



*Go on, Struileag,
sail from hand to hand
on a full tide of music
On the horizon there
is another horizon"*

PRESS RELEASE

CHILDREN OF THE SMOKE

A major new multimedia musical production, one of the key events for Homecoming Scotland 2014 and Glasgow 2014 Cultural Programme

Artistic Director / Composer	Jim Sutherland
Show Director	Dan Ayling
Video Design & Film Director	Iain Ross
Choreographer	Thomas Small

Mon 28th July 2014, 19:30

Glasgow Green (FREE EVENT)

"A watershed moment in Gaelic music"

Margaret Mary Murray, Head of Service, BBC Alba

Brought to you by **La Banda Ltd** with support from Homecoming Scotland, Creative Scotland, BBC Alba and the Scottish Government. **CHILDREN OF THE SMOKE** premieres at Glasgow Green, as a spectacular 1-off performance, on **Monday 28th July 2014** as part of **Homecoming Scotland 2014** and **Glasgow 2014 Cultural Programme ("Festival 2014")**.

CHILDREN OF THE SMOKE is a universal story about people, place and connection. This highly original 75-minute show – including dancers, film and a band of 20 of Scotland's leading musicians and singers - tackles current issues that resonate with a multitude of nations and celebrates the importance of indigenous language and its links to culture and identity.

"History isn't a thing of the past, we're making it now!" **Jim Sutherland** (Artistic Director)

The show deconstructs nostalgic perspectives on the notion of Gaelic identity through time, exploring relevant and gritty issues of exile and homelessness. Audiences will be carried on an epic journey into the world of the Gael, a people scattered across the globe, with an explosion of show-stopping songs, a dramatic ground breaking set design featuring a rotating traditionally built 6m fishing boat, spectacular film, imagery and exhilarating song and dance. The show will culminate in a poignant and uplifting finale, including the full force of the 25 strong performance ensemble on stage.

With no geographical, social or stylistic boundaries and timeless tales of home, loss, hope, longing and adapting to new environments, connections between the old and new world are captured in **CHILDREN OF THE SMOKE** in an extraordinary way.

Alasdair Allan, Minister for Learning, Science and Scotland's Languages, said:

"It is wonderful that the Struileag project is celebrating the enduring appeal of Gaelic heritage, language and music during Homecoming Scotland 2014 and as part of the Commonwealth Games Cultural Programme.

*"We have gone to great lengths to encourage new Gaelic speakers and halt the decline in those who have the language. The music, poetry, performance and film around **Children of the Smoke** brings together an impressive range of talent who are using Gaelic in a contemporary way that I am sure will help a new and wider audience appreciate the stories of Gaels."*

CHILDREN OF THE SMOKE is the culmination of a visionary two-year international legacy project '**STRUILEAG**', involving poetry, story gathering, film, performance and music. Its worldwide reach reflects the stories of the Gaels themselves and their connections with people from all 5 continents, symbolized by 5 model Struileag boats which are currently travelling the world as part of this international transmedia project.

- **SHORE TO SHORE** - an international, online, storytelling project
- **THE ETERNAL HOME** - a book of poetry
- **BBC ART FILM** - a 60 minute film being aired on BBC Alba
- **CHILDREN OF THE SMOKE** - a double CD album of **CHILDREN OF THE SMOKE**
- **CHILDREN OF THE SMOKE** - a national tour

This unique project is brought to you by an incredible team of approximately 70 experienced and emerging artists, writers, musicians and performers.

Funders include the Scottish Government, Homecoming Scotland, Creative Scotland, BBC Alba, the Commonwealth Festival 2014 Programme, Cryptic and Ambition Scotland.

David Taylor, Portfolio Manager Special Projects at **Creative Scotland**, said:

"Creative Scotland is delighted to support the ambition of this project which is a major demonstration of the significance of Gaelic to our culture, and a wonderful platform for some of Scotland's exceptional artists.

