

SCOTTISH
INTERNATIONAL
STORYTELLING
FESTIVAL 2019

BEYOND WORDS

18-31 OCTOBER

BOX OFFICE 0131 556 9579

SISF.ORG.UK

WELCOME

The 31st SISF celebrates old traditions and new connections, showcasing how music, dance and story communicate shared experiences that are ‘Beyond Words’.

Canada and Scotland have closely interwoven identities and histories, so SISF is delighted to headline ‘Canada-Scotland: Coast to Coast’ for its international exchange, thanks to Scottish Government’s Festivals Expo Fund support. In this UN International Year of Indigenous Languages, First Nation and Scottish tradition bearers will share their story, dance and song inheritance, while contemporary narratives of exile, migration and displacement search for healing across a fractured world.

SISF will also have an expanded development strand with ‘Global Lab’, utilising the values of The Earth Charter with a storytelling focus, while the final days of the Festival will lead into the Feast of Samhuinn, in accord with Celtic tradition.

Invited guests will perform in Edinburgh, in collaboration with their Scottish compatriots, as well as touring Scotland, encouraging grassroots storytelling in the community through Festival on Tour, alongside our popular Community Programme. SISF partnerships are flourishing due to the PLACE Programme, funded by the Scottish Government – through Creative Scotland – the City of Edinburgh Council and the Edinburgh Festivals.

The Festival Team



Margaret Grenier
Photo by Chris Randle

Sustainability & Culture

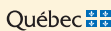


Storytellers across the world bring a creative dimension to our sense of the environment and the living connection between ecology and sustainable culture. SISF is committed to measuring and managing our environmental impacts. Please enjoy our environmental events, use public transport wherever possible, and use recycling facilities.

The **Scottish International Storytelling Festival** is organised by TRACS (Traditional Arts & Culture Scotland) which brings together the **Traditional Music Forum**, **Scottish Storytelling Forum** and **Traditional Dance Forum of Scotland**, from its base at the **Scottish Storytelling Centre**. TRACS showcases Scotland’s traditional arts in a contemporary world, making them more accessible to all.



Supported through **Scottish Government’s Festivals Expo Fund**, **Creative Scotland**, **City of Edinburgh Council** and **Festivals Edinburgh**. We acknowledge the support of the **Canada Council for the Arts**, the **Québec Government Office in London**, the **Norwegian Ministry of Foreign Affairs**, **Performing Arts Hub Norway** and **Live Argyll**.



ABOUT THE PROGRAMME

Our categories ensure your storytelling experience is exactly what you're looking for, be it an evening gathering soaking up stories, daytime events for the whole family or workshops, so you can get creative.

HOW TO BOOK

Tickets for events at the Scottish Storytelling Centre, the Dance Base workshop and the Global Lab day at Royal Botanic Garden Edinburgh can be booked by phone, online or in person through the Scottish Storytelling Centre's Box Office.

All other partner venues and regional events have their own booking outlets. See back cover for details.

+44 (0) 131 556 9579
or sisf.org.uk

Events at the **National Library of Scotland** bookable from **Tuesday 17 September** on www.nls.uk/events or **0131 623 3734**.

BECOME A SUPPORTER

Festival Supporter - £24 (expires on 1 November 2019)

- Discounts on many SISF events at the Storytelling Centre
- Discounts on CPD workshops at the Storytelling Centre
- 10% discount at Storytelling Centre's bookshop, during SISF 2019 dates
- 10% discount at The Storytelling Café, during SISF 2019 dates
- Invite to launch party on Friday 18 October
- Contributing to the development of the SISF

Look for the Supporter prices in the listings marked as: **£6**

The generosity of our supporters and funders allows us to bring our work to life, share it with the widest possible audience and keep our ticket prices affordable.

Our audience is essential in helping us to deliver high quality storytelling, music and dance events.

With your help, we can do more and do it better.

You can become a Storytelling Centre Supporter too for year-round rewards!

To book your Supporter options call our team on

+44 (0)131 556 9579

Email: supporters@scottishstorytellingcentre.com

HOW TO GET HERE

The Scottish Storytelling Centre's award-winning building is the hub of the Festival, located halfway down Edinburgh's Royal Mile, within easy walking distance of Princes Street and Waverley train station. There is no parking directly outside the Centre, but Lothian bus number 35 stops outside our door, and there's a taxi rank just up the road.

- Fully accessible to wheelchair users
- Braille signage throughout
- Hearing loop
- Licensed Café and Bookshop

Scottish Storytelling Centre | 43-45 High Street | EH1 1SR



COMMUNITY PROGRAMME: BEYOND WORDS

Once again, local storytellers will lead events in schools and community venues across Scotland, from **Monday 2 September – Monday 2 December**.

There are free, downloadable resources on the website for those wanting to organise their own events, with options for subsidies to book a local storyteller. **Wednesday 27 November** is a designated showcase day, encouraging schools and community groups to hold events on this date and join the Story Exchange.



Michael Kerins

To take part in the community programme please contact Storytelling Network Co-ordinator:
Fiona MacDougall – fiona@tracscotland.org

FESTIVAL ON TOUR

Coordinated by regional storytelling teams with the support of SISF. Storytellers will visit Angus, Argyll & Bute, Clackmannanshire, Dumfries & Galloway, Dundee, Fife, Glasgow, Highland, Moray, North East, Orkney, Perthshire and Scottish Borders to meet with local performers and audiences.

See pages 24-29 - for details

FESTIVAL EXHIBITIONS

The Long Look

Scottish National Portrait Gallery | 25 May – 27 Oct
Mon – Sun: 10am – 5pm | Free

A collaboration between painter **Audrey Grant** and photographer/printmaker **Norman McBeath** which explores the art of portraiture beyond the conventional artist and sitter relationship through their unique creative exchange. Audrey asked Norman to sit for a charcoal portrait, and at the end of each sitting, Norman photographed the sketch and the creative environment, including her hands, his chair and the charcoal. She would then erase the drawing, leaving charcoal traces behind, and begin the portrait anew. The finished portraits, which took two years to complete, as well as another portrait of Norman and two portraits of award-winning crime writer Val McDermid, will be on display in this fascinating and revelatory exhibition.



Northern Lights: The Scottish Enlightenment

National Library of Scotland | 21 Jun – 18 Apr 2020
Mon, Tue, Thu: 9.30am – 7pm | Wed: 10am – 7pm
Fri & Sat: 9.30am – 5pm | Free

18th-century Scotland was a place with many remarkable individuals, but the conditions that helped create the Scottish Enlightenment were the social and professional networks that allowed these great thinkers to share and develop their ideas. Intellectual Scots in the 18th century lived active and sociable lives with frequent opportunities to debate with their peers: from universities, churches, debating societies, libraries and laboratories to coffee shops, taverns and town houses. Featuring books and manuscripts produced by the leading figures of the age including David Hume, Adam Smith, William Robertson, Robert Adam and Robert Burns.



Hamish Henderson (1919 – 2002)

National Library of Scotland | 23 Sep – 12 Nov
Mon, Tue, Thu: 9.30am – 7pm | Wed: 10am – 7pm
Fri & Sat: 9.30am – 5pm | Free

A display celebrating the life and work of poet, songwriter, and folklorist Hamish Henderson, drawn from the collections at the National Library of Scotland.



The Somewhere Else

Scottish Storytelling Centre | 5-31 Oct
Mon – Sun: 10am – 10pm | Free

Glasgow-based artist **Fiona Watson** spent her childhood in Canada thanks to wandering Scottish parents. Her romanticised memories are of icebergs floating into St. John's harbour and skating on the frozen waters of Ontario, surrounded by wild nature. In this series of etching prints, the artist expresses her overwhelming visual memory of Canada, evoking the silence and minimalist aesthetic of its snowy landscapes.



365: Stories and Music

Scottish Storytelling Centre | 18-30 Oct
Mon – Sun: 10am – 10pm | Free

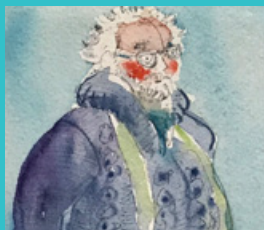
A sound installation of contemporary Scottish stories and music by author **James Robertson** and musician **Aidan O'Rourke** (of Lau). Bold, tender, full of old truths and distilled modern wit, this is an epic built on the beauty of the miniature. A collaboration between artists steeped in tradition but constantly breaking new ground.



