



5 Star Reviews, Sellouts and Standing Ovations
at Edinburgh Fringe and Celtic Connections.
**Hit Theatre Show *Deiseil: Dancing in Time* Is
Ready For 30+ Date Scottish Tour (May – Nov)**



DEISEIL: DANCING IN TIME

Directed by Gerry Mulgrew

Performed by fiddle player Amy Geddes and dancer Alison Carlyle

They lost the dancing so they lost the rhythms

It was one of the triumphs of 2025 Edinburgh Festival Fringe, and again at Celtic Connections in 2026 – sold out shows, standing ovations and 5 star reviews.

Deiseil: Dancing in Time is a powerful exploration of how stepdance, Scotland's percussive dance, was lost to us... and how its revival, drawn from Cape Breton Nova Scotia, became woven into a lifelong friendship. **Experience a compelling journey across centuries of tradition told through fiddle, feet, Gaelic song and story, in an immersive performance which draws you into the heart of a rich heritage.**

Thanks to a Creative Scotland Touring Fund Award of almost £120k the show is preparing to hit the road the length and breadth of Scotland with a 30+ venue tour, from 2 May to 16 Nov. Beginning at **Fèis Rois** (Ullapool) and **Edinburgh's Tradfest**, the tour takes in various other Festivals including the **North Atlantic Fiddle Convention** and **Findhorn Bay Arts**, village halls and venues from Kirkcudbright to the Highlands & Islands to the far North, North East to the Scottish Borders, working with key local organisations including SEALL and North East Arts Touring.

Deiseil (d'ejal/ (sounds like *jay-shal*)) means "ready" in Scottish Gaelic. Be ready for a mesmerising reflection on how issues of culture, identity and connection still resonate through society today. Groundbreaking new work from multiple award-winning director Gerry Mulgrew (including six Fringe Firsts), dancer Alison Carlyle and musician Amy Geddes.

Deiseil Airson Dannsa (Scottish Gaelic for "Ready to Dance") is a new organisation founded by musician **Amy Geddes** and dancer **Alison Carlyle**, which aims to promote awareness of, and participation in, stepdance, Scotland's percussive dance tradition. ***Deiseil: Dancing in Time*** was created by the company. The making of the show has been supported by the **National Lottery through Creative Scotland, Tasgadh** and **Maoin nan Ealan Gàidhlig**. It includes Gaelic voices, words and songs from the past and present including Mary Ann Kennedy, David Francis, Mary Janet MacDonald, Allan MacDonald, Hamish Moore, Anne Martin, Betty Matheson, Gordie Campbell and Harvey Beaton.

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 migrants in Cape Breton, Nova Scotia; their descendants then brought the dance back to Scotland in the 1990s.

The show recreates the atmosphere of an old-style ceilidh house to tell a story of community, identity and migration, often blurring the lines between performers and audience.

For more press information, interviews, hi res photos etc,
please contact **Morag Neil** on **0771 288 0965** (email info@scarybiscuits.com)

Hi Res Photos:

<https://www.dropbox.com/scl/fo/ihaf1h6h25thfiu11j103/AMs12fijK57xYNpRzzCqe8?rlkey=4x0bvso3tw56497lp5wbu2lg4&st=ig2jzhh0&dl=0>

Promo Video https://youtu.be/2X_A17SD5Og?si=5HwLTzE6gD1e7Vsy

Website (including listings) – <https://deiseil.scot/events>

Scary Biscuits Promotions

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2026



"The most joyful show I have seen... tells an important story with the lightest of touches and doesn't put a foot wrong"

***** The Scotsman

Tour Dates

2 May	Fèis Rois, MacPhail Centre, Ullapool
5 May	Edinburgh Tradfest, Traverse Theatre Edinburgh
8 May	NEAT Tullynessle & Forbes Hall, Alford
9 May	NEAT MacRobert Memorial Hall, Aboyne
10 May	NEAT The Phoenix Centre, Newton Dee, Aberdeen
23 May	NEAT Garmouth & Kingston Village Hall, Fochabers
26 May	26 May Aberfeldy Town Hall, with the Birks Cinema, Aberfeldy
29 May	Easdale Island Community Hall, Easdale Island
30 May	Dunoon Burgh Hall, Dunoon
26 Jun	Cowdray Hall at NAFCO, Aberdeen
27 Jun	Cowdray Hall at NAFCO, Aberdeen
17 Sept	SEALL Kilmuir Community Hall/ Talla Chille Mhoire, Skye
18 Sept	SEALL Sabhal Mòr Ostaig, Skye
2-4 Oct	Findhorn Bay Festival, various venues, Moray
13 Nov	Craignish Village Hall, Ardfern
14 Nov	Balquhidder Village Hall, Balquhidder

Lots more dates TBA and will appear on <https://deiseil.scot/events>

Editors Notes

The Company:

Deiseil Airson Dannsa (Scottish Gaelic for "Ready to Dance")

A new company, founded in 2025 by Alison Carlyle and Amy Geddes, which aims to promote awareness of and participation in stepdance, Scotland's percussive dance tradition.

Alison Carlyle – Dancer, co-creator

Has been at the forefront of the development of stepdance in Scotland over the 30 years since its revival here, 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.

Amy Geddes – Musician, co-creator

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. She is the founder of acclaimed education organisation Fyne Fiddles.

Gerry Mulgrew – Production Director and co-creator

Co-founded the ground-breaking Communicado Theatre Company in 1983. As director, playwright and actor, he has collaborated throughout Scotland, the UK and abroad, winning many awards, including six Fringe Firsts.

Alison and Amy first worked together in 1998 as founding members of pioneering group *The Scottish Stepdance Company*. Its groundbreaking and critically acclaimed work explored the relationship between music, dance and Gaelic song, and performed stepdance as a percussive artform which is part of the music.