



PITLOCHRY
FESTIVAL
THEATRE



CAPITAL
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PRESS RELEASE

For immediate release

Pitlochry Festival Theatre to open 2022 season with exciting revival of *Sunshine on Leith*

- *Sunshine on Leith* is a co-production with Capital Theatres
- The revival will be the first production to be staged in the Auditorium at Pitlochry Festival Theatre for over two years
- Co- directed by Pitlochry Festival Theatre's Artistic Director Elizabeth Newman and Associate Director Ben Occhipinti
- The 14 strong cast to include Keith Jack (BBC One's *Any Dream Will Do* and *Joseph and the Amazing Technicolour Dreamcoat*, UK Tour), Connor Going (*The Choir of Man*, West End), Rhiane Drummond (*Dreamgirls* and *9-5*, West End), Alyson Orr and Keith Macpherson
- Featuring the songs of the much-loved Scottish band The Proclaimers and made into a hugely successful British film in 2013
- Production to open at Pitlochry Festival Theatre, transfer to the King's Theatre in Edinburgh and then return to Pitlochry
- *Sunshine on Leith* will be the final show in the King's Theatre season before it closes for a transformational £25m Capital Redevelopment

Dates:

20 May – 2 June - Pitlochry Festival Theatre

7-18 June – King's Theatre Edinburgh

24 June-1 October – Pitlochry Festival Theatre

Press Performances:

Wed 1 June at 2pm & 8pm - Auditorium, Pitlochry Festival Theatre

Pitlochry Festival Theatre and Capital Theatres to stage revival of *Sunshine on Leith*

"Would you walk 500 miles for love?"

With the main building opening for the first time in over two years, Pitlochry Festival Theatre is thrilled to welcome audiences through its doors once again, with a foot-stomping new production of *Sunshine on Leith*, Stephen Greenhorn's much-loved musical featuring the songs from world-renowned Scottish band The Proclaimers.



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Co-produced with Capital

Theatres, *Sunshine on Leith* will open at Pitlochry Festival Theatre from 20 May – 2 June, then transfer to the King's Theatre Edinburgh from 7-18 June before heading back to the Perthshire theatre from 24 June -1 October.

Originally staged at Dundee Rep in 2007 before being transformed in to the 2013 smash hit feature film adaptation starring Jane Horrocks and Peter Mullan, *Sunshine on Leith* sees the return of service members Davy and Ally from war overseas, to be confronted with civilian life filled with relationships, blind dates, and new responsibilities. As the pair embark on intertwining journeys in love, they begin to question what home really means to them as they rediscover their sense of identity.

Set to the classic songs of much-loved **The Proclaimers**, including "*I'm Gonna Be (500 Miles)*", "*Letter from America*" and of course the emotive "*Sunshine on Leith*", this feel-good Scottish musical asks the question, would you walk 500 miles for love?

Sunshine on Leith's excellent cast is led by **Keith Jack** and **Connor Going**, playing fellow service members and best friends Ally and Davy. Keith Jack is best-known for BBC1's *Any Dream Will Do* where he was runner-up in the popular BBC talent show. His extensive theatre credits include the UK tours of *Fame* and *Joseph and the Amazing Technicolour Dreamcoat* while Connor's credits include last year's Pitlochry Festival Theatre production of *Wind in the Willows* and the touring production of *The Choir of Man*.

Starring alongside them are **Rhiane Drummond** (*Dreamgirls* and *9-5*, West End and *Heathers*, UK Tour) as Yvonne; **Blythe Jandoo** (*Wizard of Oz*, Sheffield Crucible and appearing in the films *Aladdin* and *Beauty and the Beast*, Walt Disney Pictures) as Liz; **Meg Chaplin** (*Arrival*, imPOSSIBLE and *The Midnight Child*, UK Tour) as Eilidh; **Rachael McAllister** (*A Christmas Carol*, Pitlochry Festival Theatre) as Hazel; **Keith Macpherson** (*Stan and Ollie*, BBC Films and *Donald and Benoit*, Pitlochry Festival Theatre) and Scottish singer **Alyson Orr** (*Cinderella*, Pavilion Theatre Glasgow) as husband-and-wife Rab and Jean.

