

## **Moray Festival a Finalist in Scotland's 'Cultural Oscars'**

**A Moray Festival has made the final list as part of a National awards event. The 2016 Findhorn Bay Festival is a finalist in the Cultural Event of the Year category, part of the prestigious Sunday Herald Cultural Awards.**

The annual awards recognise the very best of Scottish Culture across the vibrant sector in Scotland with honours presented in fifteen different categories. More than 150 entries were received as part of this year's event which sees the Findhorn Bay Festival reach the final alongside other prominent events including Celtic Connections and Belladrum Tartan Heart Festival.

The nation's most celebrated stars including Ewan McGregor, Liz Lochhead James McAvoy, Karen Gillan, Douglas Henshall, Martin Compston, Morven Christie, David Tennant, Ewen Bremner, Karine Polwart, and Shirley Henderson are also nominated for what's been dubbed Scotland's 'Cultural Oscars'.

Findhorn Bay Arts Director Kresanna Aigner said "the whole team are thrilled that the Findhorn Bay Festival is a finalist in the Cultural Awards. Just to be a finalist alone and recognised nationally for the success of the Festival is fantastic for the event and for promoting Moray as a go-to cultural destination."

The winner will be revealed along with the other Culture Awards finalists at a star-studded awards ceremony on Thursday 13 July 2017 at SWG3, Glasgow announced by renowned host Janice Forsyth.

## **Notes to Editors**

### 1. Findhorn Bay Festival

The Findhorn Bay Festival is a spectacular six-day celebration of arts, culture and innovation, featuring outstanding artists from across Scotland and beyond. The Festival, staged every two year, is set in and around the Forres and Findhorn Bay area of Moray and brings quality arts and culture to the area helping creative people and local communities across Moray to thrive and develop.

The 2016 Festival attracted over 13,500 attendances during the six-day celebration of programmed performances and activities which included the highlight free family event, Culture Day Forres. The

Festival contributed an estimated £875,000 to the local economy whilst bringing art and cultural to the doorsteps of thousands.

The next Findhorn Bay Festival will take place during the last week of September 2018 with the next Culture Day Forres being programmed as a highlight event.

## 2. Findhorn Bay Arts

Findhorn Bay Arts is a creative producer of cultural events and activities rooted in the communities of Forres, Findhorn and Moray.

## 3. Sunday Herald Culture Awards

The Sunday Herald Culture Awards in association with Edinburgh Napier University will highlight the talent of these artists and the quality of cultural events in Scotland. The awards will recognise the very best of Scottish culture, as well as the up and coming artists and groups who catch our judging panel's eyes and ears.

### **Contact**

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