Drawing the Story

Scottish Storytelling Centre | 18-31 Oct
Mon – Sun: 10am – 10pm | Free

Illustrator **Kim Howard** creates real time sketches and drawings of performers, participants and audiences during the SISF, capturing moments of engagement and the connections made between people, place and story.



GLOBAL LAB

An opportunity to discover the power of storytelling and role of storytellers in the 21st century. Each day features keynote stories, talks, discussions and workshops in open sessions, allowing for shared reflection ahead of the evening's storytelling performances.

Mon 21 Oct

Day 1: Politics of Folktales

Are folktales still subversive, fantastic and anarchic, or mainly entertainment? Are they told for more personal, family or social issues? How do you read an audience and draw out interpretations that they can develop in heart, mind and action? Learn from the approaches of accomplished tellers **Jan Blake, Heidi Dahlsveen** and **Ruth Kirkpatrick**.

Tue 22 Oct

Day 2: Earth Stories

As our global crisis deepens, which stories can help us reconnect and provoke real change? Can the stories of indigenous people be restored to a place of honour and inspiration for all? Contributions from **Alette Willis, Grian Cutanda, Dawne McFarlane**, Chief **RoseAnne Archibald** and **Julie Cajune**.

Wed 23 Oct

Day 3: The Wild Nature & Garden Cosmos

How do traditional and contemporary stories take us into a shared experience of 'the wild'? Are gardens a place where humanity and the natural world converse and commune? How can storytellers channel these experiences and open doors in tactful and inviting ways? Contributions from **Donald Smith, Margot Henderson, Joanna Geyer-Kordesch** and **Giovanna Conforto**.

Note: Lunch is not provided.

Thu 24 Oct

Day 4: Talking Cures

It's good to talk – internationally, nationally, within communities and families. How can storytelling enable understanding that goes 'Beyond Words'? This special 'Year of Conversation' workshop is held on United Nations Day. Contributions from **Michael Williams, Amanda Edmiston, Tom Pow, Ailie Finlay** and **Edel Roddy**.

Day 1, 2, 4 & 5

Scottish Storytelling Centre
11am (5hrs with lunch) | £25 (£22) £20, per day

Day 3

Botanic Cottage,
Royal Botanic Garden Edinburgh
11am (5hrs without lunch) | £16 (£14) £12

Fri 25 Oct

Day 5: Transforming Myth

Myths are one of the richest emotional and intellectual human cultural expressions. They explore our place in nature, our relationships and spirituality. How do artists express that narrative inheritance in their art and why? Experience different traditions and diverse ways of expressing them. Contributions from **Margaret Grenier, George Macpherson, Giovanna Conforto** and **Grian Cutanda**.



Giovanna Conforto



FESTIVAL OPENING WEEKEND



David Campbell
Photo by Mairi McFadyen

Fri 18 Oct

The Welcome Hearth - Passing It On!

Scottish Storytelling Centre

Live Storytelling

6.30pm (2hrs)

£9 (£7.50) ~~£6~~

An opening night of Scots and Traveller tradition in song and story welcomes our guests.

With First Nations protocol and Scottish hospitality.

Donald Smith hosts

storytellers **Jess Smith, James**

Spence, Janis Mackay and

Heather Yule.



Jess Smith
Photo by Solen Collet

Sat 19 Oct

Words on the Street

Scottish Storytelling Centre
& Museum of Childhood

Family Event

1.30pm (3hrs)

Free | 4+

Street games, stories and songs for all the family! Take part in the vibrant children's games and surreal songs of old Edinburgh and explore the story of the local street outside, as Edinburgh's people reclaim their historic streets from cars. Featuring an array of Scottish storytellers and sessions for all ages.

In Conversation with Joseph Naytowhow

Scottish Storytelling Centre
Talk

5pm (50mins)

£6 (£5) ~~£4~~

Discover the fascinating backgrounds of our guests with insights from Scottish-based hosts. Hailing from Saskatchewan, Cree First Nation storyteller **Joseph Naytowhow** is welcomed by storyteller **David Campbell.**

Scotland & Canada: My Home Canada & My Home-Home Scotland

Scottish Storytelling Centre
Live Storytelling

6.30pm (1hr)

£7.50 (£6) ~~£5~~

When you emigrate where is your home? Where do your stories take you? Can you ever 'Go back where you came from'? And why would you want to? Storyteller **Alexandria Patience** tells stories of her homes, Scotland and Canada, with music from **Donald McNeill.**

Open Hearth

Scottish Storytelling Centre
Live Storytelling
8pm (2hrs)
£9 (£7.50) £6

Storytellers and musicians gather round the hearth for a relaxed traditional session of stories from home and abroad, as the darkness closes in and minds glow with pictures in the symbolic fire. The perfect way to end your day! Hosted by **Beverly Bryant**, with guest storytellers **Joseph Naytowhow** from Canada, **Alexandria Patience** and **Donald McNeill**.

Sun 20 Oct

Living Library

Scottish Storytelling Centre
Conversation
11am (6hrs)
Free | 12+

This library works just like a normal library: visitors browse the catalogue, choose the book they want to read and borrow it. But in the *Living Library*, books are people, and reading consists of conversation! Run in collaboration with the **Holocaust Educational Trust**, which seeks to challenge prejudice and discrimination in a warm, inclusive and welcoming space.

Note: Accompanied children under 12 also welcome.

Enchanted Garden

Royal Botanic Garden
Edinburgh
Family Event
1pm (3hrs)
Free

Join Scottish and international storytellers and treat yourself with a relaxed afternoon of stories for all ages. Enjoy sessions in the Botanic Cottage, find the cosy spots where stories are shared and enjoy story journeys around the beautiful surroundings, immersed in autumn colours.

Note: Botanic Cottage sessions have limited capacity, free tickets available on the door.

In Conversation with Heidi Dahlsveen

Scottish Storytelling Centre
Talk
5pm (50mins)
£6 (£5) £4

Discover the fascinating backgrounds of our guests with insights from Scottish-based hosts. Norwegian storyteller **Heidi Dahlsveen** is welcomed by Danish storyteller **Svend-Erik Engh**.

Scotland & Canada: Isobel Gunn

Scottish Storytelling Centre
Live Storytelling
6.30pm (1hr)
£7.50 (£6) £5

In 1805, a young Orkney lass brazenly disguised herself as a boy and was hired as a labourer by the Hudson Bay Company. Their destination – the vast area of wilderness known as Rupert's Land! This gruelling adventure is brought to life by Canadian storyteller **Deborah Dunleavy**, taking on the role of Isobel Gunn between 1805 – 1808 and the final days of her life some sixty years later. Based on true accounts, the piece unfolds as an epic storytelling poem set to orchestrated music by composer **Howard Alexander**. Developed with the support of **Canada Council for the Arts**.

Open Hearth

Scottish Storytelling Centre
Live Storytelling
8pm (2hrs)
£9 (£7.50) £6

Storytellers and musicians gather round the hearth for a relaxed traditional session of stories from home and abroad, as the darkness closes in and minds glow with pictures in the symbolic fire. The perfect way to end your day! Hosted by **David Campbell**, with guest storytellers **Deborah Dunleavy** from Canada, **Heidi Dahlsveen** from Norway and **Svend-Erik Engh** from Denmark.

Sat 19 &
Sun 20 Oct

Mile to the Museum & National Museum of Scotland

Departs from Mercat Cross,
beside St. Giles Cathedral

Walking Tour

10.30am (1hr 30)

£25, including tea & scone
at the Museum | 5+

Discover the story of Scotland through our capital city and National Museum. Explore key locations and stories hidden around the Royal Mile. See a city of the past – which goes unnoticed for many – where commoners, queens and criminals once walked. Then tour the National Museum of Scotland to view our nation's treasures, stepping through Scotland's history, exploring how special objects have shaped our past, present and future.

