



# CATS 2024

Awards Presentation

16 June 2024



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# Introduction

Welcome to the CATS Awards 2024 at the Theatre Royal, Glasgow.

We are very pleased that you have joined us in celebration of Scottish theatre, which continues to produce magnificent and challenging work, even in these increasingly difficult times. We are thrilled to be holding this year's ceremony at the Theatre Royal, Glasgow for the first time. Theatre Director James Hayworth said "We look forward to welcoming Scotland's theatre critics, bringing them together with nominees and guests to celebrate the Scottish theatre sector and the brilliant people behind the terrific work staged across the country this year."

The Critics' Awards for Theatre in Scotland "comes of age" today as the 2024 ceremony marks its 21st anniversary.

"When we launched the CATS Awards back in 2003, our aim was simply to celebrate the best of theatre made in Scotland, and to give an extra measure of recognition to a wide range of shows that Scotland's critics felt were among the most impressive and exciting of the year," says CATS co-convenor, Joyce McMillan. "We're delighted that since then - and despite many changes affecting both theatre itself and the reviewing business - the CATS Awards, and the annual party to celebrate them, have become a vital part of the Scottish theatre landscape, helping to tell the story of Scottish theatre in ways that endure beyond the run of a play, and a brief series of reviews."

Adding, "As writers about theatre, we know that the fragile structures of funding which support theatre production here in Scotland are under threat, in ways we have not seen in two generations; but we hope and trust that by continuing to celebrate theatre made here in Scotland, we can both encourage the wonderful artists and organisations who make the work, and help to raise awareness of the vital role our theatre community plays, in enabling Scotland to remember and reimagine its own stories, and to tell them - and all the great stories of the world - in its own voice"

## Critics' Awards for Theatre in Scotland

The CATS judging panel for 2024 was comprised of:

**Mark Brown** (Sunday National and The Daily Telegraph)

**Anna Burnside** (Daily Record/Across the Arts/Corr Blimey!)

**Michael Cox** (Across the Arts)

**Thom Dibdin** (AllEdinburghTheatre.com)

**Mark Fisher** (The Guardian)

**Joyce McMillan** (The Scotsman)

**Mary Brennan** (The Herald)

**Dominic Corr** (Corr Blimey!)

**Fergus Morgan** (The Stage)

**Natalie O'Donoghue** (Broadway World)

**David Pollock** (Freelance Reviewer)

**Allan Radcliffe** (The Times)

**Hugh Simpson** (AllEdinburghTheatre.com)

## Guest Presenter

**DAMIAN BARR**



Guest presenter of the 2024 Awards will be award-winning writer and broadcaster Damian Barr. Perhaps best known for *Maggie and Me*, his acclaimed memoir of growing up in small-town Scotland during the Thatcher years which was recently adapted for the stage, the *Literary Salon*, BBC Radio 4's *Front Row* and *The Big Scottish Book Club*.

# Running Order

## WELCOME

Joyce McMillan will introduce today's event and welcome guest presenter Damian Barr.

## THE CATS WHISKERS

This year's CATS Whiskers award honours Andy Arnold, former artistic director of Edinburgh Theatre Workshop, founding director of The Arches and former artistic director of the Tron Theatre.

## CATS 2024

The main event. In order of presentation:

## OUTSTANDING PERFORMANCES

Sponsored by STV Studios and introduced by Anna Burnside and Michael Cox.

## BEST ENSEMBLE

Sponsored by Equity and introduced by Dominic Corr.

## BEST DIRECTOR

Introduced by Allan Radcliffe.

## BEST DESIGN

Sponsored by BBHair Collective and introduced by Hugh Simpson.

## BEST MUSIC & SOUND

Introduced by Dominic Corr.

## BEST TECHNICAL PRESENTATION

Sponsored by BECTU and introduced by Thom Dibdin.

**BEST PRODUCTION FOR  
CHILDREN AND YOUNG PEOPLE**

Sponsored by Gilded Balloon  
and introduced by Thom Dibdin.

**BEST NEW PLAY**

Sponsored by Nick Hern Books  
and introduced by Mark Brown.

**BEST PRODUCTION**

Introduced by Joyce McMillan.

**THANK YOU**

A vote of thanks to all.

We would like to now invite you to celebrate the nominees and winners alike by attending the after-show party.  
All welcome and enjoy!

This year's CATS Awards will be BSL interpreted by  
Amy Cheskin and Sarah Forrester.





Andy Arnold, recipient of this year's CATS Whiskers.

