Congratulations to ***Deiseil: Dancing in Time* – Nominated for Original Work of the Year by the Scots Trad Music Awards 2026.**

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.

From **May – November 2026 it has been on tour, visiting over 40 small communities (from Galloway to Stornoway to Kirkwall, to Lerwick** (supported by Creative Scotland Touring Fund)) as well as festivals including Edinburgh Fringe, Celtic Connections, Edinburgh's Tradfest, Blas and lots more.

The company is delighted to have been nominated for Original Work of the Year by the Scots Trad Music Awards (winner announced on 5 Dec)**.**

Told through fiddle, feet and Gaelic song, the show is essentially a love letter to Scottish stepdance as it tells the story of its loss from Scotland thro the Clearances, and its rediscovery, interwoven with the story of a decades long friendship. It's an interactive performance that (gently!) encourages audience participation, evoking 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.

Amy Geddes (Creator/Performer):
It's so exciting to have received this nomination for Deiseil: Dancing in Time. The aim of making the show was to tell the story of stepdance, its history and its place in our culture to new audiences and in a new way as a piece of theatre, but of course we are rooted in the traditional music world and it is lovely to have this recognition in that space. Congratulations to all the nominees - we are really looking forward to celebrating everyone's achievements across the many diverse elements of our music culture.

Alison Carlyle (Creator/Performer):
It's great to be nominated in the category of Original Work of the Year, highlighting that we're all part of a living tradition where people are producing innovative and exciting work. Making Deiseil: Dancing in Time was such an interesting creative process and we're proud that through that we've found a different way to present stepdance and its music, honouring the past but also celebrating the present and future. As we say in the show, tha dannsa-ceum beò - stepdance is alive!

Gerry Mulgrew (Creator /Director):
It's fantastic to be nominated for this award! When we began work on the show around two years ago, I didn't really know Amy and Alison's work together. I knew Amy as she was my fiddle teacher, and I got to know Alison very quickly, but I was unaware of the amazing work they had already done as a duo. Our task was for them to bring the world of tradition and me the world of the theatre, with the two worlds meeting somewhere in the middle, which it did, sometimes harmoniously, and sometimes clashing, but always fruitful in evoking new ideas and old resonances. I believe we have created something original and I'm chuffed that we have achieved the recognition of this nomination.

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/ihaflh6h25thfiu11j103/AMs12fijK57xYNpfRzzCqe8?rlkey=4x0bvso3tw56497lp5wbu2lg4&st=jg2jzhb0&dl=0

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

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

PRESS RELEASE

Mar 2026

Scary Biscuits Promotions
Tel 0044 (0)771 288 0965 Email info@scarybiscuits.com Website www.scarybiscuits.com

"*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

Editors Notes

Background

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 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.