Note: Tour involves cobbled streets, slopes and stairs. The guide will always adapt the route to visitor's needs – full access statement at www.mercattours.com

Heidi Dahlsveen





FESTIVAL WEEK

Dawne McFarlane
photo by Joe Tamko

Mon 21 Oct

Corryvreckan: Inspiralled Tales

Scottish Storytelling Centre
Live Storytelling
5pm (1hr)
£7.50 (£6) £5

After a chance encounter with Orwell's son in the whirlpool that nearly killed him, storyteller **Fiona Herbert** was inspired to put her own spin on the maelstrom. Join her for myths reimagined, with Corryvreckan at their swirling heart. With live music and song from **Rona Wilkie**.

Life with My Father, George Orwell

Scottish Storytelling Centre
Talk
6.30pm (1hr)
£6 (£5) £4

George Orwell's son **Richard Blair** takes us on a personal and unique journey into the life of his father, including insights into family times on the Isle of Jura.

Home, Heart & A Hint of Horror

Scottish Storytelling Centre
Live Storytelling
8pm (2hrs)
£9 (£7.50) £6

Savour the aromas of a Caribbean kitchen and swing from the branches of a Highland birchwood. Laugh, cry and occasionally curse with our most cherished yet challenging tales on a quest for belonging. Storytellers **Jan Blake** and **Dougie Mackay** explore the dearest, and sometimes darkest elements of family, heritage, heart and home.

Tue 22 Oct

Why Hamish Matters: Local Song in the Global Age

National Library of Scotland
Talk
2pm (1hr)
Free (ticketed)

Ethnologist, singer and community activist **Steve Byrne** reflects on the essential work of Hamish Henderson's collected local songs in areas of Scotland and how, through digitisation, they are being used for community development, considering ideas of cultural confidence, language, personal identity and localism in a globalised world.

In Conversation with Robert Seven Crows Bourdon

Scottish Storytelling Centre
Talk
5pm (50mins)
£6 (£5) £4

Discover the fascinating backgrounds of our guests with insights from Scottish-based hosts. Coming from Quebec, Metis Mi'kmaq and Acadian storyteller **Robert Seven Crows Bourdon** is welcomed by Canadian storyteller **Alette Willis**.

The Alan Bruford Lecture – Fenian Heroes at Sea

Scottish Storytelling Centre
Talk
6.30pm (1hr)
£6 (£5) £4

Already in some of the earliest surviving traces of the Fenian heroic tradition in medieval Irish literature, in similarly early references to historical Fianna, and in later Gaelic romance and folktale, there is the notion of travel across the sea. While heroes often undertake adventures abroad in other heroic story cycles, in this presentation we will consider the special significance of Fionn and his men in the maritime context. With **Prof. Joseph Nagy**.

Open Hearth

Scottish Storytelling Centre
Live Storytelling
8pm (2hrs)
£9 (£7.50) £6

Storytellers and musicians gather round the hearth for a relaxed traditional session of stories from home and abroad, as the darkness closes in and minds glow with pictures in the symbolic fire. The perfect way to end your day! Hosted by Canadian **Dawne McFarlane**, with guest storytellers **Robert Seven Crows Bourdon** and **Louise Profeit-LeBlanc** from Canada and **Jackie Ross**.



Wed 23 Oct

Garden of Tales: Stories from Lithuania

Scottish Storytelling Centre

Live Storytelling

3.30pm (1hr)

£7.50 (£6) £5

Step into the garden, luscious in summer and white with snow in winter. Sit under the blooming branches and taste the apple from the tree of life. Listen to stories from the worlds above, below and our own in between. Lithuanian storyteller **Daiva Ivanauskaitė** introduces us to traditional stories weaved with songs of her Baltic country as part of **Lithuanian Days in Scotland**. In partnership with Lithuanian Culture Institute and Lithuanian Embassy in the UK. For more information visit facebook.com/LithuanianArtAndCultureUK.

In Conversation with Louise Profeit-LeBlanc

Scottish Storytelling Centre
Talk

5pm (50mins)

£6 (£5) £4

Discover the fascinating backgrounds of our guests with insights from Scottish-based hosts. Hailing from the Yukon, Nacho Nyak Dun First Nation storyteller **Louise Profeit-LeBlanc** is welcomed by storyteller **Jackie Ross**.



Julie Cajune

Scotland & Canada: Stories from the Yukon

Scottish Storytelling Centre

Live Storytelling

6.30pm (1hr)

£7.50 (£6) £5

Nacho Nyak Dun First Nation storyteller **Louise Profeit-LeBlanc** was nurtured by the traditional stories of her grandmother and has dedicated her life to collecting tales from elders in northern Yukon. Let her take you to the outskirts of the Arctic Circle as she shares these treasures.

Open Hearth

Scottish Storytelling Centre

Live Storytelling

8pm (2hrs)

£9 (£7.50) £6

Storytellers and musicians gather round the hearth for a relaxed traditional session of stories from home and abroad, as the darkness closes in and minds glow with pictures in the symbolic fire. The perfect way to end your day! Hosted by **George Macpherson** with music from **Fin Moore**, with guest storytellers **Julie Cajune** from USA and **Joseph Naytowhow** from Canada.

Thu 24 Oct

In Conversation with Michael Williams

Scottish Storytelling Centre
Talk

5pm (50mins)

£6 (£5) £4

Discover the fascinating backgrounds of our guests with insights from Scottish-based hosts. Ontario storyteller **Michael Williams** is welcomed by storyteller **Michael Kerins**.

Scotland & Canada: Stories from the Great Plains

Scottish Storytelling Centre
Live Storytelling

6.30pm (1hr)

£7.50 (£6) £5

Coming from the immense grasslands of Saskatchewan, Cree *néhiyaw* First Nation storyteller **Joseph Naytowhow** will transport you to the landscapes of the Great Plains, guiding you through their timeless sounds and stories.

Open Hearth

Scottish Storytelling Centre

Live Storytelling

8pm (2hrs)

£9 (£7.50) £6

Storytellers and musicians gather round the hearth for a relaxed traditional session of stories from home and abroad, as the darkness closes in and minds glow with pictures in the symbolic fire. The perfect way to end your day! Hosted by **Michael Kerins**, with guest storytellers **Chuck Warren, Jess Smith** and **Daniel Serridge**.

Fri 25 Oct

A Close Shave! – Barber Shop Stories

National Library of Scotland

Live Storytelling

2pm (1hr 30)

Free (ticketed)

Scottish barber and social satirist John Kay published his first caustic caricature in 1784. His biting wit and satirical style became so popular that Kay refurbished his barber's shop to sell prints of his colourful clientele. There's certainly a story behind every print, and many a close shave...

Storytellers **Jan Bee Brown** and **Beverley Casebow** toast the entrepreneurs of the Enlightenment, from notorious publican John Dowie to dedicated follower of fashion Miss Sibilla Hutton, with audacious aeronauts, dodgy doctors and stony-broke bankers.



Michael Williams

In Conversation with Margaret Grenier

Scottish Storytelling Centre
Talk

5pm (50mins)

£6 (£5) £4

Discover the fascinating backgrounds of our guests with insights from Scottish-based hosts. Coming from British Columbia, Gitksan and Cree First Nation dancer and storyteller **Margaret Grenier** is welcomed by storyteller **Marion Kenny**.

Scotland & Canada: Stories from Newfoundland & Labrador

Scottish Storytelling Centre
Live Storytelling

6.30pm (1hr)

£7.50 (£6) £5

Born and bred in Newfoundland and Labrador, **Gary Green** was raised on stories of life in the province prior to it becoming part of Canada. Join him for an evening rich with North Atlantic lore, where the boundary between folktales and early settlers' life stories may blur.

Festival Guid Crack: Tales for Samhuinn

Waverley Bar

Live Storytelling

7.30pm (2hrs 30)

By donation (£5, £4)

Samhuinn marks the time of year when the veil lifts between the worlds of darkness and light. Host storyteller **Michael Williams** invites you to celebrate Samhuinn with a feast of spooky tales featuring spirits, sprites and otherworldly characters. Fancy dress welcomed.

Open Hearth

Scottish Storytelling Centre

Live Storytelling

8pm (2hrs)

£9 (£7.50) £6

Storytellers and musicians gather round the hearth for a relaxed traditional session of stories from home and abroad, as the darkness closes in and minds glow with pictures in the symbolic fire. The perfect way to end your day! Hosted by **Jess Smith** with music from **Calum Macleod**, with guest storytellers **Giovanna Conforto** from Italy, **George Macpherson** and **Bea Ferguson**.

