

## NATIONAL TRUST FOR SCOTLAND MEDIA RELEASE

23 August 2021

For immediate release

### **National Trust for Scotland takes experimental theatre to Ben Lomond**

A new experimental theatre production ‘Ùrlar’ will present a ‘kaleidoscopic vision of place’ for one day this September along the Ardess Hidden History Trail, a rich archaeological heritage site on the banks of Loch Lomond.

Tickets go on sale today (Monday 23 August) for the piece commissioned by the National Trust for Scotland, the conservation charity which owns and manages Ben Lomond. The outdoor site-specific production takes place on Sunday September 26 and will combine music, dance and spoken word.

Developed by Glasgow-based artist and producer Guy Veale, who recently created immersive sound designs for NTS’ House of Dun property near Montrose, Ùrlar will take audiences on a journey through the lower slopes of Ben Lomond, one of Scotland’s most iconic landscapes.

In the Great Highland Bagpipe tradition of piobaireachd (or ‘pibroch’), the ùrlar is the ‘main theme’ or ‘ground’ upon which the tune builds layers of variation.

Guy Veale, the event’s creative producer says: “Ùrlar will be an outward and inward journey, a kaleidoscopic vision of place, a sounding of resonant notes echoing through time. People and place have been entangled at Ardess for centuries, and Ùrlar will celebrate the rhythm of that relationship: the ebb and flow of seasons and cultures, the past and future of farming and recreation, and the cycle of habitats and inhabitants – lost and restored.”

Compliant with Covid-19 guidance, as well as the terrain of the site, small audience groups will be guided and led at a gentle pace throughout the 90-minute experience.

Attendees can expect to see and hear the landscape in a completely new way, guided by professional storytellers along a specially curated trail, their imaginations fired by a cast of magical characters in strikingly designed costumes, all inspired by the natural and cultural history of this spectacular corner of Scotland.

Key stations along the route will be brought to life in harmony with – and respect for – the natural environment, with subtle additions to nature’s own amazing soundscape and a uniquely recurring “sonic beacon” joined by multiple instruments and voices, carried on the wind to activate the entire site.

Samuel Gallacher, NTS Operations Manager for Ben Lomond says, “With this event, we seek to engage with new audiences, make new connections between natural and cultural heritage, and provide visitors with a novel and thought-provoking experience with which we hope to learn how natural heritage properties such as Ben Lomond may function as live performance venues while adding to the mission of the NTS as Scotland’s national conservation charity.”

Tickets for Ùrlar cost £12, with slots on Sunday September 26 every 30mins from noon until 5.30pm.

The event involves a gentle 90min guided walk along the Ardess Hidden History Trail NTS Ben Lomond Rowardennan G63 0AR. There are stepping stones and narrow paths which require care. Waterproof clothing and appropriate footwear essential.

Dedicated parking will be provided for ticket holders.  
Booking essential: [nts.org.uk](https://nts.org.uk)

## ENDS

**Free use images** show creative producer Guy Veale with performers Dougie Strang and Darla Eno (group shot) at the Ardess Hidden History Trail, Ben Lomond. Solo shot shows performer Dougie Strang.

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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](https://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’.