



NHS Scotland staff and Scottish Ballet neurological health and youth initiative participants being filmed last week for the HAS promotional film.

Dropbox of images here

Embargo 12noon Thu 23 May 2024

Healing Arts Scotland launches at Edinburgh International Festival

healingartsscotland.org/

*Announcement of key international speakers at conference and details of outdoor
Opening Celebration featuring over 250 performers and participants.*

- **Healing Arts** is the global outreach campaign of the **Jameel Arts & Health Lab** in collaboration with the **World Health Organization (WHO)**. **Healing Arts Scotland** is the first ever countrywide **Healing Arts Week**, following previous city-wide celebrations around the world, including New York, Paris, London, Venice and Jaipur, and is a week-long celebration of arts and health events, highlighting the joy they bring to those who take part, and their importance to the nation's **physical, mental and social health**.
- The **Healing Arts Scotland Opening Celebration** event takes place outside the Scottish Parliament at **4pm Mon 19th August** as part of the **Edinburgh International Festival** and **Festival of Politics**, featuring **over 250 performers** and participants from across Scotland in an energetic celebration of music and dance that captures the spirit and healing power of coming together through the performing arts. Ensembles featured include a **Scottish Ballet** community cast, **National Youth Pipe Band**, **TRYST**, **Oi Musica** and **Samba Ya Bamba**. **Scottish Ballet** will present a specially commissioned dance piece featuring an ensemble cast of community performers, including Scottish Ballet's Youth Exchange company, NHS staff, **Dance for Parkinson's Scotland** dancers and Dance Base's **PRIME Elders Dance Company**. The work will be performed to *Mackay's Memoirs* by the late Scottish Celtic fusion artist **Martyn Bennett**, which celebrates its 25th anniversary – it was originally commissioned for the opening of the Scottish Parliament building on 1 July 1999.
- **The HAS Conference**, in Edinburgh on 19th & 20th August and Glasgow on 21st August will feature Scotland's Chief Medical Officer **Sir Gregor Smith**, as well as leading international arts health

figures, including four specially curated panels as part of the **Festival of Politics** at Scottish Parliament.

- **HAS Conference** speakers include: **Christopher Bailey**, Arts and Health Lead at the World Health Organization and a founding co-director of the Jameel Arts and Health Lab; **Dr Jill Sonke**, from the Center for Arts in Medicine at the University of Florida; **Dr Nils Fietje** (also founding co-director of the Jameel Arts and Health Lab) and **Calum Smith** from the Behavioural and Cultural Insights Unit at the WHO Regional Office for Europe; **Dr Daisy Fancourt**, Professor of Psychobiology & Epidemiology at University College London; **Sangeeta Isvaran**, dancer-performer and founder of the *Wind Dancers Trust*, who has developed the Katradi method, working in marginalised, underprivileged communities using arts in education, empowerment and conflict resolution across 30 countries; **Kunle Adewale**, Founder and Executive Director of the Arts in Medicine Projects and the Global Arts in Medicine Fellowship; **Magdalena Schamberger**, theatre director, who collaborates with people living with dementia to create accessible performances in theatres, care homes and other settings; **Fiona O'Sullivan**, Director of Children's Wellbeing for the Edinburgh Children's Hospital Charity; **Agustin Ibanez**, Argentinean neuroscientist and Director of the Latin American Brain Health Institute at Universidad Adolfo Ibáñez (Chile), interested in global approaches to dementia and social, cognitive and affective neuroscience; **Dr Nisha Sajnani**, Associate Professor at the Steinhardt School at New York University and founding co-director of the Jameel Arts & Health Lab who is leading the Lancet global series on the health benefits of the arts together in collaboration with the WHO. The conference will also highlight the innovative arts and health work happening in Scotland.