# 2024 Nominees

# NOMINEES FOR THE 2024 CATEGORIES ARE:

## OUTSTANDING PERFORMANCE

- **Darren Brownlie** (Liz), *Meet Me at the Knob* (A Play, a Pie and a Pint)
- **Nicole Cooper** (The Fool), *Lear's Fool* (Bard in the Botanics)
- **Blythe Duff** (Mrs Jarrett), *Escaped Alone*, (Tron Theatre)
- **Paul McCole** (Dion), *The Sheriff of Kalamaki* (A Play, a Pie and a Pint)
- **Gary McNair** (Various), *Dear Billy* (National Theatre of Scotland)
- **Gill Robertson** (Various), *Lightning Ridge* (Catherine Wheels)
- **Alan Steele** (Falstaff), *Henry IV Parts I & II* (Bard in the Botanics)
- **Kirsty Stuart** (Blanche), *A Streetcar Named Desire* (Pitlochry Festival Theatre)

## BEST ENSEMBLE

- **Escaped Alone** (Tron Theatre)
- **Same Team: A Street Soccer Story** (Traverse Theatre)
- **Sunset Song** (Dundee Rep & Royal Lyceum Edinburgh)
- **The Girls of Slender Means** (Royal Lyceum Edinburgh)

## BEST DIRECTOR

- **Bryony Shanahan** *Same Team – A Street Soccer Story* (Traverse Theatre)
- **Elizabeth Newman** *A Streetcar Named Desire* (Pitlochry Festival Theatre)
- **Joanna Bowman** *Escaped Alone* (Tron Theatre)
- **Joe Douglas** *Dear Billy* (National Theatre of Scotland)



## BEST DESIGN

- **Emma Bailey** (Set Design) and **Mark Henderson** (Lighting Design), *Anna Karenina* (Royal Lyceum Edinburgh)
- **Katy Rae Wilson** (Set Design) and **Michaela Fee** (Lighting Design), *Ginger* (Tortoise in a Nutshell in association with Platform and Lyth Arts Centre)
- **Alisa Kalyanova** (Set & Costume Design), **Simon Wilkinson** (Lighting Design), **Ellie Thompson** (Video & Projection Design) and **Mark Melville** (Sound Design), *Love the Sinner* (Vanishing Point and Imogen Stirling)
- **Arran Howie** (Designer) and **Simon Wilkinson** (Lighting & Video Designer), *Ragnarok* (Tortoise in a Nutshell co-production with Figurteatret i Nordland and in association with Macrobert Arts Centre)

## BEST MUSIC & SOUND

- **Andy McGregor** (Music & Lyrics), **Fraser Milroy** (Sound Design) and **Isla Cowan** (Lyrics), *Battery Park* (Sleeping Warrior, co-produced with Beacon Arts Centre)
- **Fred Deakin** and **Davie Miller**, *Club Life* (Fred Deakin, Davie Miller and Sita Pieraccini)
- **Jim Harbourne** (Composer & Sound Designer), *Ragnarok* (Tortoise in a Nutshell co-production with Figurteatret i Nordland and in association with Macrobert Arts Centre)
- **Finn Anderson** (Composer) and **Ritchie Young** (Sound Designer), *Sunset Song* (Dundee Rep and Royal Lyceum Edinburgh)

## BEST TECHNICAL PRESENTATION

- **Ginger** (Tortoise in a Nutshell in association with Platform and Lyth Arts Centre)
- **Ghosthunter** (Visible Fictions)
- **Love the Sinner** (Vanishing Point and Imogen Stirling)
- **Ragnarok** (Tortoise in a Nutshell co-production with Figurteatret i Nordland and in association with Macrobert Arts Centre)

## BEST PRODUCTION FOR CHILDREN AND YOUNG PEOPLE

- **Ginger** (Tortoise in a Nutshell in association with Platform and Lyth Arts Centre)
- **Ghosthunter** (Visible Fictions)
- **Lightning Ridge** (Catherine Wheels)
- **Unicorn Christmas Party** (Raw Material and Capital Theatres – commissioned by Capital Theatres, Aberdeen Performing Arts, and Eden Court Highlands)

## BEST NEW PLAY

- **Douglas Maxwell** *The Sheriff of Kalamaki* (A Play, a Pie and a Pint)
- **Gary McNair** *Dear Billy* (National Theatre of Scotland)
- **Gabriel Quigley** *The Girls of Slender Means* (Royal Lyceum Edinburgh)
- **Imogen Stirling** *Love the Sinner* (Vanishing Point and Imogen Stirling)

