

PRESS RELEASE
For immediate release

Pitlochry Festival Theatre presents the Scottish première of

BRIEF ENCOUNTER

By **Noël Coward**

Adapted for the stage by **Emma Rice**

Original music composed by **Stu Barker**

Director **Elizabeth Newman**

- First in house theatre staging in Scotland of Emma Rice's stage adaptation of **Noël Coward's** screenplay for the film *Brief Encounter*, based on his one-act play *Still Life*
- Directed by Pitlochry Festival Theatre's Artistic Director **Elizabeth Newman**
- Cast to feature acclaimed Scottish actor **Kirsty Stuart** (*Adventures with the Painted People* and *Faith Healer*, Pitlochry Festival Theatre, *Othello*, Frantic Assembly, *Call The Midwife*, BBC and *Shetland*, BBC Scotland) and **Matthew Trevannion** (*War Horse*, National Theatre World Tour, *The Curious Incident of the Dog in the Night*, West End and *Othello*, Frantic Assembly).
- Runs from 16 June – 29 September

Press performance:

Wednesday 22 June at 2pm, Pitlochry Festival Theatre

"Please tell me honestly if what I believe is true... that it's the same with you - that you've fallen in love too."

Iconic story of forbidden love set to have its Scottish stage première at Pitlochry Festival Theatre

Brief Encounter, **Noël Coward's** tale of forbidden passion and middle-class restraint is set to enchant theatre audiences this summer, when Pitlochry Festival Theatre stages the first in house staging in Scotland of Emma Rice's acclaimed stage adaptation of one of the most iconic love stories ever told.

Directed by Pitlochry Festival Theatre's Artistic Director **Elizabeth Newman**, this exciting new stage production with original music by Stu Barker, will run from 16 June until 29 September.

When a chance encounter in a train station tearoom kindles a timid, yet passionate, love affair between a married doctor and a suburban housewife, the two are forced to question if it's worth risking everything for the sake of love.

Tender and joyous, Pitlochry Festival Theatre's *Brief Encounter* has all the drama of David Lean's masterpiece film and all the emotional ups and downs of a rollercoaster ride.

Emma Rice adapted Noel Coward's screenplay for David Lean's iconic 1945 movie, *Brief Encounter*, featuring Celia Johnson as Laura and Trevor Howard as Alec, which was in turn based on Coward's one-act play *Still Life*, written a decade earlier.

Leading *Brief Encounter's* exciting cast will be acclaimed Scottish actor **Kirsty Stuart** (*Adventures with the Painted People* and *Faith Healer*, Pitlochry Festival Theatre, *Othello*, Frantic Assembly, *Call The Midwife*, BBC and *Shetland*, BBC Scotland) as Laura and **Matthew Trevannion** (*War Horse*, National Theatre World Tour, *The Curious Incident of the Dog in the Night*, West End and *Othello*, Frantic Assembly) as Alec.

The cast will also feature **Matthew Churcher** (*Animal Farm*, National Tour/Fiery Angel & Birmingham Rep, *Peter Pan*, National Theatre/Bristol Old Vic and *White Teeth*, Kiln Theatre); **Keith Macpherson** (*Sunshine on Leith*, Pitlochry Festival Theatre, *Waiting for Godot*, Citizens Theatre and *Stan and Ollie*, BBC Films); **Rachael McAllister** (*Little Women* and *A Christmas Carol*, Pitlochry Festival Theatre); **Joseph Tweedale** (*The Meaning of Zong*, Bristol Old Vic and *The Rise and Fall of Little Voice*, Theatre Clwyd) and **Kristin Weichen Wong** (*Field-Something For The Future Now*, Edinburgh International Festival).

Brief Encounter is directed by Pitlochry Festival Theatre's Artistic Director **Elizabeth Newman**, featuring original music composed by **Stu Barker** directed by **Richard Reeday**; set design by **Jen McGinley**, costumes by **Julie Carlin**; lighting by **Jeanine**, sound by **Toby**

McFarlane and movement direction by **Lesley Hutchison**, who is also the Associate Director.

Director **Elizabeth Newman** said:

“Brief Encounter is one of the most enduring stories of all time; it is a tale of love and heartache that remains keenly relevant eighty years after it was first produced. I love the piece because it explores the complex bargains all we make in our lives and how, although hard, in the end we must make very difficult decisions. Very faithful Noel Coward’s epic film, the play is very funny and very moving. Emma Rice’s stage adaptation also includes some fantastic music. An audience can expect to enjoy classic Coward musical numbers performed live by our brilliant Ensemble as they journey through the brief encounter of the fated Laura and Alec.”

Brief Encounter runs at Pitlochry Festival Theatre from 16 June until 29 September. Tickets are now on sale and are available from the Pitlochry Festival Theatre Box Office on **01796 484626** or online at www.pitlochryfestivaltheatre.com

-Ends-

For all press interviews please contact Duncan Clarke PR:

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NOTES TO EDITORS

PRESS NIGHT: Wednesday 22 June at 2pm at Pitlochry Festival Theatre

CREATIVES

Pitlochry Festival Theatre present the Scottish première of

BRIEF ENCOUNTER

By **Noël Coward**

Adapted for the stage by **Emma Rice** from a screenplay entitled *Brief Encounter* and an original stage play entitled *Still Life*, both by **Noël Coward**

Original music composed by **Stu Barker**

Director **Elizabeth Newman**
Set Designer **Jen McGinley**
Lighting Designer **Jeanine Byrne**
Costume Designer **Julie Carlin**
Musical Director **Richard Reeday**
Sound Designer **Toby McFarlane**
Movement and Associate Director **Lesley Hutchison**
Cast: **Kirsty Stuart** (Laura), **Matthew Trevannion** (Alec), **Matthew Churcher** (Bobbie/Bill), **Keith Macpherson** (Albert/Fred), **Rachael McAllister** (Myrtle), **Joseph Tweedale** (Stanley/Various) and **Kristin Weichen Wong** (Beryl).

LISTINGS

16 June – 29 September

AUDITORIUM

Eve perf at 8pm:

June: 16, 17, 21 & 30

July: 4, 11, 15, 20, 21 & 26

August: 3, 4, 9, 17 & 31

September: 8, 15, 20 & 28

Mat perf at 2pm:

June: 22

July: 1 & 27

August: 10

September: 16, 21 & 29

Audio Described performance: 27 July at 2pm and 31 August at 8pm

Captioned performance: 27 July at 2pm

Relaxed performance: 16 September at 2pm

Tickets: £16-£39

Box Office and group bookings: 01796 484626

email boxoffice@pitlochryfestivaltheatre.com

Website: www.pitlochryfestivaltheatre.com

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

Since 1951, Pitlochry Festival Theatre has been the artistic heart and soul of Highland Perthshire. Attracting over 100,000 visitors every year, we're more than simply a place to come and see a show – we're Scotland's leading producer of musical theatre, a champion of ensemble practice and the country's only rurally-located, major arts organisation. Our vision is to improve lives by sharing Pitlochry with the world and the world with Pitlochry, and our aim is to create life-enhancing experiences in our Theatre its and environment – a glorious eleven-acre campus that encompasses the magical Explorers Garden. In everything we do, we are committed to nurturing an exciting creative and cultural future for Scotland.

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

Pitlochry Festival Theatre

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

Box Office and group bookings: boxoffice@pitlochryfestivaltheatre.com

Website: www.pitlochryfestivaltheatre.com

Pitlochry Festival Theatre is supported by the following organisations:

CELEBRATING 125 YEARS OF
NOËL COWARD

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