FESTIVAL DIARY

TIME	EVENT	VENUE	PAGE
FRI 18 OCTOBER			
6.30pm	The Welcome Hearth - Passing It On!	SSC	9
SAT 19 OCTOBER			
10.30am	Mile to the Museum & National Museum of Scotland	Meet at Mercat Cross	11
1.30pm	Words on the Street	SSC & Museum of Childhood	9
5pm	In Conversation with Joseph Naytowhow	SSC	9
6.30pm	Scotland & Canada: My Home Canada & My Home-Home Scotland	SSC	9
8pm	Open Hearth	SSC	10
SUN 20 OCTOBER			
10.30am	Mile to the Museum & National Museum of Scotland	Meet at Mercat Cross	11
11am	Living Library	SSC	10
1pm	Enchanted Garden	RBGE	10
5pm	In Conversation with Heidi Dahlsveen	SSC	10
6.30pm	Scotland & Canada: Isobel Gunn	SSC	10
8pm	Open Hearth	SSC	10
MON 21 OCTOBER			
11am	Global Lab	SSC	6
5pm	Corryvreckan: Inspiralld Tales	SSC	13
6.30pm	Life with My Father, George Orwell	SSC	13
8pm	Home, Heart & A Hint of Horror	SSC	13
TUE 22 OCTOBER			
11am	Global Lab	SSC	6
2pm	Why Hamish Matters: Local Song in the Global Age	NLS	13
5pm	In Conversation with Robert Seven Crows Bourdon	SSC	13
6.30pm	The Alan Bruford Lecture – Fenian Heroes at Sea	SSC	13
8pm	Open Hearth	SSC	13
WED 23 OCTOBER			
11am	Global Lab	Botanic Cottage, RBGE	6
3.30pm	Garden of Tales: Stories from Lithuania	SSC	14
5pm	In Conversation with Louise Profeit-LeBlanc	SSC	14
6.30pm	Scotland & Canada: Stories from the Yukon	SSC	14
8pm	Open Hearth	SSC	14
THU 24 OCTOBER			
11am	Global Lab	SSC	6
5pm	In Conversation with Michael Williams	SSC	14
6.30pm	Scotland & Canada: Stories from the Great Plains	SSC	14
8pm	Open Hearth	SSC	15
FRI 25 OCTOBER			
11am	Global Lab	SSC	6
2pm	A Close Shave! – Barber Shop Stories	NLS	15
5pm	In Conversation with Margaret Grenier	SSC	15

Venue Key

SSC	Scottish Storytelling Centre
NLS	National Library of Scotland
RBGE	Royal Botanic Garden Edinburgh
SNPG	Scottish National Portrait Gallery

TIME	EVENT	VENUE	PAGE
6.30pm	Scotland & Canada: Stories from Newfoundland & Labrador	SSC	15
7.30pm	Festival Guid Crack: Tales for Samhuinn	The Waverley Bar	15
8pm	Open Hearth	SSC	15
SAT 26 OCTOBER			
10.30am	Mile to the Museum & National Museum of Scotland	Meet at Mercat Cross	21
12pm	Family Samhuinn	SSC	19
1.30pm	The Travel Journal	SSC	19
2pm	Scotland & Canada - Mutual Relations	NLS	19
5pm	Miss Lindsay's Secret - The Yukon Letters	SSC	19
6.30pm	Scotland & Canada: Robert Service - Poet of the Yukon	SSC	19
8pm	Open Hearth	SSC	19
SUN 27 OCTOBER			
10.30am	Mile to the Museum & National Museum of Scotland	Meet at Mercat Cross	21
11am	Greyfriars Bobby & his Four-Legged Friends: Amazing Edinburgh Animals	Meet at Greyfriars Kirkyard	20
2pm	Cuisers Galore	SSC & Museum of Edinburgh	20
2pm	Canada Inspires	SSC	20
5pm	In Conversation with Gary Green	SSC	20
6.30pm	Scotland & Canada: Spirit & Tradition	SSC	20
8pm	Open Hearth - New Moon	SSC	20
MON 28 OCTOBER			
1pm	Beyond the Spectacle: Native North American Presence in Britain	SSC	21
5pm	The Tempest & The Teller	SSC	21
6.30pm	Scotland & Canada: Stories from Orkney & Quebec	SSC	21
8pm	Stories I've Lived In	SSC	21
TUE 29 OCTOBER			
11am	Masterclass: Exploring Contemporary Coastal Dance	Dance Base	22
12.45pm	Airts o Soons an Eeen: Scotland's Art in Scots	SNPG	22
1f	Sgeulachdan na Fèinne san Latha an-diugh	SSC	22
1pm	Stories of the Fianna in a Modern World	SSC	22
2pm	The Very Curious Herbal	NLS	23
5f	Sgeulachdan seana is ùra tror n-òrain	SSC	22
5pm	Stories Old and New Through Our Songs	SSC	22
8f	Ciaradh na h-Oidhche	SSC	23
8pm	Evening Twilight	SSC	23
WED 30 OCTOBER			
7pm	Flicker	SSC	23
THU 31 OCTOBER			
10am	The Devil & The Clutch of Fools	SSC	23
8pm	Samhuinn Fire Festival	Edinburgh Old Town	23

FESTIVAL FINALE WEEKEND

Dancers of Damelahamid
photo by Derek Dix



Sat 26 Oct

Family Samhuinn

Scottish Storytelling Centre

Family Event

12pm (3hrs)

£5 | Children 3-12

Make Samhuinn memorable for all the family and get into the Hallowe'en spirit with a bone chilling afternoon of stories, drama, games and songs to ensure youngsters can embrace the ancient traditions of the **Beltane Fire Society**.

The Travel Journal

Scottish Storytelling Centre

Workshop

1.30pm (3hrs)

£8 (£7) £6

A hands-on workshop with illustrator **Kim Howard** incorporating collage, writing, maps, drawing and painting to create a handmade, personalised sketch diary. Materials will be provided, but attendees may bring their own personal collage items. Exercises are fun, quick and satisfying with no drawing skill necessary to a complete your book.

Scotland & Canada – Mutual Relations

National Library of Scotland

Talks

2pm (2hrs)

Free (ticketed)

Explore the close historical and cultural connections between Canada and Scotland, and their continuing legacy. **Margaret Bennett** is steeped in the Gaelic lore of Canada, while Chief **RoseAnne Archibald** is a First Nation activist and educator with family ties to Scotland. **Donald Smith** reflects on the sometimes-troubled relationship between Scots and First Nation peoples through the novels 'River Thieves' by Michael Crummey and 'Sick Heart River' by John Buchan.

Miss Lindsay's Secret – The Yukon Letters

Scottish Storytelling Centre

Live Storytelling

5pm (1hr)

£7.50 (£6) £5

Come in. Shut the Door. Open the Box. Concealed for over a century, the intimate tale of seamstress Minnie Lindsay will be revealed. Storyteller **Maria MacDonell**, reader **Alan Finlayson** and musician **Georgina MacDonell Finlayson** unwind threads of gold binding the gentle Glenesk hills to the heady Klondike.

Scotland & Canada: Robert Service – Poet of the Yukon

Scottish Storytelling Centre

Live Storytelling

6.30pm (1hr)

£7.50 (£6) £5

Storytellers **David Campbell**, **Barbara McLean** and cellist/singer **Wendy Weatherby** celebrate poet and writer Robert W. Service. Discover his early life in Scotland and meteoric rise to fame with stirring verses of the outback, goldrush characters and wild adventurers, including the iconic Dan McGrew and Sam Magee.

Open Hearth

Scottish Storytelling Centre

Live Storytelling

8pm (2hrs)

£9 (£7.50) £6

Storytellers and musicians gather round the hearth for a relaxed traditional session of stories from home and abroad, as the darkness closes in and minds glow with pictures in the symbolic fire. The perfect way to end your day! Hosted by **Margaret Bennett**, with guest storytellers **Gary Green** and **Margaret Grenier** from Canada and **James MacDonald Reid**.

Sun 27 Oct

Greyfriars Bobby & his Four-Legged Friends: Amazing Edinburgh Animals!

