

fringe

CELTIC & BALKAN TRAD DANCE, MUSIC & STORIES FROM THE LANDS OF

THISTLES &

SUNFLOWERS

22 AUG 2023
21:45

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

TRADITIONAL
DANCE
FORUM OF
SCOTLAND

SUPPORTING DIVERSE TRAD DANCE IN SCOTLAND
THROUGH FREE MEMBERSHIP, RESIDENCIES, FESTIVALS,
AND OPPS. REGISTERED CHARITY SC045085 TDFS.ORG

TRACS // TRADITIONAL
ARTS-CULTURE
SCOTLAND



#edfringe
#pomegranates
#thistlesandsunflowers

**"An amiable, gently
choreographed international
dance battle. No shade is
thrown, only affection."**

THE QUINTESSENTIAL REVIEW ★★★★★

THISTLES & SUNFLOWERS EXECUTIVE PRODUCER: TRADITIONAL DANCE FORUM OF SCOTLAND CO-COMMISSIONED WITH: BULGARIAN CULTURAL AND EDUCATIONAL CENTRE SCOTLAND CURATORS/PRODUCERS: WENDY TIMMONS, ILIYANA NEDKOVA & DANIELA DIMOVA-YANEVA CURATORIAL SUPPORT: RÓISÍN O'BRIEN & DANIEL ABERCROMBIE VIDEOGRAPHER: BARRIE BARRETTO STAGE SUPPORT: RODDY SIMPSON

#FillYerBoots with Thistles & Sunflowers

INTRODUCTION BY ILIYANA NEDKOVA AND WENDY TIMMONS



Traditional **Dance** Forum of Scotland is delighted to make its Edinburgh Festival Fringe curatorial debut as a producer with *Thistles & Sunflowers* – an exclusive, one-off late-night extravaganza featuring Celtic and Balkan traditional dance, music and stories from the lands of thistles and sunflowers.

We welcome back Edinburgh's own trad dance duo **Ariana Stoyanova and Alexis Street** who brought us the 'uplifting and merrily synergistic' dance fusion *Thistles & Sunflowers* twice before – firstly, at the inaugural namesake festival curated by our partners Bulgarian Cultural and Educational Centre Scotland spotlighting artists and stories from Scotland and Bulgaria as part of Scotland's Year of Stories 2022 and secondly, at Scotland's annual Pomegranates festival for international traditional dance we staged this spring. Once again Ariana and Alexis are joined by fellow Highland and Bulgarian folk dancers and for the first time by the acclaimed Scottish step dancer **Alison Carlyle**.

We have another first for anyone with an interest in the dissonant harmonies and vibrant ecstasy of the Bulgarian folk song tradition. Marvel at the vocals of the American-Bulgarian singer-songwriter and ethnomusicologist **Angela Rodel**, also known as the winner of the International Booker Prize 2023 for translation and one of the special guests at this year's Edinburgh International Book Festival.

An opportunity to discover how the two cultures shaped by the bagpipes resemble and diverge from each other, this third iteration of *Thistles & Sunflowers* is also a chance for the first time to feel how dance and voice converge in the mighty instrumentals of **Chris Lyons** (Bayan accordion), **Morag Brown** (fiddle), **Frazer Watson** (percussion) and **Anoukia Nistor** (cello) – the tunetastic trans-European nerds from Scotland's own Blue Giant Orkestar.

We couldn't be more proud to have assembled this stellar troupe of 17 performers coming together to mark the first appearance of Angela as a vocalist on an Edinburgh stage. Let's unravel 'Le Mystère des Voix Bulgares' through this one-of-a kind 'sonic translation' of trad dance and music.

PRESENTED BY



SUPPORTED BY



THE UNIVERSITY OF EDINBURGH
Moray House School of
Education and Sport



Funding from The National Lottery



PROGRAMME

THRACIAN REAPING SONG

ACAPELLA SOLO BY ANGELA RODEL WITH ANOUKIA NISTOR (CELLO)

MALESHEVSKO

BULGARIAN HORO (I.E. CIRCLE) DANCE – 5 DANCERS & 5 MUSICIANS

RACHENITSA

CHOREOGRAPHED FOLK DANCE – 4 DANCERS & 5 MUSICIANS

SCOTTISH STEP DANCE

FEET & FIDDLE DUET BY ALISON CARLYLE & MORAG BROWN

PAZARDZHISHKA KOPANITSA

CHOREOGRAPHED FOLK DANCE – 3 DANCERS & 4 MUSICIANS

SHIRTO

BULGARIAN HORO DANCE – 6 DANCERS & 4 MUSICIANS

VILLAGE MAID

HIGHLAND DANCE DUET BY CALLIE & LARIS WITH MORAG BROWN (FIDDLE)

KRIVOSADOVSKO

SOLO FOLK DANCE BY ARIANA STOYANOVA & 4 MUSICIANS

HIGHLAND LADDIE

HIGHLAND DANCE SOLO BY CHRISTINA SPIRIDONOVA & MORAG BROWN (FIDDLE)

DJANGURITSA

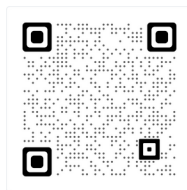
BULGARIAN HORO DANCE – 6 DANCERS & 5 MUSICIANS

FUSION

CHOREOGRAPHED FUSION DANCE – 6 DANCERS & 4 MUSICIANS

PRAVO HORO

BULGARIAN HORO DANCE – 12 DANCERS & 5 MUSICIANS + AUDIENCE WELCOME



PLEASE NOTE, THE PERFORMANCE IS BEING FILMED, EDITED & SHARED BY TRADITIONAL DANCE FORUM OF SCOTLAND

LINKTR.EE/TRADDANCEFORUMSCOTLAND

DANCERS: ARIANA STOYANOVA, ALEXIS STREET, ALISON CARLYLE, DESISLAVA DAVIDKOVA, ELENA LAZAROVA, DENITSA STAMBOLIYSKA, MIRELA BOZHINOVA, IVETA DULOVA, GERGANI STOYANOVA, CALLIE, LARIS & CHRISTINA SPIRIDONOVA CHOREOGRAPHERS: ARIANA STOYANOVA & ALEXIS STREET
MUSICIANS: ANGELA RODEL, CHRIS LYONS, MORAG BROWN, FRAZER WATSON & ANOUKIA NISTOR SONIC ARRANGEMENT: CHRIS LYONS & ANGELA RODEL