This contribution to the Homecoming programme and the Glasgow 2014 Cultural Programme, has allowed space for experimentation, and a showcase for the Gaelic language within the contemporary arts."

For more press information, interviews, CDs, photos etc please contact **Morag Neil** on **0771 288 0965** or email struileag@labanda.org

Web site www.struileag.com/en/the-show

Children of the Smoke

Editors Notes: Production Credits

Musicians and Singers

Seonaid Aitken

Calum Barker

Euan Burton

Joy Dunlop

Alan Emslie

Fraser Fifield

Christoff Fourie

Jenny Hoy

Su-a Lee

Liam Lynch

Angus Lyon

David McCallum

Allan MacDonald

Kathleen MacInnes

Fiona MacKenzie

Rachel Newton

Brian Ó hEadhra

Chris Peacock

Jim Rattiigan

Patsy Reid

Iain Sandilands

Anna-Wendy Stevenson

Matheu Watson

Alasdair Whyte

Artistic Director / Composer

Jim Sutherland

Show Director

Dan Ayling

Video Design & Film Director

Iain Ross

Poetry Director

Kevin MacNeil

Lighting Design

Tim Lutkin

Set & Costume Design

Rebecca Brower

Choreographer

Thomas Small

Producer

Wezi Mhura

La Banda Ltd

45 Blackfriars St

Edinburgh

EH1 1NB

www.struileag.com/en/the-show

Children of the Smoke

Editors Notes: Production Biogs

Struileag and **Children of the Smoke** are produced by **La Banda Ltd.** **La Banda** delivers large scale performance events to a very high international standard. The organisation has been managing and creating bespoke ensembles and commissioning new music since 2007. La Banda embodies the ideal of shared citizenship, intercultural understanding and cooperation and has a proven ability to bring people from different cultural backgrounds together in a common enterprise through music.

Recent successes include

'An Turas/The Voyage'

Commissioned by the Scottish Government as a gift from Scotland to Derry UK Capital of Culture 2013. Presented by Scottish Culture Minister Fiona Hislop to the Mayor of Derry and the Irish President, the music underscored the opening ceremony of the 'Return of Colmcille'.

La Banda Europa

An orchestra of 35 virtuoso musicians who play ethnic instruments indigenous to their own European country. This unique ensemble performs original compositions that both celebrate their cultural diversity and serve as a fanfare for a dynamic, modern Europe

Jim Sutherland Composer & Artistic Director

"the orchestral alchemist" The Times

Constantly nudging at the boundaries of culture and style, Jim Sutherland is a free-thinking original whose commissions have included composing music for film (including *Brave* and *Salmon Fishing in the Yemen*), TV, large-scale events and national celebrations. His fingerprints, as a musician, producer and composer, can be found on more than two hundred albums across a bewildering spectrum. He has collaborated with some of the finest musicians in their field, worldwide – including The Chieftains, Plant and Page (Led Zeppelin), The Bhundu Boys, Billy Bragg, Emmylou Harris, Maddy Prior, June Tabor and the Shotts and Dykehead Pipe band. With his roots in the Scottish traditional genre, his expansive reach extends to encompass electronic, orchestral, rock and pop music.

Jim creates and collaborates to produce large-scale performances including cross-cultural and site-specific work with La Banda Europa and staging the string-driven spectacle that is the True North Orchestra.

www.jimsutherland.uk.com

Dan Ayling Show Director

Associate Director of The Print Room in London and Associate Artist of Cryptic in Glasgow. He has also worked with Almeida Opera, Scottish Opera and Royal Opera House. Future engagements include directing Summit Conference at The Print Room and working as Associate Director to Katie Mitchell on *Così fan tutte* at ENO.

www.danayling.com

Children of the Smoke

Editors Notes: Production Biogs (2)