Meet at Greyfriars Kirkyard, next to the Art Shop
Walking Tour
11am (1hr 15)
£5 (£3) | All Ages

Join **Fergus McNicol** and his tour guide **Chloe the Cockapoo** for a storytelling tour of amazing Edinburgh animal tales! We know about Greyfriars Bobby, but why is there a (cheeky) monkey on the High Street, an elephant in the Castle and a bear in the Gardens? Enjoy the trail and discover the answers, with story, song and dance along the way!

Note: Children must always be accompanied. Walk has limited accessibility and involves cobbled streets, slopes and stairs.

Guisers Galore

Scottish Storytelling Centre & Museum of Edinburgh
Family Event
2pm (2hrs)
Free (ticketed) | 5+

Come along and join our storytellers to learn a song, a poem and a dance for real Hallowe'en guising, then follow the **Old Town Guisers** parade or prepare for guising in your local area.

Rehearsals at the **Scottish Storytelling Centre** from 2pm with a performance at the **Museum of Edinburgh** at 3.30pm. Bring your own costume or mask. Not suitable for children under 5.

Note: Children must always be accompanied.

Canada Inspires

Scottish Storytelling Centre
Talks & Live Storytelling
2pm (2hrs 30)
£7 (£6) £5 | 12+

Connect with nature the Canadian way. Folklorist **Rosalind Kerven** will explore how the time-honoured stories of Canada's First Nations can motivate the environmental movement, inspired by her latest collection, 'Native American Myths'. **Deborah Dunleavy** reflects on the stories of early settlers, while **Linda Williamson** weaves northern sky lore, the stars of autumn's great Winged Horse and the Inuit creation of Sun and Moon.

In Conversation with Gary Green

Scottish Storytelling Centre
Talk
5pm (50mins)
£6 (£5) £4

Discover the fascinating backgrounds of our guests with insights from Scottish-based hosts. Newfoundland and Labrador storyteller **Gary Green** is welcomed by storyteller **Margaret Bennett**.

Scotland & Canada: Spirit & Tradition

Scottish Storytelling Centre
Dance & Storytelling
6.30pm (1hr)
£8 (£7) £6

The **Dancers of Damelahamid** are an Indigenous dance company from British Columbia. Their rich history of masked dance inspires a compelling performance, celebrating the time, depth and diversity of Indigenous cultures across Canada. Through dramatic dance, captivating narrative, intricately carved masks and elaborate regalia, the Dancers of Damelahamid transform time and space, bridging the ancient with living tradition.

Open Hearth – New Moon

Scottish Storytelling Centre
Live Storytelling
8pm (2hrs)
£10 (£9) £8

Storytellers and musicians gather round the hearth for a relaxed traditional session of stories from home and abroad, as the darkness closes in and minds glow with pictures in the symbolic fire. The perfect way to end your day! Hosted by **Marie Louise Cochrane**, with guest storytellers **Giovanna Conforto** from Italy, **Margaret Grenier** from Canada, **Julie Cajune** from USA, **Linda Williamson**, **Mio Shudo** and **Claire Hewitt**.



Gary Green
photo by Old Crow Magazine

Mon 28 Oct

Beyond the Spectacle: Native North American Presence in Britain

Scottish Storytelling Centre
Display & Talks
1pm (3hrs)
Free

Prof. David Stirrup hosts an opportunity to learn about contemporary Indigenous issues in Canada and the USA. An exhibition of posters highlights the topics, from anti-pipeline protests to cultural appropriation, alongside Scotland's long historical ties with Indigenous communities, from WWI soldiers to Cherokee Chiefs. Native North American speakers will join academics from the **Beyond the Spectacle** project and Scottish universities to answer questions inspired by the exhibit. Suitable for all ages and all levels of interest and prior knowledge.

The Tempest & The Teller

Scottish Storytelling Centre
Live Storytelling
5pm (50mins)
£7.50 (£6) £5

Shakespeare's *The Tempest* is brought to life by storyteller **Alexander Mackenzie**. Hold on to your seats for a telling infused with ribald imagination from beginning to end, told in a language that is free, bold and poised between imagination and

ancient plot. *The Tempest and The Teller* weaves together the old and the new, ignited by Alexander's illustrations that colourfully depict the exciting twists and turns of this most allegorical of tales.

Scotland & Canada: Stories from Orkney & Quebec

Scottish Storytelling Centre
Live Storytelling
6.30pm (1hr)
£7.50 (£6) £5

After sharing stories at the ceilidhs of the recently finished **Orkney Storytelling Festival**, Quebecoise Metis Mi'kmaq and Acadian **Robert Seven Crows Bourdon** and Orcadian **Tom Muir** have even more stories to tell! Come and join them in this unique event where they will take you from coast to coast.

Stories I've Lived In

Scottish Storytelling Centre
Live Storytelling
8pm (2hrs)
£9 (£7.50) £6

Salish storyteller **Julie Cajune** shares stories that have shaped her identity as an American woman. These accounts portray the lived experience of her female family descendants from Salish, Nez Perce, Anishinaabe and Scots ancestry. They span shame and pride, fear and forgiveness, exploring the frailties and strengths of our human condition, with the stories enhanced by talented musicians **Hector MacInnes** and **Leighton Jones**.

Sat 26 &
Sun 27 Oct

Mile to the Museum & National Museum of Scotland

Departs from Mercat Cross, beside St. Giles Cathedral
Walking Tour
10.30am (1hr 30)
£25, including tea & scone at the Museum | 5+

Discover the story of Scotland through our capital city and National Museum. Explore key locations and stories hidden around the Royal Mile. See a city of the past – which goes unnoticed for many – where commoners, queens and criminals once walked. Then tour the National Museum of Scotland to view our nation's treasures, stepping through Scotland's history, exploring how special objects have shaped our past, present and future.

Note: Tour involves cobbled streets, slopes and stairs. The guide will always adapt the route to visitor's needs – full access statement at www.mercattours.com

Tue 29 Oct

Masterclass: Exploring Contemporary Coastal Dance

Dance Base
Workshop
11am (1hr 30)
£15 (£12)

British Columbia's **Dancers of Damelahamid** facilitate a movement-based workshop centred on contemporary Coastal Indigenous dance form, allowing participants to enjoy the shared experience of dance. Discover the dynamic and innovative qualities of Indigenous practices with dance instruction, exploratory work and partnered improvisation.

Note: All levels of dance experience welcome, however the workshop is most catered to those with a dance background. Please dress comfortably and wear moccasins, dance shoes, or bare feet.

Airts o Soons an Een: Scotland's Art in Scots

Scottish National Portrait Gallery
Talk
12.45pm (30mins)
Free

Theatre artist and Scots language advocate **Ishbel McFarlane** explores the cultural importance of Scots – also called Doric, Glaswegian and Lallans amongst others – through key pieces in the National Galleries of Scotland in an illuminating talk, which highlights how linguistic culture interacts with visual culture.

Sgeulachdan na Fèinne san Latha an-diugh

Ionad Sgeulachdan na h-Alba
Bùth-obrach
1f (3u)
£8 (£7) £6

Ciamar as urrainn dhuinn a bhith dileas ri ar dualchas agus aig an aon àm a bhith buntainneach ri Gàidheil an latha an-diugh a thaobh modh is cainnt? Bheir sinn sùil air seann sgeulachdan à dualchas Gàidheil na h-Alba agus mar as urrainn tlachd is toileachas fhaighinn bhuaipa fhathast, le **Ruairidh Macilleathain**. Bidh a' bhùth-obrach air fad ann an Gàidhlig.

Stories of the Fianna in a Modern World

Scottish Storytelling Centre
Workshop
1pm (3hrs)
£8 (£7) £6

How can we be faithful to our heritage while engaging with modern Gaels, in terms of context, style and vocabulary? **Ruairidh Maclean** presents some old stories that belong to Scotland's Gaelic tradition and highlights how they still resonate today.

Note: Workshop in Gaelic.

Sgeulachdan seana is ùra tror n-òrain

Ionad Sgeulachdan na h-Alba
Sgeulachdan Beò
5f (1u 15m)
£7.50 (£6) £5

Bidh na seinneadairean **Brian Ó hEadhra** agus **Fiona NicChoinnich** a' gabhail òrain seana is ùra às a' Ghàidhealtachd ann an Gàidhlig is ann am Beurla. Mar phàirt dhan chonsairt sònraichte seo, bidh iad cuideachd a' leughadh eadar-theangaichean dhan bhàrdachd Ghàidhlig. Oidhche sònraichte a bhios ann!

