**Cumbernauld Theatre Company, Visible Fictions and Scottish Opera to stage new children’s festive show**

* [**Special Delivery**](https://lanternhousearts.org/events/special-delivery/) will be an enchanting musical journey filled with wonder for little ones aged 3 – 7
* Music by Karen MacIver, written by Clive King and directed by Dougie Irvine
* At Cumbernauld Theatre from Saturday 30 November to Saturday 29 December

A cartoon of a hand holding a baby

Description automatically generated*Special Delivery*

A new festive children’s production for ages 3-7 will open on Saturday 30 November in Cumbernauld. [**Special Delivery**](https://lanternhousearts.org/events/special-delivery/) is being produced in-house at Lanternhouse, a state-of-the-art performing arts centre based at Cumbernauld Community Campus, in a co-production with Cumbernauld Theatre Company, Visible Fictions and Scottish Opera.

*Not all good things come in neatly wrapped packages. Sometimes they arrive as you least expect them… with a thud, down your chimney! Join Santa on his busiest night of the year, Christmas Eve. Travelling around the world and squeezing down chimneys to deliver presents is a tough job, but this time it’s made even more difficult when he is joined by a tiny mischievous hitchhiker, Eve, who is looking for a way back home.*

This playful and intimate show, brought to life by a brilliant creative team features a live piano score, songs, storytelling and charming projected animation.

Follow Eve on her adventures as she teams up with Santa and a group of cheeky festive characters.[**Special Delivery**](https://lanternhousearts.org/events/special-delivery/)promises a rich mix of theatre magic to delight children and their families this Christmas.

[**Special Delivery**](https://lanternhousearts.org/events/special-delivery/) is being brought to life by composer **Karen MacIver** with words by **Clive King**. The cast comprises two talented Royal Conservatoire of Scotland graduates and will be led by director **Dougie Irvine** of Visible Fictions.

**Composer Karen MacIver said**: ‘*What I have created is a score for children that embraces the orchestral sound of the great John Williams with the wit and humour of Tom and Jerry cartoons. I'm really excited for our young audiences to become immersed in the music and story.’*

**Writer Clive King said:** ‘*The development of this show has been a delightful process from start to finish. It's a pleasure and a privilege to work alongside such a brilliant creative team. I hope audiences have as much fun watching Special Delivery as we did making it.’*

**Director Dougie Irvine said:** *‘*I am delighted to be collaborating with Cumbernauld Theatre Company and Scottish Opera on this very special show. The magical musical score combined with storytelling and projection will create a memorable experience for our young audiences and I can't wait to see their reactions.*’*

***Special Delivery*** will run at Lanternhouse Studio Theatre from Saturday 30 November to Saturday 29 December, with an opening press performance on **Friday 6 December at 10.00am.** Run time 40 mins. No Interval.

**ENDS/**

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**Cast and creative images and biogs can be found** [**here**](https://drive.google.com/drive/folders/1xxy7--WU5dtw9vU8yWOp3QO8iWnQxmMZ)**.**

**For more information, contact:**

**Rachel Murphy, Marketing & Communication Manager, Cumbernauld Theatre:**[rmurphy@cumbernauldtheatre.co.uk](mailto:rmurphy@cumbernauldtheatre.co.uk) / 01236 732887

**Production info**

***Special Delivery***

Music by **Karen MacIver**, Written by **Clive King**, Directed by **Dougie Irvine**

Presented by Cumbernauld Theatre Company, Visible Fictions and Scottish Opera

Cast:

**Craig Hunter**

**Jessica Donnelly**

Creative Team:

Composer – **Karen MacIver**  
Writer – **Clive King**  
Director – **Dougie Irvine**

Listings info

**Saturday 30 November – Saturday 29 December (Various Times)**

**Run Time 40 mins. No interval.**

Preview performances on **Sat 30 November – Thu 5 December, 10.00am and 1.00pm**

Press Performance on **Fri 6 December, 1.00pm**

Audio Described Performance on **Sat 14 December, 1.00pm**

BSL Signed Performances on **Sat 21 December – Sun 22 December, 13.30am, 1.00pm**