## BEST PRODUCTION

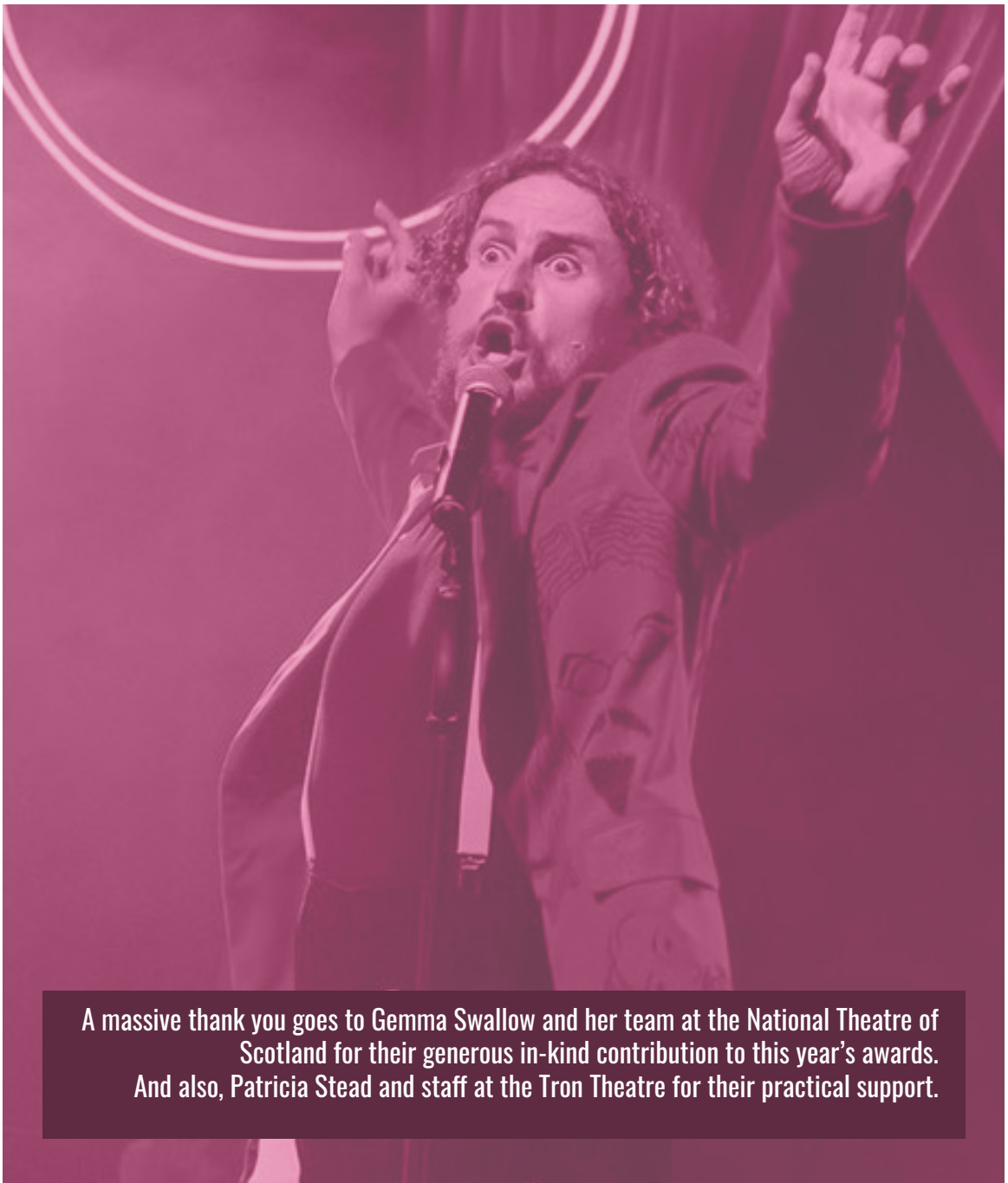
- **Dear Billy** (National Theatre of Scotland)
- **Escaped Alone** (Tron Theatre)
- **Lightning Ridge** (Catherine Wheels)
- **Ragnarok** (Tortoise in a Nutshell co-production with Figurteatret i Nordland and in association with MacRobert Arts Centre)
- **The Girls Of Slender Means** (Royal Lyceum Edinburgh)

# Supported by:



The Critics' Awards for Theatre in Scotland are grateful for the continuing support of their sponsors.





A massive thank you goes to Gemma Swallow and her team at the National Theatre of Scotland for their generous in-kind contribution to this year's awards. And also, Patricia Stead and staff at the Tron Theatre for their practical support.



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