The new **Healing Arts Scotland website** healingartsscotland.org/ is launched today, and features an interactive map showing all the Healing Arts activities happening across the country so far – more will be added as they register. Examples of events include:

- **Cancer Tapestry**, the latest project from Dr Andrew Crummy MBE, creator of The Great Tapestry of Scotland, and Macmillan Cancer Support, unveiling a tapestry featuring 100 cancer stories from around Scotland, with the opportunity to add a stitch of your own to this historic artwork during live tapestry workshops;
- **Small Town Boy**, marking the 40th anniversary of the LGBTQ+ anthem, with an exhibition / live rave installation launching at SWG3 Glasgow on 23rd August, curated by Scottish artist **Joe Henry**. Artists taking part include Scottish artist & designer **Charles Jeffrey**, Irish Sculptor **James Horan**, Poetry from London poet **Barney Ashton-Bullock**, fine art photography from Scottish / Philippino artist **Csian Canave**, music from **Nick Stewart (Bosco)** as well as the original photographs of **Bronski Beat** by Steve Rapport, which have been painted over by Joe Henry, adding a layer of authenticity and nostalgia, further contextualizing the struggles and triumphs of the LGBTQ+ community.
- **Storywalk**, an outdoor storytelling walk with wild foraged tea in the Cairngorms National Park, 'restorying' the land with folktales, lore of plants, trees and nature, as well as highlighting injustice within the landscape to help healing in its broadest sense.

Jameel Arts & Health Lab Co-Director and WHO Arts & Health Lead, **Christopher Bailey** said:

"Many cities around the world have taken part in our series of Healing Arts activations, but I am excited to see Scotland taking a truly national approach. Scotland's unique sense of community, its embrace of all art forms, and its commitment to health for all promise to be an exciting combination. I can't wait to participate and see what the communities come up with."

Chief Medical Officer, **Sir Gregor Smith** said:

“The links between the arts and health are long established, not only in creating the environment for good health to flourish, but in supporting people with long term conditions. Scottish Ballet are leading exponents of this approach and I am immensely proud to be attending and supporting Healing Arts Scotland Week to learn more about how we can make the most of this fantastic opportunity to improve people’s health and wellbeing.”

Scottish Ballet CEO/Artistic Director, **Christopher Hampson** said:

"Healing Arts Scotland 2024 will be an inspirational week-long celebration of the huge impact the arts has on the nation's health and well-being. Scottish Ballet is proud to be leading on this global outreach project in collaboration with the WHO and a host of partner organisations. I'm really excited about the largescale participation performance taking place outside Scottish Parliament – it will be a true testament to all the wonderful arts health work that happens every day across Scotland."

Edinburgh International Festival Chief Executive **Francesca Hegyi** said:

“The Edinburgh International Festival is proud to be part of the first ever nationwide Healing Arts campaign in Scotland. This is an important dialogue to help address health inequalities across the country and we look forward to facilitating those conversations throughout August.”

Healing Arts Scotland:

Whether it’s dance classes, choir rehearsals, creative writing workshops or pot throwing, fantastic events take place every day all across Scotland that help improve people’s wellbeing. **Healing Arts Scotland** is a week-long celebration of these events, highlighting the joy they bring to those who take part, and their importance to the nation’s **physical, mental and social health**. This will be the first ever countrywide **Healing Arts Week**, following previous city-wide celebrations around the world, including New York, Paris, London, Venice and Jaipur.

The Opening Celebration of Healing Arts Scotland, taking place on 19 August as part of the **Edinburgh International Festival** and **Festival of Politics**, features over 250 performers from across Scotland in an energetic mass participation performance of music and dance outside the Scottish Parliament.

Scottish Ballet will present a specially commissioned dance piece featuring an ensemble cast of Scottish Ballet community performers, including Scottish Ballet's Youth Exchange company, NHS staff, Dance for Parkinson's Scotland participants and Dance Base's PRIME Elders Dance company. They will dance to *Mackay’s Memoirs* by the late Scottish Celtic fusion artist **Martyn Bennett**, a landmark work by the **GRIT Orchestra**. The song has a strong connection to the Scottish Parliament itself, as it was commissioned for the opening of the Scottish Parliament building on 1 July 1999. This performance marks its 25th anniversary and is performed with live musicians from piping supergroup **TRYST** and the **National Youth Pipe Band**, under the musical guidance of GRIT Orchestra’s **Greg Lawson**.

Two new musicals compositions will also be debuted, by youth street band musicians **Oi Musica** with Glasgow-based collective **Samba Ya Bamba**, and the **National Youth Pipe Band**, in a mass moment of music making that captures the spirit and healing power of coming together through the performing arts.

