Press release for immediate use, Tuesday 3 June 2025

**CEO of Cumbernauld Theatre, Sarah Price steps down this summer and Patricia Stead appointed as Interim Chief Executive**

A collage of a person

AI-generated content may be incorrect.

Sarah Price (left); Patricia Stead (right)

Today 3 June 2025, Cumbernauld Theatre announced that its current Chief Executive Sarah Price is set to step down this summer to pursue new projects. Sarah has led Cumbernauld Theatre through the transition from its old space at Cottage Theatre to its new home at Lanternhouse.

**Sarah Price, Chief Executive of Cumbernauld Theatre said:** *“It’s been an enormous privilege to lead Cumbernauld Theatre through one of the most transformative chapters in its history. Embarking on a mission to leave behind the Cottage Theatre and launch Lanternhouse from raising funds for capital fit-out to designing the systems and processes that underpin our daily operations, this journey has always been about building something bold, inclusive, and community-driven.*

*Together, we have launched an original cinema programme, expanded our community engagement and live performance programme, and developed an innovative collaborative theatre producing model that places artists, staff, and local voices at the heart of professional performance development.*

*While recent months have been challenging, recognising the need for change and welcoming in the new Interim CEO Patricia Stead and a task force led by Jim Hollington marks an important and positive next step. I feel confident that I am leaving the organisation with the capacity to work successfully with key stakeholders Creative Scotland and North Lanarkshire Council and secure the long-term future of the Theatre.*

*I leave with enormous pride in what we’ve built – a creative, open-hearted organisation committed to empowering people through the arts. I know the team will continue to take that work forward with integrity and imagination, and I will always be cheering Cumbernauld Theatre on.”*

Following Cumbernauld Theatre's unsuccessful application to Creative Scotland's Multi-Year Funding Programme in January this year, arts management consultant Jim Hollington came on board to support the Trust to explore options for the future which it is hoped will secure the vital community asset. As part of his team Patricia Stead, former Executive Director and co-CEO of the Tron Theatre in Glasgow had already begun to contribute to the strategic thinking. Stead will now join Cumbernauld Theatre Trust as Interim Chief Executive in the middle of June this year.

**Patricia Stead said:** *“Cumbernauld Theatre Trust is an indisputably vital resource for its communities and an important contributor to the broader theatre ecology in Scotland. The respect and affection for its work has been strongly demonstrated in the outpouring of support from audiences, the arts sector, across the political spectrum and from its local community. This Theatre means so much to so many and its future currently hangs in the balance. I look forward to joining the excellent and very experienced team and working with them to harness its award-winning reputation, its passionate support and its vision for its future in order for us all to enjoy its success for many years to come.”*

**Alan Caldwell, Chair of Cumbernauld Theatre Trust, added:** *“We are delighted that someone of the calibre and with the enormous experience that Patricia has is able to join and lead the organisation through this period. We have accepted that our application for multi-year funding was not successful, and we understand the reasons why and that this decision will not be changed. However, we still believe, and we know that our communities rely on the belief, that there could be a brilliant future for this organisation. One in which it continues the vital and longstanding work it has been delivering with and for its important communities. We are working with a team of external experts led by Jim Hollington to support us in exploring the possible models and ways forward to secure a successful and vibrant future for this organisation.”*

**/ENDS**

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**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 its community.

As a producing theatre, our approach is distinctly non-traditional. It is an approach that is rooted in our proud history as leaders in the community arts movement of the 1970’s and 1980’s. We ask the artists we create with to understand our local troubles and challenges. We aim to make our town a better place through our creative ideas and practice, by questioning what has always been the same and by celebrating those who have been missing from our stages.

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.

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