Stories Old and New Through Our Songs

Scottish Storytelling Centre
Live Storytelling
5pm (1hr 15)
£7.50 (£6) £5

Inverness-based duo **Brian Ó hEadhra** and **Fiona Mackenzie** perform traditional and contemporary songs in Gaelic and English that explore culture and tales from the Highlands, past and present. In this special SISF show, the duo will read some translations of the ancient and new Gaelic verse before singing in their distinctive style and harmonies. Not to be missed!

Note: Gaelic song translations available.



Ciaradh na h-Oidhche

Ionad Sgeulachdan na h-Alba
Sgeulachdan Beò
8f (1u 30m)
£7.50 (£6) £5

Tha Pàdruig Moireasdan, Linda NicLeòid, Seonaidh Mac an t-Saoir, Shona Masson and Calum Dòmhnallach a' toirt sealladh den taigh-cèilidh, mu dh'fhaoide an t-àit' is cudromaiche gus sgeulachdan, òrain, puirt agus seachas nan Gàidheal a chumail beò thar na linntean. Mar chòighear a tha nan oighrean air cànan is cultar Uibhist agus an t-Eilean Sgitheanach, agus nan cuid-obrach mar luchd-brosnachaidh cultar na Gàidhlig, ann an Ciaradh na h-Oidhche tha iad a' toirt sgairt is beatha dhan t-seann traidisean.

Evening Twilight

Scottish Storytelling Centre
Live Storytelling
8pm (1hr 30)
£7.50 (£6) £5

Pàdruig Morrison, Linda MacLeod, Seonaidh MacIntyre, Shona Masson and Calum MacDonald recreate a vital setting for the transmission of stories, songs, tunes and lore in the Gàidhealtachd (the ceilidh-house). The quintet are inheritors of the language and culture of Uist and Skye, who combine to share and celebrate the old tradition we are in risk of losing. The evening will be a fully Gaelic production, led by young Gaels who pursue busy lives promoting Gaelic culture and arts with vigour and passion.

Note: Performance in Gaelic, with summary translation programmes.

Thu 31 Oct

The Devil & the Clutch of Fools

Scottish Storytelling Centre
Live Storytelling
10am (12hrs)
Free, drop-in

The culmination of SISF is for you to join in with a story... whoever you are! Experienced bards or complete novices, young or old, grimy or beautiful, we all go into Hallowe'en with a certain sense of foreboding. It is a time when the veil between light and dark invites the unholy to be blessed and the innocent to be drowned. This marathon event brings storytellers from different nations together with local people in a storytelling extravaganza, to face off against the demons of Hallowe'en, with a special improvised ceilidh telling of 'Tam O' Shanter' to fire the imagination around 8pm. Come along if you dare. Hosted by the irrepressible storyteller **Alexander Mackenzie**.

Samhuinn Fire Festival

Edinburgh Old Town
Site-Specific
8pm (3hrs)
Ticketed | 10+

The **Beltane Fire Society** celebrates the Celtic New Year by marking the end of summer and welcoming the onset of winter with a stunning torch-lit procession featuring acrobatics, fireworks, beautiful costumes and breathtaking performances. www.beltane.org

The Very Curious Herbal

National Library of Scotland
Live Storytelling
2pm (1hr) | Free (ticketed)

Storyteller **Amanda Edmiston** embarks on an enchanted journey into the verdant world of the 18th century. Inspired by Elizabeth Blackwell's 'A Curious Herbal', the first book of its kind created by a woman and published, this multidimensional performance layers history, stories, tastes and remedies to draw us into the garden of plants revealed within the book.

Wed 30 Oct

Flicker

Scottish Storytelling Centre
Dance & Storytelling
7pm (1hr)
£8 (£7) £6

As the festival approaches its finale, the British Columbian **Dancers of Damelahamid** showcase a second night of ancient dances and songs that highlight the complexities of contemporary Indigenous identities. Just as light shimmers, *Flicker* represents the moments through which one can cross space and time, as the masked dancers' journey in and out of the spirit world of their ancestors.

A man with white hair, wearing a red baseball cap, a green long-sleeved shirt, and blue jeans, stands on a grassy hillside. He is smiling and playing a wooden flute. The background shows a vast, open landscape under a blue sky with light clouds.

FESTIVAL ON TOUR

Joseph Naytowhow
photo by Diana Chabros

Coordinated by regional storytelling teams with the support of the SISF. Guest storytellers meet with local performers and audiences.

A fantastic opportunity to experience in-situ storytelling across the country, highlighting the close links stories have with local tradition, landscape and history.

Angus

Sun 27 Oct

Stories from the Yukon

Glenesk Folk Museum,
The Retreat, Glenesk,
Brechin DD9 7YT
Live Storytelling
7.30pm (1hr 30)
£5

Nacho Nyak Dun First Nation storyteller **Louise Profeit-LeBlanc** was nurtured by the traditional stories of her grandmother and has dedicated her life to collecting tales from elders in northern Yukon. Let her take you to the outskirts of the Arctic Circle as she shares these treasures. On this special night of stories and music, local storyteller **Maria MacDonell** will also introduce you to the extraordinary letters from the Yukon discovered in Glenesk.

Tickets available on the door, cash only. Museum opens at 6pm (free entry).

For more information please email maria.macdonell@btinternet.com.

Argyll & Bute

Stories from the Caribbean and Beyond

Storyteller **Jan Blake** creates a vibrant world of Afro-Caribbean colour, energy, comedy and wicked wit. She is one of our truly great yarn spinners, a force of nature and a delight to hear.

Pre-booking required – please contact the library of choice below to reserve your place.

Tue 22 Oct

Rothesay Library, Moat Centre, Stuart Street, Rothesay PA20 0BX
Live Storytelling
7.30pm (1hr 30) | Free (ticketed)
rothesaylibrary@liveargyll.co.uk or 01700 503 266

Wed 23 Oct

Dunoon Library, Queen's Hall, Argyll Street, Dunoon PA23 7HH
Live Storytelling
2pm (1hr 30) | Free (ticketed)
dunoonlibrary@liveargyll.co.uk or 01369 708 682

Thu 24 Oct

Campbeltown Library, Aqualbrium, Kinloch Road, Campbeltown PA28 6EG
Live Storytelling
2.30pm (1hr 30) | Free (ticketed)
campbeltownlibrary@liveargyll.co.uk or 01586 555 435

Stories from Newfoundland and Labrador

Born and bred in Newfoundland and Labrador, **Gary Green** was raised on stories of life in the province prior to it becoming part of Canada. Join him for an evening rich with North Atlantic lore, where the boundary between folktales and early settlers' life stories may blur.

Pre-booking required – please contact the library of choice below to reserve your place.

Mon 28 Oct

Helensburgh Library, West King Street, Helensburgh G84 8EB
Live Storytelling
7pm (1hr 30) | Free (ticketed)
helensburghlibrary@liveargyll.co.uk or 01436 658 833

Tue 29 Oct

Corran Halls, 54 Corran Esplanade, Oban PA34 5AB
Live Storytelling
2.30pm (1hr 30) | Free (ticketed)
obanlibrary@liveargyll.co.uk or 01631 571 444

Wed 30 Oct

Lochgilphead Library, Manse Brae, Lochgilphead PA31 8QZ
Live Storytelling
7pm (1hr 30) | Free (ticketed)
lochgilpheadlibrary@liveargyll.co.uk or 01546 602 072



Clackmannanshire

Sat 19 Oct

Folklore Fusion

Coach House Theatre,
W. Lodge Gardens, Alloa,
FK10 2HX

Live Storytelling
2.30pm (1hr 30)
£5

'She Said Storytellers' **Joanne Ross** and **Janet Crawford** welcome guest storyteller **Heidi Dahlsveen** from Norway. Join them for a special afternoon of traditional storytelling and let your imagination span from the Hillfoots of Scotland to the Norwegian Fjords! Hosted by **Hillfoots Tales**.