The **Opening Celebration** will be followed by the **HAS Conference** in Edinburgh - two days of international industry speakers and panel discussions on the impact of healing arts activity, a conference and Wellbeing Concert in Glasgow and a series of special events in Aberdeen, Orkney and Lewis.

Events can be registered and viewed on the **brand new Healing Arts Scotland website**, which has an excellent interactive map showing all the brilliant events taking place across the country, with more being added daily.

Healing Arts Scotland 2024 is led by **Scottish Ballet** as part of the **Jameel Arts & Health Lab’s** global ‘Healing Arts’ campaign in collaboration with the **World Health Organisation**, and will be produced together with a national coalition of organisations across culture, science, health, education and government.

Alongside Scottish Ballet and the Edinburgh International Festival, the partners helping to shape the week include **Luminate**, **Health and Social Care Alliance (ALLIANCE)**, **Intercultural Youth Scotland**, **Scottish Opera**, **Sistema Scotland**, **National Galleries of Scotland**, **International Teaching Artists Collaborative**, **Healthcare Improvement Scotland**, **Imagine**, **Indepen-dance**, **Mental Health Foundation Scotland**, **Tonic Arts**, **The University of Edinburgh**, **NHS Greater Glasgow and Clyde**, **Royal Conservatoire of Scotland** and **Arts Culture Health & Wellbeing Scotland**.

Healing Arts Scotland is generously supported by the Rose Fund.

Notes to Editors:

About Healing Arts:

Healing Arts is the global outreach campaign of the **Jameel Arts & Health Lab** in collaboration with the **World Health Organization** (WHO). The Lab was established in 2023 by the WHO Regional Office for Europe, the Steinhardt School at New York University, Community Jameel, and CULTURUNNERS to coordinate and amplify scientific research into the effectiveness of the arts in improving health and wellbeing. Leveraging data, artist-led advocacy and a global 'Healing Arts' campaign. The Lab aims to drive policy implementation across 193 UN member states. The four major strands of the Jameel Arts and Health Lab are:

- Research – Rigorous studies to demonstrate measurable impact
 - Outreach – Events and communications campaigns to engage the public
 - Policy – Government engagement to drive policy implementation
 - Capacity Building – Arts & Health training and resources for practitioners and researchers
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About Scottish Ballet

- Scottish Ballet, founded in 1969, is Scotland's national dance company. Based in Glasgow, the company performs regularly across Scotland, throughout the UK and internationally – promoting Scotland's pioneering spirit far and wide.
- Scottish Ballet is a National Centre for Dance Health delivering specialised programmes for those living with dementia, Parkinson's, MS and Long Covid
- Under CEO/Artistic Director Christopher Hampson, Scottish Ballet presents bold, adventurous performances rooted in strong classical technique, accompanied by the Scottish Ballet Orchestra. The company's broad repertoire includes new versions of the classics and ground-breaking commissions, both on stage and screen.
- Scottish Ballet runs an extensive engagement programme, tailored to the needs of diverse communities, promoting confidence, fostering wellbeing, and encouraging creativity through dance.
- Scottish Ballet is funded by the Scottish Government.
- Scottish Ballet's dance health programme has been made possible by the generous support of Scottish Government, Baillie Gifford (Scottish Ballet's Neurological Dance Health partner), trusts, foundations, Rose Fund, Sue & Graeme Sloan, and our patrons.
- For more information, visit: scottishballet.co.uk

About Edinburgh International Festival

- Edinburgh International Festival is a global celebration of performing arts, bringing the finest performers of dance, opera, music and theatre from around the world to Edinburgh for three weeks every August.
- The International Festival's impact also extends beyond the annual programme, with community learning, engagement and professional development programmes running throughout the year, contributing to the cultural and social life of Edinburgh and Scotland.

- The 2024 International Festival takes place from 2-25 August, under the direction of Festival Director and Scottish violinist Nicola Benedetti. Benedetti's vision is to create the deepest level of experience, through the highest quality of art, for the broadest possible audience.
 - For more information, visit: www.eif.co.uk
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