest’, the pair have toured extensively across the UK and beyond.

***Carry Me Home – A Ferry Tale*** is supported by the Year of Coasts and Waters 20/21, coordinated by EventScotland. In 2021, Scotland continues to celebrate its coasts and waters with a programme of activities and events which will shine a spotlight on these vital elements of our landscape. From our beautiful natural features including coasts, lochs and rivers to our industrial heritage such as our canals, mills, and the creation of our national drink – whisky, Scotland’s coasts and waters have shaped our culture, our stories and our way of life.

***Carry Me Home – A Ferry Tale***premieres online on 27 October and is free to view on the National Theatre of Scotland website - nationaltheatrescotland.com

 Access: BSL, Captioned and Audio Described

 A preview link for press will be made available ahead of the premiere - please do contact NTS press office (details below) for early access

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**Press Images available here-** [**dropbox**](https://www.dropbox.com/sh/5ds2gujts8zuef8/AAAgCyr1xTnGJrMZMxqQ1DLya?dl=0)

**Artist Biographies**

**Shaun Clark**

Shaun Clark is a UK-based sound engineer who has worked in venues across London, the rest of the UK and internationally.

Previous work includes: *Glasgow Games*; *Titanic the Musical*; *Beautiful UK* tour; *Joseph* *Coriolanus Vanishes*; *Full Monty UK Tour*; *At Twilight; This Restless House*; *Jesus Christ Superstar; Sound Of Music* UK Tour; *Encounters*; *Voice Thief*; *Fine Fest*; *Greenman*; *Sister Act*; *Evita*; *Rent in Concert* UK Tour; *Rocky Horror Show* UK Tour; *Midnight Tango*; *All The Fun of the Fair* and *We Will Rock You*.

**MJ Deans** trained at New College Lanarkshire (formerly Motherwell College). Previous work with National Theatre of Scotland includes: *Rocket Post!*, and Uisge *Beatha gu Leòr/Whisky Galore*. Other theatre credits include: *Aladdin* (SLLC), *Captain Cora!*, *Ceilidh* (Theatre gu Leòr), *InValid Voices*(Army @ Summerhall), *Angus Weaver of Grass* (Horse & Bamboo), *Henry V* (Bard in the Botanics). TV credits include: *Million Dollar American Princesses* (Finestripe Productions), Series 1 and 2 of *FUNC* (The Woven Thread/BBCAlba). *FUNC* recently won best comedy at the Royal Television Awards Scotland.

**Josie Duncan** is a diverse young folk singer from the Outer Hebridean Isle of Lewis. Having been immersed in Glasgow's fast moving traditional music scene for the past few years where she studied at the Royal Conservatoire of Scotland, Josie's crystal clear vice is equally at home in Gaelic, Scots or English. In 2017 Josie was awarded BBC Radio 2's Young Folk Award alongside guitarist Pablo Lafuente. Following the release of the duo’s debut album ‘The Morning Tempest’, the pair have toured extensively across the UK and beyond. Josie’s other projects include: INYAL, an innovative 5 piece fusing mercurial tunes, ethereal Gaelic songs and intricate electronics; The Dusk (Innes White, Megan Macdonald and Duncan) seamlessly intertwine three part harmony with delicately crafted instrumentals, all in aid of the stories found in Josie Duncan's honest and charming self-penned songs. Whether performing alongside a band or as a soloist, Duncan's approach to song offers many nods to the traditional but always feels modern, with a voice which is somehow delicately soft and yet rich and powerful at the same time.

**Viv Gee** is an award-winning stand-up comedian, a performance poet, actor and writer. She has performed worldwide and was co-writer for the BBC Radio Scotland sitcom The Gates. Viv also created the popular stand-up comedy course for the University of Strathclyde and has been teaching comedy and poetry skills for over 20 years.

**Seth Hardwick** is Video Producer for the National Theatre of Scotland having made over 600 trailers, promotional films, and behind the scenes videos. He was Director of Photography for the recent critically acclaimed film *Distance Remaining* (Helen Milne Productions)*.* He has created video design and content for the Royal Conservatoire of Scotland, Good Chance Theatre, 7:84 Theatre Company, Hackney Empire, Strathclyde Fire and Rescue, and Action for Children.

**Gavin Hopkins**

Gavin is a cinematographer and director of photography with a background in factual television. Over the past five years he has earned over fifty television credits, shooting for a wide range of broadcasters including the BBC, Netflix, Sky, Channel 4, Discovery and Channel 5. Programmes he has shot have been nominated for and won a number of awards from BAFTA Scotland, the Royal Television Society and the Celtic Media Festival.

He has also shot commercials for high profile brands such as NatWest, Pernod Ricard, Jura Whisky and NHS Scotland.

His drama work has included over a dozen short films which have screened at festivals across America and Europe with several also being broadcast on BBC Scotland and streamed on BBC iPlayer.