Relaxed Performance on **Sat 21 December – Sun 22 December, 13.30am, 1.00pm**

Ticket prices: £5 - £10

For tickets and full listings information call the box office on 01236 732887 or visit <https://lanternhousearts.org>

**Biographies**

CAST:

**Craig Hunter**

Craig is a Scottish actor/musician. He trained in musical theatre at the Royal Conservatoire of Scotland. Recent credits include; Ness (A Play, A Pie and A Pint), Sleeping Senga (InsideOut Theatre), Stay (A Play, A Pie and A Pint), A Mothers Song (Macrobert Arts Centre), Local Hero (Chichester Festival Theatre) and Double Life VR (UK Tour).

**Jessica Donnelly**

Jessica graduated from the Royal Conservatoire of Scotland in 2020, and since graduating has worked as a professional performer, musical director, and also as a vocal coach and musical theatre teacher.

Theatre credits include: Beauty And The Beast (Eastwood Park Theatre), Hiya, Dolly! (Edinburgh Festival Fringe), Our Carnal Hearts (Arch 468). Screen credits include: Irn Bru ‘Tournament Virgins’ (Commercial), People and Stories (Heritage Loch Ness). Vocalist credits include: Orphans (National Theatre of Scotland), On Hope, A Digital Song Cycle (The Other Palace), Bernstein 100: MASS (Royal Scottish National Orchestra).

CREATIVE TEAM:

**Karen MacIver (Composer)**

Karen MacIver is a composer working mainly in Moving Image - as a composer and improviser for film, dance and theatre. Karen has worked for many years with Scottish Opera as a composer for many of their operas for young people and in 2024 she composed ‘RED’ for Scottish Opera Young Company with a libretto by Jane Davidson MBE.

For many years Karen worked with Scottish Ballet as one of their music staff, before heading into theatre and film. She gained her Masters in Film Music in London Ealing Studios, under the course director Howard Goodall (composer of *Blackadder*and *The* *Vicar of Dibley* fame). She has toured cinemas in Scotland playing live piano for Silent Movie and in 2023 curated an International conference for piano players working in Moving Image.

**Clive King**

Playwright and lyricist Clive King was born in Dublin and moved to Glasgow in 2002 to story edit *River City*.  In collaboration with the composer Hilary Brooks, Clive has penned several musical comedies including *Meeting Matthew, Wee Free! The Musical* and *Melania.*  In 2023 Brooks & King created the show *Kiki: Deathbed Cabaret* for the acclaimed Scottish chanteuse Christine Bovill. Clive’s previous work includes *The Tears of Cora Pearl* (Tron 100 Festival, 2017) and *The Real Mrs Sinatra* (Oran Mor, 2016).

**Dougie Irvine (Director)**

Dougie Irvine is a founding member, Artistic Director and Chief Executive of Visible Fictions. Under his leadership, the company has presented various story driven works in theatres, schools, outdoor sites, community settings, libraries, on television, radio, the internet, and at international film festivals. Both national and international partnerships have been at the heart of the company’s work, with co-productions and collaborations being formed with a range of arts organisations including: The Kennedy Centre for the Performing Arts, BBC Scotland, The Royal Scottish National Orchestra, Scottish Opera, National Theatre of Scotland, The Traverse, Aberdeen Performing Arts, Oregon Children’s Theatre, and CTC in Minneapolis. He has also worked as an actor, tutor and director with other companies including the BBC, Citizens Theatre, Royal Lyceum, Macrobert, Oran Mor, Polka Theatre, Scottish Youth Theatre, Royal Conservatoire of Scotland, Leeds Conservatoire, and both Glasgow and Strathclyde Universities.

**Notes for editors**

**Cumbernauld Theatre Trust**

*Uniting through sustainable arts for positive change in Scotland*

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.

