

MEDIA RELEASE

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Aberdeen's best-loved castles and gardens announce outdoor theatre events

Some of Aberdeenshire's most spectacular castles and gardens are hosting a series of outdoor theatre and music performances this summer.

The programme of shows will include Shakespeare beneath the stars at Castle Fraser, Alice in Wonderland at Crathes Castle and live music performances, paying homage to stars including Dolly Parton and Johnny Cash, at Pitmedden Garden.

Families are invited to bring their blankets and chairs and take their seats in sun at day shows or under a canopy of stars at night, with Covid-19 safety measures and socially distancing also in place at each performance.

The shows are being hosted by the National Trust for Scotland and offer something for everyone, from Shakespearean classics to family favourites and musical nights.

Fans of Shakespeare will be able to catch a dazzling performance of *The Tempest* at Castle Fraser on 11 July. *The Merry Wives of Windsor* will arrive at Drum Castle with fast-paced drama and even quicker costume changes in this musical version of Shakespeare's most raucous comedy, while *Henry V* will be staged at Pitmedden Garden on Tuesday 17 August.

Families are also invited to bring their picnics for a fun evening performance of David Walliams' best-seller, *Mr Stink* on Thursday 8 July at Pitmedden.

For those looking for animal adventure this summer, families can help catch the evil wolf or sing along with Gub Gub the Pig. *Little Red and The Big Bad Wolf* are at Castle Fraser, *the Further Adventures of Doctor Dolittle – Illyria* is at Drum Castle and the Cheshire Cat will make an appearance at Crathes for a special one-off performance of *Alice's Adventures in Wonderland*.

Pitmedden Garden is also hosting a series of outdoor tribute shows including *Abbamania* and *The Reclaimers* on 6 and 7 August, respectively. *The Girls' Night Out* on Friday 13 August will feature performances from *Simply Ariana*, *Spiceworld* and *Power of She*, while country fans can enjoy *Flavour of Country* with Dolly Parton, Neil Diamond and Johnny Cash the following evening (Saturday 14 August).

Open-air theatre goers are encouraged to bring blankets, rugs and picnics along to enjoy the alfresco entertainment. All events can be booked through each of the individual properties on the National Trust for Scotland website at www.nts.org.uk

All events have been prepared to be as safe as possible. The Trust is urging anyone planning to visit the events to check the latest government guidance around COVID-19 restrictions.

LISTINGS

Castle Fraser

Little Red and The Big Bad Wolf

Date: Thursday 8 July

Time: 2pm

Join us for an exciting afternoon of family theatre. Little Red sets off through the forest to visit Grandma but the journey won't be easy, not with all these distractions! Filled with live music, colourful characters and puppetry, this wonderful family musical has something for everyone.

[Book your ticket now](#)

The Tempest

Date: Sunday 11 July

Time: 7pm

Folksy's wonderful production is filled with live music, colourful characters, enchantment and a little touch of magic.

[Book your ticket now](#)

Pitmedden Garden

David Walliams' Mr Stink

Date: Thursday 8 July

Time: 6.30pm

Join Heartbreak Productions for David Walliams' best-seller *Mr Stink* on the outdoor stage. Pack a picnic, grab a chair and dress for the weather. Packed with fun, humour and a heart-warming message, this touching tale provides the perfect family entertainment.

[Book your ticket now](#)

Abbamania

Date: Friday 6 August

Tickets coming soon

The Reclaimers

Date: Saturday 7 August

Tickets coming soon

Girls' Night Out: Simply Ariana, Spiceworld and Power of She

Date: Friday 13 August

Tickets coming soon

Flavour of Country: Dolly Parton, Neil Diamond and Johnny Cash

Date: Saturday 14 August

Tickets coming soon

Date: Shakespeare's Henry V

Tuesday 17 August

Tickets coming soon

Crathes

Chapterhouse presents *Alice's Adventures in Wonderland*

Date: Thursday 15 July

Time: 6pm (gates open at 5pm)

[Book your ticket now](#)

Drum

Merry Wives of Windsor at Drum Castle

Date: Sunday 18 July

Time: 7pm

The Three Inch Fools take to the road with five actors, all manner of musical instruments and an inventive take on Shakespeare's raucous comedy *The Merry Wives of Windsor*. This Shakespearean classic will be getting the full Three Inch Fools treatment: live music-making, deft physicality and vibrant story-telling. Expect fast-paced drama, plenty of musical instruments and many a quick costume change along the way!

[Book your ticket now](#)

The Further Adventures of Doctor Dolittle – Illyria at Drum Castle

Date: Thursday 22 July

Time: 4pm

Following the phenomenal success of 2018's tour of *The Adventures of Doctor Dolittle*, Illyria delve back into Hugh Lofting's amazing stories to bring you a brand-new musical adaption of the Doctor's further adventures with Jip the Dog, Dap Dap the Duck, Gub Gub the Pig and Polynesia the Parrot.

As before, a fully orchestrated score and amazing puppets are featured along with a plethora of songs that our audience will be singing along to for years to come. Perfect summer fun for everyone age 5+!

[Book your ticket now](#)

ENDS

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Editor's Notes:

The National Trust for Scotland is the conservation charity that over 90 years has saved, maintained and shared many of the country's most loved places, rich with history, heritage, nature and culture. The charity celebrates Scotland's heritage and with almost 100 places in its care, there's a place for everyone to love.

The National Trust for Scotland relies on the support of its members and donors to carry out its important work of caring for the natural and built heritage that people from Scotland and across the world all love, ensuring its future for everyone to enjoy.

From coastlines to castles, art to architecture, wildlife to wildernesses, the National Trust for Scotland protects the national and natural treasures we all love. Support the National Trust for Scotland and help them protect the places we all love Become a member at www.nts.org.uk.

We would be grateful if, when referring to the National Trust for Scotland that our name is not shortened to 'the National Trust'. We are an independent organisation, separate from the National Trust. The National Trust for Scotland is commonly shortened to NTS or 'the Trust'.