**Bruce Fummey**

Bruce has performed stand up comedy since 2004, with numerous Edinburgh Fringe runs and sell out shows, including: '*A History of Scotland'*, *'About the Jacobites'*, *'My Afro Celtic Angst'* and *'Macbeth Without the Shakespeare Bollocks'.*

He was named Scottish Comedian of the Year in 2014 and has been nominated for various Scottish Comedy Awards.  Since 2020 Bruce has been the turret, ditch and ramparts of the YouTube channel *'Scotland History Tours'*

As an actor, Bruce's recent credits include Feature Film, '*The Lost King'* directed by Stephen Frears, written by Steve Coogan and Jeff Pope, and *'Black Diamonds and the Blue Brazil'* for Sound Stage - The Royal Lyceum Theatre Edinburgh/Pitlochry Festival Theatre, in association with Naked Productions.

**John Kazek**

Theatre includes: In Time O’Strife; The Tin Forest (National Theatre of Scotland), Roadkill (Tron/Traverse/Chicago State/St Ann’s Warehouse), The Beauty Queen of Leenane; Mary Queen of Scots (got her head chopped off) (Royal Lyceum), The Cherry Orchard (Dundee Rep), Under My Skin; Zaraberri/Limbo (Oran Mor), Macbeth (Theatre Babel, Hong Kong), Cherry Blossom (Traverse/Theatre Polski), Tamburlaine Must Die; The Caretaker; Glue (Citizens), Night Time; Gorgeous Avatar (Traverse), Fergus Lamont (Communicado/Perth Theatre).

TV includes: Shetland, Waterloo Road, Spooks, Titanic, The Key, Taggart, Auf Wiedersehen Pet, City Central, High Road, Double Nougat, Rab C Nesbitt, Nervous Energy, Dancing, Roughnecks, Punch Drunk, Strathblair, Albert and the Lion, Silen Scream.

Film includes: T2 Trainspotting, Outpost Black Sun, Legacy, The Clan, Batman Begins, How D’Yae Want Tae Die?, Dear Frankie, Young Adam, Riff Raff.

**David Rankine** is an Aberdeen born actor based in Glasgow. He graduated in 2009 from the Liverpool Institute for Performing Arts with a B.A. (hons) in Acting and the L.I.P.A. prize for Acting Ensemble. Theatre credits include: *Aladdin* (Eden Court/ Imagine Theatre), *HOWL[ing]* (The Arches/ Traverse Theatre); *A Midsummer Night’s Dream* (Bard in the Botanics); *Macbeth The Remix*(Findhorn Bay Arts Festival); *The Merry Wives of Windsor* (RSC Dell Season); *A Million Miles Away* (Frozen Charlotte Productions); *Romeo and Julie*t (Lodestar Theatre Company); and the UK tour of *Over The Rainbow: The Eva Cassidy Story.*

**Notes to Editors**

**Caledonian MacBrayne** provides award-winning lifeline and leisure ferry services to the communities on Scotland’s west coast islands and peninsulas. Serving a network that stretches almost 200 miles from Campbelltown, Kintyre in the south, to Stornoway, Isle of Lewis in the north.  Caledonian MacBrayne operates a 33-strong fleet of ferries which serve over 50 ports and harbours, amounting to 160,000 sailings annually.   In its most recent contract year Caledonian MacBrayne carried 5.7m passengers, 1.2m cars, 82k commercial vehicles and enjoyed 99.6% contractual punctuality and 99.5% contractual reliability.

**Year of Coasts and Waters 20/21** Scotland’s Coasts and Waters will be showcased throughout 2021 and celebrated with a programme of activity designed to support the nation’s tourism and events sectors. The year, led by VisitScotland, will sustain and build upon the momentum of Scotland’s preceding Themed Years to spotlight, celebrate and promote opportunities to experience and enjoy Scotland’s unrivalled Coasts and Waters, encouraging responsible engagement and participation from the people of Scotland and our visitors. A programme of events, activities and ideas will shine a spotlight on the impact our waters have had on Scotland, from the formation of beautiful natural features to the creation of our national drink – whisky. Following an industry consultation, the Themed Years are planned to take place every second year to enable more time for planning and collaboration. Given the impact of COVID-19 an exception will be made in 2021 with the 2020 year rolling forward. 2022 will celebrate Scotland’s Year of Stories. Join the conversation using #YCW2021

**The National Theatre of Scotland** is dedicated to playing the great stages, arts centres, village halls, schools and site-specific locations of Scotland, the UK and internationally. As well as creating ground-breaking productions and working with the most talented theatre-makers, the National Theatre of Scotland produces significant community engagement projects, innovates digitally and works constantly to develop new talent. Central to this is finding pioneering ways to reach current and new audiences and to encourage people’s full participation in the Company’s work. With no performance building of its own, the Company works with existing and new venues and companies to create and tour theatre of the highest quality. Founded in 2006, the Company, in its short life, has become a globally significant theatrical player, with an extensive repertoire of award-winning work. The National Theatre of Scotland is supported by the Scottish Government. [www.nationaltheatrescotland.com](http://www.nationaltheatrescotland.com/)

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