



PITLOCHRY
FESTIVAL
THEATRE

**Stellar
Quines**

Press Release

For Immediate release

Pitlochry Festival Theatre and Stellar Quines Theatre Company present the world premiere of

Sister Radio

A new play by **Sara Shaarawi**

Directed by **Caitlin Skinner**

Designed by **Becky Minto**

Lighting by **Kate Bonney**

Music composed by **Farzane Zamen**

Movement direction by **Saffy Setohy**

Cast: **Lanna Joffrey** (Fatemeh) and **Nalân Burgess** (Shirin)

Dates: **25 August – 28 September**

Press performances: **Fri 26 & Tue 30 August at 7.30pm & Wednesday 31 August at 2.30pm**

Studio, Pitlochry Festival Theatre

Pitlochry Festival Theatre to open its new Studio with premiere of the exciting new play *Sister Radio* co-produced with Stellar Quines Theatre Company.

This August, Pitlochry Festival Theatre and Stellar Quines Theatre Company are set to join forces to stage the world premiere of *Sister Radio*, **Sara Shaarawi's** (*Niqabi Ninja*) evocative and moving play about sisterhood and migration.

Directed by Stellar Quines Theatre Company's Artistic Director **Caitlin Skinner**, *Sister Radio* will open the new Studio at Pitlochry Festival Theatre from 25 August to 28 September ahead of an Autumn tour.

Sister Radio tells the story of sisters Fatemeh and Shirin who have been living together, in the same flat in Edinburgh, for 43 years. In this flat they cook, read their coffee grains, listen to the radio, and try to remember their childhoods in Tehran but they no longer 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.

Playing the roles of sisters Fatemeh and Shirin and making their debuts at Pitlochry Festival Theatre will be **Lanna Joffrey** (*The Time of Our Lies*, Park Theatre) and **Nalân Burgess** (*Welcome to Iran*, National Theatre and Theatre Royal Stratford East and the forthcoming *The Sandman*, Warner Brothers and DC Comics).



PITLOCHRY
FESTIVAL
THEATRE

**Stellar
Quines**

Sister Radio is directed by Stellar Quines Theatre Company's Artistic Director **Caitlin Skinner**, designed by **Becky Minto**, with lighting by **Kate Bonney**, music composed by **Farzane Zamen** and movement direction by **Saffy Setohy**.

Director **Caitlin Skinner** said

"We are thrilled to be sharing the World Premiere of Sara Shaarawi's new play Sister Radio with audiences in Pitlochry this summer and to be part of the great buzz of Pitlochry Festival Theatre's summer season. This play is already very beloved by Stellar Quines and our co-commissioners, Pearlfisher, but to be working with Pitlochry Festival Theatre to nurture and produce Sister Radio for the first time feels right. Especially as we will be part of a season of so many brilliant women-led stories and with plenty of women creatives too!"

"It is exciting that it will be the first show run in the brand-new Studio at Pitlochry Festival Theatre. This will be the perfect space for Sister Radio as audiences will be able to feel the intimacy of this beautiful and tender play about the relationship between two sisters who migrate from Iran to Edinburgh in the 1970s. The play is full of music, nostalgia, vibrant characters, and a great story, as well as reflecting experiences of migration, which many will relate to. All the things you want to see when you come up to the beautiful 'Theatre in the Hills'."

Sara Shaarawi is a playwright from Cairo, based in Glasgow. Her first play *Niqabi Ninja* was produced by Independent Arts Projects (Edinburgh) and Hewart Theatre Company (Alexandria) and was performed in London (Shubbak Festival), Edinburgh (EIF/Lyceum), Glasgow (Tramway), Inverness (Eden Court), Aberdeen (Lemon Tree) and Dundee (Dundee Rep) as well as in Alexandria and Cairo. Her writing has been commissioned and supported by many theatre companies including the National Theatre of Scotland, Stellar Quines Theatre Company, and Fuel Theatre.

Sara Shaarawi said about her new play:

"Sister Radio is a play about two Iranian sisters in Edinburgh who find themselves grappling with layers of isolation over two time periods in their lives the first lockdown of COVID-19 in 2020 and the run up to the Islamic Revolution in 1979. I was interested in telling a story about the complex and intimate relationship sisters have, and about the ripple effect of the choices we make and how we choose to live with them. The story plays out over the two timelines in the same Edinburgh flat, I was particularly interested in the concept of 'living with one's memories and the theatrical possibilities that that brings."



PITLOCHRY
FESTIVAL
THEATRE

**Stellar
Quines**

I'm incredibly excited to have this piece programmed at Pitlochry Festival Theatre and to be working with Stellar Quines Theatre Company. I have a lot of admiration and respect for both companies, and I cannot wait to see them bring this play to life. It will be the first time I see my work fully realised in a theatre, so this makes it extra special for me. I hope people come see the play, it'll be a warm and loving portrait of sisterhood and migration, filled with children's games, feminist poetry, coffee readings and 70's Iranian pop tunes."

Sister Radio is co-commissioned by Stellar Quines Theatre Company and **Pearlfisher**.

Sister Radio runs from the 25 August – 28 September in the Studio at Pitlochry Festival Theatre. The production will then tour to venues in Scotland and England later in autumn 2022.

Tickets for *Sister Radio* 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 NIGHTS: Friday 26 and Tuesday 30 August at 7.30pm, Studio, Pitlochry Festival Theatre

LISTINGS

Sister Radio

25 August – 28 September

Eve perf at 7.30pm: August: 25, 26, 30 / September: 5, 12, 17, 21, 27

Mat perf at 2.30pm: 31 August; 28 September

Ticket prices: From £16-£39

Box Office and group bookings: 01796 484626

email boxoffice@pitlochryfestivaltheatre.com

Website: pitlochryfestivaltheatre.com

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



PITLOCHRY
FESTIVAL
THEATRE

**Stellar
Quines**

- 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 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.

Stellar Quines Theatre Company

Stellar Quines is an intersectional feminist theatre company based in Scotland. We create shows and provide opportunities and support for career development, both on stage and backstage, for creatives at all levels. We commission research and join forces with others to campaign for change. We take our work out into the community with projects that nurture creativity and invite action, all with the aim of achieving greater equality.