



# CATS 2023

Awards Presentation

11 June 2023

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# Introduction

Welcome to the CATS awards 2023 at the Traverse Theatre, Edinburgh.

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 difficult times. We are thrilled to be holding this year's ceremony at the Traverse Theatre as part of their 60th anniversary season.

This year, over 120 productions were eligible for the awards—83 of them new plays. These productions confronted many themes, including challenging Scotland's place in history and exploring painful issues that we currently face.

It is then perhaps fitting that part of our celebration is to recognise 1984 Scotland's seminal production *The Cheviot, the Stag and the Black, Black Oil*—celebrating its 50th anniversary—a production that continues to influence theatre in Scotland and beyond.

These may not be the easiest times for theatre anywhere in Britain, but the critics—as with everyone in the Scottish theatre audience, we're sure—continue to be impressed and encouraged by the resilience of culture seen on Scottish stages. And may we all continue to take inspiration from John McGrath's work to continue to fight the good fight.

## Critics' Awards for Theatre in Scotland

The CATS judging panel for the 2023 comprised:

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

**Anna Burnside** (Daily Record/Sunday Mail)

**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)

## Guest Presenters

**GRANT STOTT & SHAUNA MACDONALD**



Presenters of the 2023 Awards will be River City actor and celebrated panto villain Grant Stott, and BAFTA-award winning actor Shauna MacDonald.

# Running Order

## WELCOME

Joyce McMillan will introduce today's event and welcome guest presenters Grant Stott and Shauna Macdonld..

## THE CATS WHISKERS

This year's CATS Whiskers award honours the 50th anniversary of the legendary 7:84 Scotland production of The Cheviot, the Stag and the Black, Black Oil. Joyce McMillan and Mark Brown will be joined by special guests to celebrate this momentous production.

## CATS 2023

The main event. In order of presentation:

## OUTSTANDING PERFORMANCES

Sponsored by STV and introduced by Anna Burnside and Mark Fisher.

## BEST ENSEMBLE

Sponsored by Equity and introduced by Thom Dibdon.

## BEST DIRECTOR

Introduced by Mark Fisher.

## BEST DESIGN

Introduced by Thom Dibdon.

## BEST MUSIC & SOUND

Introduced by Anna Burnside.

## BEST TECHNICAL PRESENTATION

Sponsored by BECTU and introduced by Michael Cox.

**BEST PRODUCTION FOR  
CHILDREN AND YOUNG PEOPLE**  
Introduced by Dominc Corr.

**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.





The Cheviot, the Stag ad the Black, Black Oil.

# 2023 Nominees

# NOMINEES FOR THE 2023 CATEGORIES ARE:

## OUTSTANDING PERFORMANCE

- **Adura Onashile** (*Medea*), *Medea*, (National Theatre of Scotland)
- **David Hayman** (Eric), *Cyprus Avenue*, (Tron Theatre)
- **Emma McCaffrey** (Annis Drummond), *Castle Lennox*, (Royal Lyceum Theatre & Lung Ha Theatre)
- **Matthew Pidgeon** (Sir John Wedderburn), *Enough of Him*, (National Theatre of Scotland & Pitlochry Festival Theatre)
- **Nicole Cooper** (Lady Macbeth) *Macbeth (an undoing)*, (Royal Lyceum Theatre)
- **Omar Austin** (Joseph Knight), *Enough of Him*, (National Theatre of Scotland & Pitlochry Festival Theatre)
- **Ramesh Meyyappan** (Old Harry), *Love Beyond (Act of Remembrance)*, (Raw Material & Vanishing Point)
- **Sally Reid** (Shirley Valentine), *Shirley Valentine*, (Pitlochry Festival Theatre)

## BEST ENSEMBLE

- **Castle Lennox** (Royal Lyceum Theatre & Lung Ha Theatre)
- **Kidnapped** (National Theatre of Scotland)
- **Ode to Joy (How Gordon got to go to the nasty pig party)** (Stories Untold / James Ley)
- **Red Riding Hood** (Citizens Theatre)