For tickets and information:
07980 655 906 or
hillfootstales@gmail.com

Dumfries & Galloway

Mon 7 –
Sun 20 Oct

Scotland and the Arctic: A Conversation

Celebrating 20 Years of CU in Dumfries
Dumfries
Live Storytelling

Storytelling, film, song, poetry, discussion, presentation, exhibits and 5,000 Barnacle Geese. The project explores

the narratives, history, representations (visual and literary), and ecology involved in artistic and environmental connections between Scotland and the Arctic. Celebrate the **Wild Geese Weekend (12-13 October)** with storytellers **Tony Bonning** and **Anne Errington**. Then on **Saturday 19 October** enjoy stories from home and abroad with Scottish storyteller **Jean Edmiston** and Canadian storytellers **Louise Profeit-LeBlanc** from the Yukon and **Dawne McFarlane** from Ontario. Supported by **Year of Conversation**.

More information and full programme will be available on ayearofconversation.com.

Dundee

Tue 22 Oct

Stories from the Grasslands and Beyond

HMS Unicorn, South Victoria Dock Road, Victoria Dock, Dundee, DD1 3BP
Live Storytelling
7pm (2hrs) | £6

Coming from the immense Saskatchewan's Great Plains, Cree *néhiyaw* First Nation storyteller **Joseph Naytowhow** joins **Blether Tay-gither** storytellers for an exceptional evening of timeless stories.

Please book tickets on 01334 474 836 or email sheila@blethertaygither.org.uk

Fife

Wed 23 Oct

Scotland to Canada and Back

The Friary, Queen Street, Inverkeithing, KY11 1PA
Live Storytelling
7.45pm (1hr 45)
Free (ticketed)
Donations welcome

Canadian storytellers **Deborah Dunleavy** and **Michael Williams** gather with Fife's redoubtable **Lang Spoon Tales** for a night of travel, adventure and family connections. Criss-cross the Atlantic from the Forth shore.

Tickets: kate.storyteller@hotmail.co.uk

Glasgow

Thu 24 Oct

Sangs an' Clatter: Connections

Pollokshaws Community Hub, 132 Shawbridge Street, Glasgow, G43 1NP
Live Storytelling
6pm (2hrs, includes free meal)
Free (ticketed)
Donations welcome

We're delighted to welcome Italian storyteller **Giovanna Conforto**, for a cosy evening of food, stories, music and good company. We'll be showcasing the best of Italian & Scottish storytelling to bring a bit of warmth to a chilly autumn evening! Hosted by **The Village Storytelling Centre**.

For tickets and information:
0141 882 3025 or info@villagestorytelling.org.uk



Deborah Dunleavy

Highland

Sat 19
& Sun 20 Oct

Inverness Story Fest

Inverness
Live Storytelling
& Workshops

Come celebrate a feast of traditional and contemporary tales in the heart of the Scottish Highlands. A mixture of local and international tellers, including guest storyteller **Jan Blake**, **Dougie Mackay** and **Ruaridh Mackintosh** will regale with tales from long ago as the nights draw in.

More information will be available at www.facebook.com/storyconnectionDM

Fri 25
& Sat 26 Oct

Portskerra International Storytelling Festival

Friday 25: Thurso
Saturday 26: Lyth
Live Storytelling

The annual traditional ceilidh and storytelling nights in the far north of Scotland celebrates its 8th year with a warm welcome to guest storyteller from Norway, **Heidi Dahlsveen**. Traditional stories from the North Sea, with occasional trolls and other mysterious creatures, have never been so lively! Storyteller **Alexandria Patience** and musician **Donald McNeill** will join the story sharing on both nights, with other Gaelic and Scots story weavers, musicians & singers.

Full programme will be available at www.portskerrastorytellingfestival.weebly.com

Moray

Wed 23 Oct

Spirit & Tradition

Universal Hall, The Park,
Findhorn, IV36 3TZ
Dance & Storytelling
7.30pm (1hr)
£12 (£10, £8 under 16)

The **Dancers of Damelahamid** are an Indigenous dance company from British Columbia. Their rich history of masked dance inspires a compelling performance, celebrating the time, depth and diversity of Indigenous cultures across Canada. Through dramatic dance, captivating narrative, intricately carved masks and elaborate regalia they transform time and space, bridging the ancient with living tradition.

Tickets: www.universalhall.co.uk or in person at Phoenix Stories, Findhorn.

North East

Stories from the Yukon

Nacho Nyak Dun First Nation storyteller **Louise Profeit-LeBlanc** was nurtured by the traditional stories of her grandmother and has dedicated her life to collecting the elders' tales in northern Yukon. Let her share this treasure with you, while she takes you to the outskirts of the Arctic Circle.

Thu 24 Oct

Seminar Room 224, Fl. 2,
Sir Duncan Rice Library,
King's College, University of
Aberdeen, AB24 3FX

Live Storytelling
6.30pm (1hr) | Free

Hosted by the **Elphinstone Institute**.

Further information:
elphinstone@abdn.ac.uk

Fri 25 Oct

Logie Coldstone Village Hall,
Aboyne, AB34 5PQ

Live Storytelling
7.30pm (1hr)
By donation (£5, £3)

Further information:
LCTrust2012@gmail.com.

Sat 26 Oct

Stories from The Cabrach & Beyond

Acorn Centre, The Cabrach
Trust, Huntly, AB54 4EU
Live Storytelling
2pm (2hrs)

The **Cabrach Trust** invites you to an afternoon of captivating stories for all ages, with special guest storyteller **Louise Profeit-LeBlanc** from Canada. Louise has ancestors in Towie, just south of Cabrach and will join house-storyteller **Jackie Ross** for local stories with a folklore twist.

www.cabrachtrust.org

Orkney

**Thu 24 – Sun
27 Oct**

Orkney Storytelling Festival

On this special 10th anniversary we welcome Metis Mi'kmaq and Acadian storyteller **Robert Seven Crows Bourdon** from Quebec and visiting Scottish storytellers **Mara Menzies** and **Gordon MacLellan**, joined by Orkney regulars **Tom Muir** and **Fran Flett Hollinrake**. The little festival with the big hearth will keep you warm on those chilly autumn nights!

www.orkneystorytellingfestival.co.uk

Perthshire

Sat 26 Oct

Lore and Land

Birks Cinema, 1 Dunkeld St,
Aberfeldy, PH15 2DA
Live Storytelling
10am (2hrs 30) & 1pm (2hrs)
£5 per session, free for
under 18s

Cree *néhiyaw* First Nation storyteller **Joseph Naytowhow** joins **Claire Hewitt** and a gathering of storytellers, writers, poets, singers and artists 'Giving Voice to the Voiceless', celebrating the Carrying Stream of traditions with a lively house ceilidh.

The storytelling event will be followed by:

Neither Wolf Nor Dog

Film screening
3.15pm (1hr 50)
Standard cinema ticket
prices apply

Scottish director **Steven Lewis Simpson** presents a beautiful adaptation of **Kent Nerburn's** acclaimed bestseller, of an author's road trip deep into the Native American country.

Information and tickets for both events: **Birks Cinema** - 01887 822 845 or birkscinema.co.uk



Louise Profeit-LeBlanc



Robert Seven Crows Bourdon

Sun 27 Oct

Samhuinn - Winter is Coming

Loch of the Lowes Wildlife Reserve, Dunkeld, PH8 0HH
2.30pm (2hrs 30)
procession starts at 4pm
Ticketed

Samhuinn (the Celtic New Year) marks the beginning of the journey into winter. Make masks and willow lanterns, carve pumpkins and join the twilight procession to meet Nicneven, Goddess of Samhuinn, for mystical storytelling. There will be a fire plus hot drinks and marshmallow toasting (weather permitting). With the special participation of Cree *néhiyaw* First Nation storyteller **Joseph Naytowhow** and our own **Lindsey Gibb**. Hosted by the **Scottish Wildlife Trust**.

Information and tickets:
Loch of the Lowes Visitor Centre - 01350 727 337 or scottishwildlifetrust.org.uk/events

Scottish Borders

Fri 18
& Sat 19 Oct

Duns Storytelling Festival

This new and exciting Duns Storytelling Festival will showcase four events over two days! Enjoy family storytelling and a pop-up event on Friday, then Macastory and 'The Purple, White and Green' on the Saturday. Our special guest storyteller from Canada **Deborah Dunleavy** joins local tellers **Macastory, Donald Nelson, Robert Howat, Kate Hibbert, Michael Kerins, Margaret Christison, Lea Taylor, Nicola Wright** and **Marjorie Leithead**.

