

# FINDHORN BAY FESTIVAL



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year of young people  
bliadhna na h-òigridh  
2018

NEWS RELEASE – 28 FEBRUARY 2018

## **AWARD WINNING FINDHORN BAY FESTIVAL WILL RETURN THIS SEPTEMBER**

**The multi award-winning Findhorn Bay Festival will return to Moray for a third time in September 2018. From Wednesday 26 September to Monday 1 October, the biennial Festival will host a spectacular programme of arts and culture events showcasing artists of local, national and international renown.**

Staged in unexpected spaces and scenic locations around the bay of Findhorn in Moray, the Festival will feature a vibrant mix of theatre, performance, music, dance, visual arts, exhibitions, talks, tours and more as well as Culture Day Forres – Scotland’s only Culture Day extravaganza, free for all the family to enjoy.

Building on the success of the 2016 Festival, which saw 13,659 audiences attend over 65 events during the six-day celebration, this year’s Festival will be part of Scotland’s Year of Young People 2018, offering new ways for young people to participate in the Festival.

Funds totalling £180,000 have been raised by Forres based producers, Findhorn Bay Arts, to stage the Festival and associated projects for a third time. The Festival, which has previously demonstrated a local economic impact of £875k and a significant influx of visitors to the area for the event, is being supported by the National lottery through Creative Scotland, EventScotland’s National Programme Fund, the Year of Young People Event Fund, Highlands & Islands Enterprise and Berry Burn Community Fund as well as many local sponsors.

In 2018, Scotland puts its young people in the spotlight. The Year of Young People aims to inspire all ages through our young people by celebrating their amazing talents, valuing their contributions and creating new opportunities for them to shine on a local and global stage.

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Supported by the Year of Young People 2018 Event Fund, Creative Scotland's Open Fund and a number of local business sponsors, the Festival will create a new and unique theatre piece based on the Scottish literary work *The Buke of the Howlat* which will premier as part of the Festival. The work will be developed with Moray's young people offering community performance and creative learning opportunities that embrace and celebrate the energy, enthusiasm and talents of over 300 local young people.

Funding from the Moray LEADER Programme and EventScotland, part of VisitScotland's Events Directorate, will also enable the development of an exciting new *Making More of Moray* project which will incorporate the region's organic food offerings. A pop-up Project Café, a mini-market as part of Culture Day Forres, and a Picnic in The Park event will all be new additions to the Festival programme.

**Findhorn Bay Festival Director Kresanna Aigner**, said: "It has taken our team over a year of planning and fundraising so far, and we are thrilled to welcome funders, partners and new local sponsors to the third Findhorn Bay Festival. Together we will deliver a high quality programme of events and opportunities for visitors and locals alike to experience and enjoy. We are now looking forward to announcing our full Festival programme in June."

**Paul Bush OBE, VisitScotland's Director of Events**, said: "Findhorn Bay Festival is a wonderful celebration of arts and culture, and the event has gone from strength to strength thanks to the hard work of Kresanna and her team. We are delighted to be supporting *Making More of Moray*, showcasing the best in regional and Scottish produce, which will no doubt add to the strong offering at this year's festival. In the Year of Young People 2018, it is also fantastic to see that the event will be celebrating our talented young people by getting them involved in a unique new production of *The Buke of the Howlat*."

The full Findhorn Bay Festival programme will be launched in June 2018. Pre-launch event details and ticket sales will be released over the coming months as well as a plethora of opportunities to get involved in and participate during the Festival. Visit [www.findhornbayfestival.com/participate](http://www.findhornbayfestival.com/participate) to find out more.

## **For further information, interviews and photographs contact:**

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## **Notes to Editors:**

### **Creative Scotland**

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](http://www.creativescotland.com). Follow us @creativescots and [www.facebook.com/CreativeScotland](https://www.facebook.com/CreativeScotland).

### **EventScotland**

EventScotland is working to make Scotland the perfect stage for events. By developing an exciting portfolio of sporting and cultural events EventScotland is helping to raise Scotland's international profile and boost the economy by attracting more visitors. For further information about EventScotland, its funding programmes and latest event news visit [www.EventScotland.org](http://www.EventScotland.org). Follow EventScotland on Twitter [@EventScotNews](https://twitter.com/EventScotNews).

EventScotland is a team within VisitScotland's Events Directorate, the national tourism organisation which markets Scotland as a tourism destination across the world, gives support to the tourism industry and brings sustainable tourism growth to Scotland. For more information about VisitScotland see [www.visitscotland.org](http://www.visitscotland.org) or for consumer information on Scotland as a visitor destination see [www.visitscotland.com](http://www.visitscotland.com).

### **Year of Young People**

- The Scottish Government's themed year for 2018 is the Year of Young People (YoYP 2018), following the Year of Year of History, Heritage and Archaeology 2017.
- A global first, YoYP 2018 is a platform for young people aged 8 to 26 years old to have their voices heard on social issues and their talents celebrated.
- A year-long programme of events and festivals are taking place across the whole of the country for all ages to enjoy, led by EventScotland part of VisitScotland's Events Directorate. More information at [www.visitscotland.com/yoyp2018](http://www.visitscotland.com/yoyp2018)
- Local authorities, schools, youth groups and organisations are running their own YoYP 2018 activity. Search #YOYP2018 on Twitter for the latest news.
- Young people co-designed the Year. A group of young leaders, Communic18, lead on all key decision making. More than 500 Ambassadors based across every local authority are championing activity.
- The Year is delivered in partnership between the Scottish Government, EventScotland, Young Scot, Scottish Youth Parliament, Children in Scotland, YouthLink Scotland and Creative Scotland.
- Scottish Government activity focuses on six themes chosen by young people: culture, education, participation, health and wellbeing, equality and discrimination and enterprise and regeneration.
- More information can be found at [yoyp2018.scot](http://yoyp2018.scot), searching @YOYP2018 #YOYP2018 on Twitter or by emailing [yoyp2018@gov.scot](mailto:yoyp2018@gov.scot)
- This event is supported by the Year of Young People 2018 Event Fund managed by EventScotland, part of VisitScotland's Events Directorate. EventScotland is working with the events and festivals sector to develop an exciting portfolio of Year of Young People 2018 public-facing events which provide opportunities for young people to express themselves through a wide range of activity.

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