## BEST DIRECTOR

- **Andy Arnold**, *Cyprus Avenue* (Tron Theatre)
- **Dominic Hill**, *Alföld* (A Play, A Pie and A Pint)
- **Michael Boyd**, *Medea* (National Theatre of Scotland)
- **Orla O'Loughlin**, *Enough of Him* (National Theatre of Scotland & Pitlochry Festival Theatre)



## BEST DESIGN

- **Anna Orton** (set and costume designer), **Ben Ormerod** (lighting designer) **Tim Reid** (video designer) and **Zofia Chamienia** (illustrator), *Kidnapped* (National Theatre of Scotland)
- **Becky Minto** (Set & Costume) and **Simon Wilkinson** (Lighting Designer), *Love Beyond (Act of Remembrance)* (Raw Material and Vanishing Point)
- **Tom Piper** (Set Design), **Alex Berry** (Costume Design /Associate Set Designer) and **Lizzie Powell** (Lighting Design) *Macbeth (an undoing)* (Royal Lyceum Theatre Edinburgh)
- **Fred Pommerehn** (Original Set Designer), **Ruben San Roman** (Adaption Set Designer), **Craig Fleming** (Original Lighting Designer), **Alberto Santos Bellido** (Adaption Lighting Designer) and **Alison Brown** (Costume Designer) *The Gift* (Capital Theatres and Barrowland Ballet)

## BEST MUSIC & SOUND

- **David Paul Jones** *Love Beyond (Act of Remembrance)* (Raw Material and Vanishing Point)
- **Michael John McCarthy** (composer and music supervisor), **Clare Hibberd** (sound designer) and **Isaac Savage** (performing musical director) *Kidnapped* (National Theatre of Scotland)
- **John Pfumojena** (composer) and **Pippa Murphy** (sound designer) *Enough of Him* (National Theatre of Scotland & Pitlochry Festival Theatre)
- **Susan Bear** (sound designer) with **Simon 'Simonotron' Eilbeck** (DJ) *Ode to Joy (How Gordon got to go to the nasty pig party)* (Stories Untold / James Ley)

## BEST TECHNICAL PRESENTATION

- **Love Beyond (Act of Remembrance)**, (Raw Material & Vanishing Point)
- **Macbeth (an undoing)**, (Royal Lyceum Theatre )
- **Muster Station: Leith**, (Grid Iron & Edinburgh International Festival)
- **The Fantastic Life of Minnie Rubinski**, (Vision Mechanics)

## BEST PRODUCTION FOR CHILDREN AND YOUNG PEOPLE

- **Kissing Linford Christie**, (Catherine Wheels)
- **Red Riding Hood**, (Citizens Theatre)
- **Storm Lantern**, (Strange Town)
- **The Gift**, (Capital Theatres and Barrowland Ballet)

## BEST NEW PLAY

- **May Sumbwanyambe**, *Enough of Him* (National Theatre of Scotland and Pitlochry Festival Theatre)
- **Ramesh Meyyappan**, *Love Beyond (Act of Remembrance)* (Raw Material and Vanishing Point)
- **James Ley**, *Ode to Joy (how Gordon got to go to the nasty pig party)* (Stories Untold/James Ley)
- **Tim Crouch**, *Truth's a Dog Must to Kennel* (Royal Lyceum Theatre)

## BEST PRODUCTION

- **Enough of Him**, (National Theatre of Scotland and Pitlochry Festival Theatre)
- **Kidnapped**, (National Theatre of Scotland)
- **Macbeth (an undoing)**, (Royal Lyceum Theatre Edinburgh)
- **Truth's a Dog Must to Kennel**, (Royal Lyceum Theatre, Edinburgh)

# Supported by:



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**Nick Hern Books**  
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