

PRESS RELEASE
For immediate Release

Pitlochry Festival Theatre presents the world première of

Under Another Sky

An adaptation by **David Greig**

From the book by **Charlotte Higgins**

Directed and designed by **Elizabeth Newman**

Lighting designed by **Jeanine Byrne**

Sound designed by **Ben Occhipinti**

Original music composed by **Laura Rossi**

Associate and movement directed by **Lesley Hutchison**

Assistant Director **Connor Going**

Cast: **Amelia Donkor** (Charlotte) and **Keith Macpherson** (Matthew)

Dates: **10 August – 23 September**

Press performance: **Thursday 11 August at 7pm**

Amphitheatre, Pitlochry Festival Theatre

Pitlochry Festival Theatre to stage premiere of David Greig's new adaptation of Charlotte Higgins acclaimed book Under Another Sky

Pitlochry Festival Theatre is delighted to announce that it will be staging this August the eagerly awaiting world première of **David Greig's** adaptation of **Charlotte Higgins** critically acclaimed book *Under Another Sky*.

Directed by Pitlochry Festival Theatre's artistic director **Elizabeth Newman**, *Under Another Sky* will première in the breathing taking setting of the Theatre's Amphitheatre from 10 August till 23 September

Under Another Sky is about how we, as individuals and a society, relate to a deep and sometimes irrecoverable past when the Romans held much of Britain as an imperial possession – through traces and echoes in the landscape, through artefacts, and through the stories we tell ourselves about nationhood.

A dramatisation of **Charlotte Higgins'** critically acclaimed book, this new adaptation from **David Greig** explores where Romans once marched. We follow Charlotte and Matthew on their life affirming journey where they'll meet legends like Boudicca and Tacitus.

Making his welcome return to Pitlochry Festival Theatre after the staging last year of his critically acclaimed play *Adventures with the Painted People*, David Greig is a multi-award-winning playwright who became the Artistic Director of The Royal Lyceum Theatre Edinburgh in 2015. David's most notable plays include *The Events*, *Midsummer* and *Europe*. His stage adaptations have included *Solaris*, *Local Hero*, *Dr Seuss' The Lorax* and *Touching the Void*. David wrote the book for *Charlie*

and *the Chocolate Factory*, which opened in the West End in 2013 and then transferred to Broadway in 2017.

Playwright **David Greig** said

“When I first read 'Under Another Sky' I wanted to adapt it for the stage. I love exploring the Roman past of Britain, but the story of the people who study that past is almost as interesting as the past itself. I am so pleased that this passion project has found a stage, and what a stage. The Pitlochry Amphitheatre is quite simply the most beautiful outdoor space in Scotland.”

Director **Elizabeth Newman** added

“We developed Under Another Sky in 2019 at the Edinburgh International Book Festival. We were impressed by the reaction of the audience to the adaptation, so much so that when I was conceiving the Theatre’s programme this year, I thought back to that audience and felt it would be a delightful offering to our Pitlochry audiences this year. Safe to say the combination of Charlotte Higgins and David Greig offers an insightful, thoughtful, and witty piece which, I have no doubt, will offer audiences new insight into our Roman history as well as a playful peek into a past that is almost unimaginable. Amelia Donkor and Keith Macpherson become Charlotte and Matthew on their van tour. The energy and warmth of both actors certainly guarantees a good night out in our Amphitheatre this year.”

Charlotte Higgins’s *Under Another Sky: Journeys in Roman Britain*, was shortlisted for awards including the Samuel Johnson (now Baillie Gifford) Prize for non-fiction and Red Thread: On Mazes and Labyrinths, a Radio 4 Book of the Week and winner of the Arnold Bennett Prize 2019. Her most recent book is *Greek Myths: A New Retelling*, which was shortlisted for the Waterstones Book of the Year 2021. She is chief culture writer of the Guardian, a past winner of the Classical Association prize and a fellow of the Society of Antiquaries.

Charlotte Higgins said

“I couldn't be more delighted that Under Another Sky will have fresh new life through the imaginations of David Greig and Elizabeth Newman – and in the richly storied landscape of Perthshire, where Romans once marched.”

Under Another Sky’s cast will feature **Amelia Donkor** (*As You Like It* and *The Taming of the Shrew* at the Royal Shakespeare Company and *Eastenders*, BBC) as Charlotte and **Keith Macpherson** (*The Yellow Door*, Lyceum/ Edinburgh International Book Festival, *Waiting for Godot*, Citizens Theatre and *Stan and Ollie*, BBC Films) as Matthew.

Under Another Sky is directed and designed by **Elizabeth Newman** with lighting by **Jeanine Byrne**, sound by **Ben Occhipinti**, music by **Laura Rossi**, and movement directed by **Lesley Hutchison**.

The new play was originally commissioned by the **Royal Lyceum Theatre** and **Edinburgh International Book Festival** as part of the festival’s *Playing with Books* strand in 2019.

Under Another Sky runs from 10 August – 23 September. Tickets 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 Night: Thursday 11 August at 7pm, Amphitheatre, Pitlochry Festival Theatre

LISTINGS

Under Another Sky

10 August – 23 September

Eve perf at 7pm: August: 10, 11, 23, 24 at 7pm

Mat perf at 2pm: 24 August and 8 & 15, 22 & 23 September

Ticket prices: From £29

Box Office and group bookings: 01796 484626

email boxoffice@pitlochryfestivaltheatre.com

Website: pitlochryfestivaltheatre.com

CREATIVES

Pitlochry Festival Theatre presents

Under Another Sky

By Charlotte Higgins and adapted by David Greig

Directed and designed by Elizabeth Newman

Lighting designed by Jeanine Byrne

Sound designed by Ben Occhipinti

Music composed by Laura Rossi

Movement directed by Lesley Hutchison

Assistant Director Connor Going

Cast: Amelia Donkor and Keith Macpherson

ABOUT UNDER ANOTHER SKY

The Guardian's chief culture writer, Charlotte Higgins, set out to explore the Roman occupation of Britain as a work of serious history. She also set out on a personal odyssey with her partner in his ageing VW camper van. Exploring the land that was once Rome's northernmost territory, and how it has changed since the empire fell through accounts of some of Britain's most intriguing, and often unjustly overlooked ancient monuments, ***Under Another Sky*** rediscovers the British landscape, and British history, from an entirely fresh angle. The result - a captivating and haunting exploration of the remnants of an empire, shortlisted for the Samuel Johnson Prize - is not only hugely entertaining, but offers clues about the origins of Britain's current political landscape.



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

For over 70 years, we have 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 attracting over 100,000 visitors each year, we are not just a venue - we are 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.