Lanternhouse is a privately-owned property built through Scottish Futures Trust (SFT) investment jointly operated by North Lanarkshire Council (NLC) and Cumbernauld Theatre Trust. The construction of Lanternhouse was financed via the SFT-managed hub community infrastructure programme for local authorities in support of the Scottish Government’s National Infrastructure Mission to drive inclusive economic growth and build resilient places. For more information visit <https://www.scottishfuturestrust.org.uk/>.

<http://www.lanternhousearts.org/> | [info@lanternhousearts.org](mailto:%E2%80%AFinfo@lanternhousearts.org)

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**Visible Fictions**  
  
Since 1991 Visible Fictions has been creating innovative and dynamic theatrical experiences and creative learning projects for young people of all ages and adults.

Through innovative story-driven artistic experiences and learning activities, we inspire, entertain, thought-provoke, and leave an indelible mark on the hearts and minds of those children and young people who experience our work. A beacon of creativity, we push the boundaries of work for young audiences while remaining rooted in the power of human connection. We will illuminate the unseen threads that connect us all, fostering a more compassionate and enlightened society.

We craft thought-provoking, artistically driven, performance-based storytelling experiences and curriculum-connected learning activities. This work aims to captivate audiences and inspire participant groups of children, young people and their accompanying adults. We believe that storytelling is a fundamental human need, and we strive to create moments of wonder, reflection, and discovery with our diverse and accessible artistic activities in ways that consider fairness and consideration to those we work with and the environment we work in.

**Scottish Opera**  
  
Scottish Opera is Scotland’s national opera company and largest performing arts organisation. The Company was founded in 1962 by Sir Alexander Gibson ‘to lay the treasures of opera at the feet of the people of Scotland’. Repertoire ranges across five centuries, from the earliest operas to newly commissioned world premieres. For mainstage and concert productions, the Company collaborates with the world’s finest singers and creatives, The Orchestra of Scottish Opera, and choruses for each opera. Recent accolades include a South Bank Sky Arts Award, Scottish Award for New Music, Sunday Herald Culture Awards, 2017 UK Theatre Award, 2020 RPS Award, 2023 International Opera Award nomination, and 2023 Critics’ Circle Award for Outstanding Achievement in Opera. Co-production relationships with leading opera houses allow Scottish Opera and its partners to maximise resources and reach.

Scottish Opera has long been a trailblazer in community arts, including ‘community opera’ combining local chorus members of all backgrounds with a professional chorus, soloists, and The Orchestra of Scottish Opera. Productions include Leoncavallo’s *Pagliacci*in Paisley (2018), Bernstein’s *Candide*in Glasgow (2022), and Stravinsky’s *Oedipus Rex*at the Edinburgh International Festival (2024). The Company produces world-class work at every scale. The extensive touring programme, one of the largest of any European opera company, ensures performances are within reach of as many of Scotland’s dispersed population as possible. Pop-up Opera performances bring shortened classics and original works to thousands each year. *Opera Highlights*presents arias and ensembles from across the repertoire.

The Company’s Outreach & Education programme, the longest running in Europe, includes in-person and digital Primary Schools Tours, bringing children the opportunity to perform their own specially commissioned piece. Around 120 schools and 9,000 pupils take part in the live tour each year. The Emerging Artist programme gives early-career opera professionals intense training across a Season. Scottish Opera aims to be inclusive through availability of free and subsidised tickets, audio-described performances, and Access performances with Dementia Friendly values at their core.

Scottish Opera is committed to presenting opera at the highest possible standards across Scotland and online worldwide. The Company’s 2021 production of *The Gondoliers*, filmed live at Festival Theatre Edinburgh, is available on BBC iPlayer. On Screen operas at scottishopera.org.uk/what-s-on/opera-on-screen include Donizetti’s *L’elisir d’amore*, Mozart’s *Così fan tutte*, and Menotti’s *The Telephone.*