

Double-bill of family shows set to delight Cumbernauld audiences this festive season

- A new Cumbernauld-set telling of the classic *Treasure Island* from award-winning writer Ross MacKay to premiere at Lanternhouse
- Co-produced with leading production company Visible Fictions, the show will run from 2nd December to Christmas Eve.
- Lanternhouse will also host a magical new festive show for under-5s, *Life of the Party*, from 3rd to 24th December



This festive season, Cumbernauld Theatre presents a thrilling new telling of the Robert Louis Stevenson's classic story *Treasure Island*, co-produced with Visible Fictions.

Cumbernauld lad Robbie Stevenson prefers to hide away from the world inside the pages of his favourite book, *Treasure Island*. But with a little bit of imagination, the book comes to life, and he is suddenly thrust aboard on the adventure of a lifetime. Robbie soon finds that you can't stay hiding forever, and he must learn to navigate his own course and to discover the world is full of treasure if you're brave enough to look...

Bursting with live sea shanties, treasures, and a sumptuous amount of swash-buckling adventure for children and grown-ups alike, this fun-packed show invites families to embark on a global journey along the Forth and Clyde canal and into the vast ocean, where the voyage comes to life on stage and throughout the theatre.

Inspired by the classic Robert Louis Stevenson story, *Treasure Island* comes from award-winning writer Ross MacKay. The show will be brought to life by a cast including Anthony O'Neill, Harry Ward, Megan McGuire and Stephanie MacGaraidh, with the company now in rehearsals ahead of opening performances on 2nd December.

Writer Ross MacKay said: *"I have always loved Treasure Island. It is such a timeless and exciting story, and who wouldn't want to jump on a ship and seek treasure on faraway islands? But as a child (and even now as an adult) I was always very anxious and a bit of a worrier. I would never have been brave enough to set off on a voyage like Jim Hawkins does. I wanted to write something for those kids who feel getting out the door in the morning is just as brave as setting sail for a distant adventure. I hope this version of Treasure Island shows that even the smallest step can be enormously brave."*

Douglas Irvine, Visible Fictions Artistic Director said: *"We're so delighted to be part of this new co-production with Cumbernauld Theatre at Lanternhouse. Treasure Island is already such a*



wonderful story, but this reimagining by Ross Mackay is truly magical, I know that it will engage and entertain family audiences as well as send them home with some catchy sea shanties in their heads.”

As well as **Treasure Island**, Lanternhouse will host a special new festive show aimed at the under-5s, **Life of the Party**, from the 3rd to 24th December.

On a dark stage, a little light begins to flicker. Soon after, a sound starts to come from the light. Not just a sound, but a voice! Soft and slow, sighing, then humming. The light soon learns how to make other sounds too! Long vowels and prickly consonants, giggles and song, as it shines on the objects around it. A sparkly disco ball starts to find its spin. And in time, other objects follow suit. Babbling and toddling, finding their voice together. Until at last, a party is born.

In this production, party objects come to life to discover their unique personalities and learn how to work in harmony to create the perfect party. **Life of the Party** is a show about finding your voice. It's about learning how to navigate your body and the world. Most of all, it is about celebrating the joys (and challenges) of being part of a family and community.

Sarah Price, CEO at Cumbernauld Theatre Trust, said: “*Bringing the family along to this year's production of Treasure Island and Life of the Party is a perfect way to have fun and share in this special experience. We are really looking forward to seeing our community coming together and having a great time at the theatre this Christmas!*”

ENDS/

Treasure Island images, cast and creative biogs can be found [here](#).

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Listings information

Treasure Island

Fri 02 – Sat 24 December (preview performance Sat 26 Nov) | 2.30pm & 7pm

Relaxed Performance on Sat 11 December (2.30pm)

Ticket prices: £13 - £15

For a list of school performances please contact the box office on 01236 732887

For tickets and further information call the box office on 01236 732887 or visit

lanternhousearts.org/events/treasure-island

Life of the Party

Sat 03 Dec - Sat 24 December | Times vary

Relaxed Performances on Thu 15th December (10.30/13.30)

Signed & audio described performance on 17th December (13:00)

All tickets £6

For tickets and further information call the box office on 01236 732887 or visit

lanternhousearts.org/events/life-of-the-party-under-5s-show



Notes for editors

Cumbernauld Theatre Trust

Cumbernauld Theatre Trust is a performing arts charity that produces and presents professional theatre, music, dance and comedy experiences for a community of 50,000 Cumbernauld residents and 100,000 North Lanarkshire population. Established in 1963, Cumbernauld Theatre is the only professional independent arts organisation in Cumbernauld and North Lanarkshire and serves a vital social, cultural and economic purpose in a community that is economically disadvantaged, with widespread material poverty and deprivation, low academic attainment and poor-quality built environment.

As an established, professional producing theatre, we are both community-led and community conscious with activity that responds to the needs of the local community, yet we deliver outputs that achieve national and international recognition.

We aim for our work to have relevance and resonate with our audiences and participants to achieve deep and lasting impact and change. This work is informed by place, by the opportunities our new arts centre provides and by a desire to deliver affordable access to culture for everyone at all life-stages. Cumbernauld Theatre Trust is a key part of the infrastructure of Scotland's performing arts and is a Regularly Funded Organisation (RFO) within the Creative Scotland portfolio. We receive investment in support of our work from a range of sources including Creative Scotland and North Lanarkshire Council, Weston Culture Fund and Scottish Government's Empowering Communities Programme – Investing in Communities Fund.

Cumbernauld Theatre Trust is also supported by Screen Scotland, Equity Charitable Trust, Foyle Foundation, The Levenseat Trust, The Trades House of Glasgow Commonweal Fund, Land Trust, Robert Barr's Charitable Trust, Hugh Fraser Foundation, The Robertson Trust and Patersons Quarries, our Friends, and donors.

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