More information will be available on www.aheartforduns.org

Tue 5 Nov

Morag You're A Long Time Deid

Scottish Storytelling Centre
7.30pm (1hr 30)

This Scottish-Canadian collaboration between **Claire Love Wilson** (Vancouver) and **Peter Lorenz** (Glasgow) is an innovative work-in-progress exploring the ancestral sounds of ballad singing.

An upright piano arrives on Sam's Vancouver doorstep from Yarrowford, Scotland with a note stating it belonged to her grandmother, Morag. Live loop soundscapes interweave 800-year-old ballads as Sam unravels the mystery of her enigmatic ancestor, coming face to face with colonial and patriarchal dynamics embedded in the musical tradition alongside her own family's history. Armed with her loop-pedal and a desire for healing, Sam begins to re-compose and re-write her family's songs, bringing a family of lost voices back into harmony.

Followed by discussion with writer, director and performers.

An associated **Song-Walking Workshop** will take place on **Wednesday 6 November**, 1pm (4hrs) at the Scottish Storytelling Centre..

Song-Walking is a practical and responsive technique developed by Claire Love Wilson that draws on her exploration of Scottish ballads through a decolonial lens and is inspired by musical traditions developed through travel on foot and connecting with landscapes.



ABOUT OUR GUEST STORYTELLERS

Dancers of Damelahamid are an Indigenous dance company from the Northwest Coast of British Columbia, Canada. Oral histories are expressed through narrative, song and dance, and the company is founded on over five decades of song restoration and dance revitalisation. **Margaret Grenier** is of Gitksan and Cree ancestry and Artistic and Executive Director for the Dancers of Damelahamid. She has choreographed several works including 'Visitors who Never Left' (2010), 'Spirit Transforming' (2012) and 'Flicker' (2016).

Dawne McFarlane was enchanted by the fairy stories of her Scottish grandfather and has been travelling a

storyteller's journey for many years, also connecting with music and dance. She performs and teaches internationally and is the Artistic Director of the Toronto International Storytelling Festival.

Deborah Dunleavy is a Canadian award-winning story writer and artist with over 30 years of professional experience in creating, producing and touring her programs both nationally and internationally. She is a member of The Storytellers of Canada and Storytelling Toronto.

Gary Green was born and bred in Newfoundland and Labrador, raised on stories of life in the northern parts of the province before it became part of Canada. Gary has been a storyteller and author for

over 40 years, encouraging the growth of storytelling in the province, and teaching for the St. John's Storytelling Festival.

Giovanna Conforto has been telling stories for many years in different contexts and countries. She is Creative Director of the Italian Storytelling Centre in Portico di Romagna, and teaches at the School of Storytelling, Emerson College (UK). She is a founding member of the 'Stories in Place' network.

Grian Cutanda is a researcher, educator and author with 14 published books. A social and environmental activist, in social movements such as Indignados Movement (Spain, 2011), People's Climate March (Edinburgh, 2014-2015) and, currently, Extinction Rebellion.

Grian is founder of The Avalon Project – an initiative for a Culture of Peace and The Earth Stories Collection, a bank of traditional stories from all over the world.

Heidi Dahlsveen has been a professional storyteller in Norway and internationally since 1996. She is also an associate professor of Oral Narrative and Folklore at Oslo Metropolitan University, where she was published by Universitetsforlaget on storytelling. In her artistic work, she is focused on creating meeting points between traditional and autobiographical stories.

Jan Blake has been performing worldwide as a leading storyteller for over 25 years. Specialising in stories from Africa, the Caribbean and Arabia, she has a well-earned reputation for dynamic and generous storytelling. Recent highlights include her storytelling-residency at Hay Festival, the Viljandi Harvest Festival in Estonia and TEDx Warsaw.

Joseph Naytowhow is an award-winning Plains/Woodland Nehiyaw (Cree) interdisciplinary artist from the Sturgeon Lake First Nation Band in Saskatchewan. His generosity and compassion for sharing cultural knowledge makes him a sought-after speaker, performer, and outdoor educator locally, regionally and internationally. A long-time resident of Saskatoon, he has been telling stories, both tall and short, for over 35 years.

Julie Cajune is the sum of many stories, with a Salish, Nez Perce and Scots-Irish mother, and a Chippewa and French father, but the largest part of her identity is Salish.

Educator and citizen of the Confederated Salish and Kootenai Tribes, Julie served in the public-school system, transitioning to Director of the CSKT Tribal Education Department. She has produced books, films, plays and curricula with a focus on American Indian history. She has received several prestigious honours for her educational and cultural work.

Louise Profeit-LeBlanc is a renowned, traditional storyteller from the Nacho Nyak Dun First Nation of Mayo, in north eastern Yukon. For over 35 years she has been committed to the cultural heritage of Indigenous artists of Canada. She has worked with the Heritage Branch of the Yukon Government and served as the Aboriginal Arts Coordinator for the Canada Council. The rich art practices of traditional stories of Yukon First Nations people inspired her founding of the Yukon International Storytelling Festival. Louise continues as teacher, mentor and storyteller to champion public presentation of Yukon First Nation cultural practices.

Michael Williams might have become a steelworker in Hamilton, Ontario. Instead, he dreamed of telling stories and becoming a writer. In 2005, Michael left full-time teaching in Scotland to develop a career as a storyteller, Storycoach and activist. Michael is passionate about helping people share their stories, particularly those whose voices are seldom heard – people facing mental health issues, chronic illness, loneliness and social isolation. Michael is a Board Member for the Storytellers of Canada-Conteurs du Canada.

Richard Blair is George Orwell's son and is patron of The Orwell Society, a membership organisation open to all dedicated to promoting understanding and appreciation of the life and work of George Orwell, as well as a trustee of The Orwell Foundation.

Robert Seven Crows Bourdon is a *bois-brulé*, a mixed blood, half-breed or just simply Métissé. As storyteller and singer/songwriter, the marriage of stories with traditional songs is his way to share roots that are Acadian and Mi'kmaq. For many years he has participated in festivals on four continents. Besides being a storyteller and musician, he works with his partner JoAn Pawnee as an elder in the federal prison system with First Nations men.

Chief RoseAnne Archibald is Ontario Regional Chief of Taykwa Tagamou Nation with over 25 years of experience in First Nations politics. She is a respectful and heart-centred leader who has committed her adult life striving to create a better quality of life for First Nations people. She represents a generational change, encouraging unity in the First Nations political system. Chief Archibald has been awarded the prestigious 'Canada 125 Medal' for her 'significant contribution to Canada' through Aboriginal leadership. She remains dedicated to empowering women and youth to seek community solutions, leadership and resilience.

**For Scotland's
Storytellers, visit:
[tracscotland.org/
storytellers](http://tracscotland.org/storytellers)**

VENUE DETAILS

 WHEELCHAIR ACCESS

Dance Base

14-16 Grassmarket, EH1 2JU
0131 225 5525
dance@dancebase.co.uk
dancebase.co.uk

Greyfriars Kirkyard

1 Greyfriars, Edinburgh,
EH1 2QQ

Mercat Tours Ltd.

Mercat House,
28 Blair Street, EH1 1QR
NB: Tour begins at Mercat
Cross, Parliament Square
(next to St Giles)
0131 225 5445
info@mercaattours.com
mercaattours.com

Museum of Childhood

42 High Street, EH1 1TG
0131 529 4142
edinburghmuseums.org.uk

Museum of Edinburgh

Huntly House,
142 Canongate,
EH8 8DD
0131 529 4143
edinburghmuseums.org.uk

National Library of Scotland

George IV Bridge
EH1 1EW
0131 623 3734
www.nls.uk

Royal Botanic Garden Edinburgh

Entrances: East Gate,
Inverleith Row, EH3 5LR
West Gate & John Hope
Gateway, Arboretum Place,
EH3 5NZ
0131 248 2909
events@rbge.org.uk
rbge.org.uk

Scottish National Portrait Gallery

1 Queen Street, EH2 1JD
0131 624 6200
enquiries@nationalgalleries.org
nationalgalleries.org

The Waverley Bar

3-5 St Mary's Street
EH1 1TA
0131 557 9855
info@waverleybar.co.uk
facebook.com/thewavbar/

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www.fionawatson.co.uk

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