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Deiseil:

Dancing in Time

Programme



ALBA | CHRUTHACHAIL



deiseil /dʲesal/
(sounds like jay-shal)

Deiseil: Dancing in Time is an exploration of Scotland's loss of percussive dance tradition and how that is linked to our society and culture. Fiddle, feet, voice and images recreate the atmosphere of an old-style ceilidh house to tell a story of community, identity and migration.

Stepdance was historically an important part of Gaelic culture, but became virtually unknown in Scotland due to cultural suppression, the Highland Clearances, and evolution into Highland dance and Scottish country dance. It was preserved by Scottish emigrants to Cape Breton, Nova Scotia, and we learned from their descendants bringing the dance back to Scotland in the 1990s.

Deiseil is a Gaelic word which means ready but also has an older meaning of clockwise or sunwise, reflecting the journey of the dance and how what goes around comes around again.

The show is performed by **Alison Carlyle** and **Amy Geddes** and was created by Alison, Amy and director **Gerry Mulgrew**.

Amy grew up in Galloway and is widely recognised as a leading light in the world of contemporary Scottish fiddle. She has been performing, writing and recording in the Scottish traditional music scene for 30 years and carries a unique passion for playing music with percussive dance. As well as being founder of acclaimed education organisation Fyne Fiddles, Amy is co-founder and director of Deiseil Airson Dannsa.

Gerry co-founded the groundbreaking Communicado Theatre Company in 1983. As director, playwright and actor, he has collaborated throughout Scotland, the UK and abroad. His numerous awards include six Fringe Firsts.

Alison has been at the forefront of the development of stepdance in Scotland over the 30 years since its revival here, both performing and teaching. She grew up in the Highlands and her dancing is intricately connected with Gaelic language and traditional tunes. She brings a relaxed improvisational style using both traditional steps and new steps she has created. She is co-founder and director of Deiseil Airson Dannsa.



Although only Amy and Alison appear on stage, there are many other people heard in the show:

Mary Ann Kennedy sings the traditional puirt-a-beul *Tha Bean Agam, Tha Taigh Agam; Dhannasadh Gun Dannasadh; Sabhal Iain 'ic Ùisdein; Ruidhleadh Mo Nighean Donn; Ruidhlidh na Coillich Dhubha; Saoil a' Mhòr Am Pòs Thu*.

Allan MacDonald sings *Òran na Chnòideart* (words by Iain MacDonald Iain Liath, music by Allan MacDonald), plays and sings traditional strathspey *Calum Crùbach* and recites *Tha Gàidhlig Beò* by **Aonghas MacNeacail**, used by kind permission of **Gerda Stevenson**.

David Francis reads extracts from Francis Peacock's "Sketches relative to the history and theory, but more especially to the Practice of Dancing", 1805, and from the constitution of the Royal Scottish Official Board of Highland Dancing.

Fin Moore, Sarah Hoy, Dougie Pincock and **Mike Bryan** play in the house cèilidh heard at the beginning of the show – and many other folk selflessly partied and blethered.

Proverbs and quotes from conversations (in the order they appear in the show) are by **Mary Ann Kennedy, David Francis, Mary Janet MacDonald, Allan MacDonald, Hamish Moore, Anne Martin, Betty Matheson, Gordie Campbell** and **Harvey Beaton**.

DJ Dolphin Boy remixed elements of the show for the exit music.



We would also like to thank:

Rufus Elliot (Technician), **Garry Boyle** (Sound Technician), **Benny Goodman** (Lighting Designer), **Morven Mulgrew** (Visual Designer), **Ruby Zajac** (Production Manager), **Jade Adamson** (Movement Consultant), **Somhairle MacDonald** (Photographer & Videographer), **Archie MacFarlane** (Photographer), **Morag Neil / Scary Biscuits Promotions** (PR), **Jacky Pankhurst** (Social Media Consultant), **Van Gill Media** (Graphic Design), **Stella Henderson** (Assistant Technician), **Georgia Henderson** (Production Assistant) and **Matilde Buxton** (Production Assistant).

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