The cast is completed by **Jessica Brydges** (*Peter Pan*, Maltings Theatre); **Richard Colvin** (*Sunshine on Leith*, UK tour and *A Christmas Carol*, Bolton Octagon); **Anna Fordham** (*The Borrowers*, Watermill Theatre and *The Athena*, Sky); **James Hudson** (*The Choir of Man*, West End and *Saturday Night Fever*, West End/UK Tour); **Kit Orton** (*Oliver*, Watermill Theatre) and making his professional stage debut **Richie Spencer**.

Directed by Pitlochry Festival Theatre's Artistic Director **Elizabeth Newman** (*Summer Holiday*, *The Adventures with the Painted People* and *Faith Healer*, Pitlochry Festival Theatre) and the Theatre's Associate Director **Ben Occhipinti** (*Wind in the Willows*, Pitlochry Festival Theatre), designed by **Adrian Rees**, with lighting by **Kate Bonney**, musical direction by **Richard Reeday**, sound design by **Shaun Clark**, movement by **Lesley Hutchison** and costume design by **Julie Carlin**.



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Elizabeth Newman said:

"It has been an incredibly challenging couple of years, but we are very excited about the future. After two years without performances indoors, reopening Pitlochry Festival Theatre with Sunshine on Leith feels like the perfect way to welcome audiences back inside. I've wanted to make Stephen Greenhorn's fantastic Scottish musical (with many classics from The Proclaimers) for years. It is an uplifting, hopeful story about family, responsibility, and love. And the musical itself is the perfect blend of singing, drama, music, and dancing.

This will be a brand new production performed by an incredibly talented Ensemble of actor-musicians, and it's being made by a brilliant creative team at Pitlochry Festival Theatre and Capital Theatres. I am looking forward to co-directing with Ben Occhipinti, as both of us have greatly missed making memories with audiences. After everything that has happened, this wonderful musical offers us the chance to really celebrate life. It certainly feels like we've walked 500 miles to come back together, and I couldn't think of a better song for us to be singing as we welcome people back indoors.

Fiona Gibson, Chief Executive of Capital Theatres said:

"We're beyond excited to be co-producing Sunshine on Leith with Pitlochry Festival Theatre as the King's final show before its transformational redevelopment and today we welcome our fantastic cast to visit theatre and take a wee tour around Leith. For Capital Theatres, producing this show expands on our ambition to be at the heart Scotland's theatre community, developing Scottish talent – which this cast is brimming with. Sunshine on Leith will also be a fitting swan-song to The King's as we know it, before it re-emerges as a re-invigorated world-class theatre and thriving community hub."

Playwright **Stephen Greenhorn** said:

"I'm thrilled at the prospect of a new production of Sunshine on Leith at one of my favourite theatres. Pitlochry Festival Theatre has a fabulous history with musicals, and I can't wait to see Elizabeth and her amazing team bring their magic to the show."

Sunshine on Leith will open at Pitlochry Festival Theatre from 20 May – 2 June and then transfer to the King's Theatre in Edinburgh from the 7-18 June. The production will then return to Pitlochry from 24 June – 1 October.

Tickets for *Sunshine on Leith* are available from the box office on 01796 484626 or online at pitlochryfestivaltheatre.com

-Ends-

For all press interviews please contact Duncan Clarke PR:

T 07880893750 or E duncanclarkepr@gmail.com

NOTES TO EDITORS

Press Performances:

Wed 1 June at 2pm & 8pm, Auditorium, Pitlochry Festival Theatre

CREATIVE TEAM

Pitlochry Festival Theatre and Capital Theatres present

Sunshine on Leith

A musical written by Stephen Greenhorn

Featuring the songs of The Proclaimers

New Musical Arrangements by David Shrubsole

Original production at Dundee Rep on 18th April 2007

Performed by arrangement with Music Theatre International

Directed by Elizabeth Newman and Ben Occhipinti

Set Design by Adrian Rees

Lighting Designed by Kate Bonney

Sound Design by Shaun Clark

Costume Design by Julie Carlin

Musical Direction by Richard Reeday

Movement Direction by Lesley Hutchison

Cast: Keith Jack (Ally), Connor Going (Davy), Rhiane Drummond (Yvonne), Alyson Orr (Jean), Blythe Jandoo (Liz), Keith Macpherson (Rab), Rachael McAllister (Hazel), Jessica Brydges (Ensemble), Meg Chaplin (Eilidh), Richard Colvin (Ensemble), Anna Fordham (Ensemble), James Hudson (Ensemble), Kit Orton (Ensemble), and Richie Spencer (Ensemble).