Iain Ross (TV and not TV) Video Design & Film Director

Iain has over 20 years experience producing/directing output for all four main BBC channels. Team Leader of BBC Scotland's Innovations Unit for five years before setting up the independent production company TV and not TV – a dynamic production company based in Glasgow's Pacific Quay. TV and not TV utilise cutting edge technologies, techniques and methodologies to create exciting, contemporary and accessible multiplatform content

www.tvandnottv.com

Kevin MacNeil Poetry Director

A novelist, playwright, poet, editor and lyricist, Kevin MacNeil's first book "Love and Zen in the Outer Hebrides" won the Europe-wide Tivoli Europa Giovani International Poetry Prize, and his novels "A Method Actor's Guide to Jekyll and Hyde" and bestselling debut "The Stornoway Way" were both published to widespread critical acclaim. An experienced creative writing tutor, he is currently an honorary Writer in Residence at Kingston University, and was previously a lecturer on Edinburgh University's Creative Writing MSc and British Council Writer in Residence at Uppsala University, Sweden.

www.kevinmacneil.com

Thomas Small Choreographer

Award winning choreographer, including the prestigious Bonnie Bird New Choreography Award, commissions include The Robin Howard Foundation Commission and commissions for Project Y – Scotland's National Youth Dance Company. Thomas graduated from London Contemporary Dance School with a BA (Hons) degree in 2001, was Choreographer in residence at The Space throughout 2008 and Artist in residence at The Byre Theatre, St Andrews; he is a faculty member at Scottish School of Contemporary Dance and previously at the Urdang Academy, London

www.smallpetitklein.com

Tim Lutkin Lighting Design

Graduate of the Guildhall School of Music & Drama and recently nominated for a Laurence Olivier award for his work on *Chimerica* at the Harold Pinter theatre, London.

www.timlutkin.co.uk

Rebecca Brower Set & Costume Design

Part of the Design Team for the Opening and Closing Ceremonies for the London 2012 Olympic and Paralympic games; Nominated for an Off West End Award for Best Set Design (for *Hamlet* at The Rose Theatre Bankside, Shakespeare's Globe). Winner of The Stage Design Award 2011 and the Equity Young Members Bursary Award 2012.

www.rebeccabrower.com

Children of the Smoke

Editors Notes: Funders

Children of the Smoke has been brought together by a wide range of worldwide support, including much that is “in kind” as well as in cash. We are particularly grateful to our main funders:

The Scottish Government

Homecoming Scotland 2014

Creative Scotland

BBC Alba

Glasgow 2014 Cultural Programme

Ambition Scotland

Cryptic

The **Glasgow 2014 Cultural Programme** is a national celebration. Culture 2014 will showcase dance, theatre, music, visual arts, comedy and much more in the run up to and after the Commonwealth Games, with Festival 2014 transforming the Host City at Games time. The Cultural Programme is a partnership between the Glasgow 2014 Organising Committee, Glasgow Life, and Creative Scotland through National Lottery funding.

www.glasgow2014.com/culture

Homecoming Scotland 2014

Scotland will welcome the world in the Year of Homecoming 2014 providing a year-long programme of events alongside the Ryder Cup and Commonwealth Games. The Year of Homecoming Scotland runs from 31 December 2013 to 31 December 2014 throughout the length and breadth of the country. Visitors from around the world are invited to join in a celebration of the nation’s food and drink, active pursuits, cultural heritage, nature and ancestral heritage. Homecoming Scotland 2014 is a Scottish Government initiative being led by EventScotland and VisitScotland, supported by numerous partners.

To find out more - www.homecomingscotland.com

Creative Scotland is the public body that supports the arts, screen and creative industries across all parts of Scotland on behalf of everyone who lives, works or visits here. We enable people and organisations to work in and experience the arts, screen and creative industries in Scotland by helping others to develop great ideas and bring them to life. We distribute funding provided by the Scottish Government and the National Lottery.

For further information about Creative Scotland please visit www.creativescotland.com

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