



POMEGRANATES FESTIVAL PREMIERES

SOWING THE SEEDS OF INTERNATIONAL TRAD DANCE

29 APRIL 2023
19:00

SCOTTISH STORYTELLING CENTRE
43-45 HIGH STREET, EDINBURGH, EH1 1SR

TRADITIONAL
DANCE
FORUM OF
SCOTLAND

SUPPORTING DIVERSE TRAD DANCE IN SCOTLAND THROUGH
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— POMEGRANATES —

SOWING THE SEEDS OF INTERNATIONAL TRADITIONAL DANCE

TRADITIONAL
DANCE
FORUM OF
SCOTLAND

SPRINGTIME FESTIVAL CURATED BY ILIYANA NEDKOVA, ELEANOR SINCLAIR AND WENDY TIMMONS

LINKTR.EE/POMEGRANATESFEST

WHY POMEGRANATES

INTRODUCTION BY LIYANA NEDKOVA AND WENDY TIMMONS



We are delighted to welcome you to Pomegranates – the springtime festival initiated by the Traditional **Dance** Forum of Scotland. Established in 2022 as part of Edinburgh Tradfest, Pomegranates returns in spring 2023 to once again sow the seeds of international traditional dance in Scotland and culminate into a celebration of UNESCO's International Dance Day (29 April) with three days full of dancing around the world but also filled with art and music, films and poetry.

Just like our inaugural Pomegranates, the festival weekend in 2023 kicked off with an intensive day of world dance workshops. This year the workshops were led by over 30 trad dance artists and choreographers with whom we circumnavigated the globe from Scotland to Zambia in just eight hours while learning from each other.

What is new at Pomegranates 2023? A wealth of events which we curated around the workshops, including these two world premieres on stage and screen – the second of three nights of live dance shows weaving in trad and contemporary dance, the new and the rarely seen.

Another new feature of this year's festival? Not one but three. Firstly, *Duets* – the dance and drawing exhibition by our artist-in-residence **Gabriel Schmitz**, as well as the related live duets of the artist with traditional and contemporary dance in Edinburgh and Glasgow, alongside the free exhibition tours.

Also, two new publications commissioned by Traditional **Dance** Forum of Scotland. A *Sequins of Poems to Dance To* by our festival poet-in-residence **Ian McMillan** is a booklet of 10 new poems which will come alive at our festival finale. Trad Dance Cast is our new trad dance podcast. It goes behind the scenes of *To Begin the Dance Once More* – our screen dance production which receives its world premiere at Pomegranates tonight.

Here is to Pomegranates once more!

POMEGRANATES FESTIVAL PROJECTS SUPPORTED BY





PREMIERES PROGRAMME

LINKTR.EE/POMEGRANATESFEST

DANCES WITH OUDS AND FIDDLES

WORLD PREMIERE

DURATION: 15 MINUTES

Meet climate refugees Isis, Beira and Bride, whose lineage stretches back to their namesakes, the Egyptian and Celtic goddesses of Earth. See them navigate a world of migration, displacement and uncertainty created by the global injustice of climate change. *Commissioned and produced by Traditional Dance Forum of Scotland in partnership with the Scottish International Storytelling Festival*

Dancers: **Yuxi Jiang, Fengyuyi Jiang and Tianru Xu** Choreographer: **Vincent Hantam**
Composer/Arranger: **Jon Bews** Performers: **Jon Bews** (fiddle) and **Chris Lyons** (oud) Poetry: **Donald Smith**

BEHIND THE SCENES

DISCUSSION WITH THE CREATIVE TEAM

DURATION: 30 MINUTES

Find out how the creative team worked on and off the stage and screen to bring you the two Mother Earth stories from Egypt and Scotland, including Curators/Producers: **Iliyana Nedkova, Wendy Timmons and Eleanor Sinclair**; Choreographer (Scotland): **Vincent Hantam**; Composer: **Jon Bews**; Poet/Storyteller: **Donald Smith**; Video postcards: **Hassan Khalil** (Choreographer Egypt) and **Marlene Millar** (Film Director)

TO BEGIN THE DANCE ONCE MORE

WORLD PREMIERE

DURATION: 10 MINUTES

How do we begin to rekindle the origin stories of our Mother Earth that are visibly inscribed in the landscape around us – from the flood plains of the Nile in Egypt to the hills and lochs of Scotland? See how the once suppressed lore of Earth's female forces gathers pace amidst rising sea levels and climate migration. *Commissioned and produced by Traditional Dance Forum of Scotland in partnership with the Scottish International Storytelling Festival. Funded by the British Council.*

Film Director: **Marlene Millar** Dancers: **Yuxi Jiang and Liron Blajwajs** Choreographer: **Vincent Hantam** Cinematographer: **Barrie Barretto** Film music: **Jon Bews** Poetry: **Donald Smith** Curators: **Iliyana Nedkova, Wendy Timmons and Eleanor Sinclair**

CEILIDH FOR ALL

SOCIAL DANCE

DURATION: 120 MINUTES

Dance the night away with **Terrific Trouble Ceilidh Band** and dance caller extraordinaire **Pia Walker**, guest drummer **Nemo Ganguli** and a cameo from our guest musicians **Fromseier & Hockings** and **The Låtmores** courtesy of our partnership with Northern Streams Festival.