LISTINGS

Sunshine on Leith

20 May – 1 October

Eve perf at 8pm: May: 20, 21, 31 / June 1, 2, 24, 28 / July: 2, 4, 15, 27 & 28 / August: 1, 6, 9, 12, 18 & 19 / September: 1, 6, 15, 19, 23 & 30

Mat perf at 2pm: 1, 25 & 29 June; 16 & 23 July; 2, 7, 16 & 24 September & 1 October

Ticket prices: From £16-£39

Box Office and group bookings: 01796 484626 **email**

boxoffice@pitlochryfestivaltheatre.com

Website: pitlochryfestivaltheatre.com

King's Theatre Edinburgh

Tue 7 to Sat 18 June 2022 **Matinees and Evenings available**

www.capitaltheatres.com | 0131 529 6000

Edinburgh Press Performance: Tuesday 7 June 2022, 7.30pm contact lauren.scott@capitaltheatres.com to book

Pitlochry Festival Theatre. A Theatre for Everyone. A Theatre for a Lifetime.

For over 70 years, we've been Highland Perthshire's artistic heart and soul, sitting perched on the edge of the River Tummel and looking out to Ben-y-Vrackie. Established in 1951 as The Theatre in a Tent, Pitlochry Festival Theatre offers a theatrical experience unique in Scotland - a summer season performed in repertory, allowing audiences to enjoy six different productions in six days, all performed by a resident company of actors. Now



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attracting over 100,000 visitors

each year, we're not just a venue - we're also famous for producing large-scale plays and musicals that delight theatregoers of all ages.

As part of our mission to create, nurture and inspire, we encourage interactive creativity through our programme of festivals, workshops and other events for young people, families, writers, and professional creatives.

Pitlochry Festival Theatre

Address: Pitlochry Festival Theatre, Port-Na-Craig, Pitlochry, Perthshire PH16 5DR

Pitlochry Festival Theatre is supported by funding from Creative Scotland and Perth and Kinross Council. It is also grateful to the many individual donors, trusts, and foundations who continue to support the theatre.

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Capital Theatres

Capital Theatres present world-class shows to entertain and inspire audiences of all ages.

In a normal year we stage over 700 performances each year, at the Festival Theatre (1,900 seats), the King's Theatre (1,300 seats) and The Studio (155 seats) in a broad and inclusive programme featuring the very best in drama, dance, musical theatre, live music, comedy, and pantomime.

In June 2021 we reopened the doors to our buildings and welcomed audiences back for the first time since the pandemic turned our theatres dark. Since then, we have announced a series of co-productions including **James IV - Queen of the Fight**, **Sunshine on Leith** and three festive early years commissions, the first of which, **The Enormous Christmas Turnip**, premiered in The Studio in December 2021. We've also progressed our talent development strand through our Musical Commissioning Hub.

Much of our programme is exclusive to our venues in Scotland, providing the only opportunity for audiences to see the biggest shows touring north of the border, the best in international contemporary dance and the latest productions from leading local and national companies.

We support access to the arts for everyone and have an extensive creative engagement programme of talks, workshops, and events to introduce and develop engagement and interest in the heritage of our buildings and all areas of live performance.

This year we begin the capital redevelopment of the King's to turn it into both a thriving community hub and a world class venue while maintaining its history and heritage. £23.8 million of the £25 million capital spend to transform the King's is in place thanks to grants from the Scottish Government, City of Edinburgh Council, the National Lottery Heritage Fund, and generous donations from our incredibly supportive patrons and donors, companies, and trusts, as well as Capital Theatres' own contribution. This leaves a project shortfall still to be raised of £1.2 million or 5% of the overall capital project cost. You can learn more about the King's Future and donate by visiting our website below.

We are a registered Scottish charity (SC018605) and our theatres, and our programme are supported by the City of Edinburgh Council. www.capitaltheatres.com