

TRADITIONAL DANCE FORUM OF SCOTLAND

HIGHLIGHTS APRIL 2024 - MARCH 2025



3 -30 APRIL 2024

Ahead of our flagship **Pomegranates Festival** we unveiled **Dance Around the World** - a new exhibition of Scottish and world trad dance books and artefacts, curated specifically for the Edinburgh Central Library. Free and open to all, it featured over 100 items on loan from public and private collections, showcasing over 20 different traditions from Scotland, Greece, Estonia, Poland, Bali, Japan and beyond.



3 co-curators + 3 artist-led workshops in trad dance crafts with 35 participants + 5 guided tours + 3,000 exhibition visitors (estimate)



20 APRIL 2024

Ahead of our Pomegranates Festival weekend, we held our annual intensive of continuous professional development for dancers. Packed with 12 workshops led by dance artists based in Scotland: **Evie Waddell** (Scottish Step and Gaelic Song), **Vassia Bouchagiar-Walker** (Rebetiko), **Nadia Khattab** (Dabkeh), **Lara Russo and Inesa Vélavičiūtė** (Tammurriata), **Gica Loening** (Yiddish), **Niki and Yangyang** (Waltz), **Jack Anderson** (Irish Step), **Yanmei Bowie** (Chinese Classical), **Brigitte Cicilya Juliet** (Indonesian), **Angel Godwin** (American Country Line), **Sabie Madubela** (South African Xhosa) and **Lucia Leeson** (Hip Hop).



In partnership with Moray House School of Education and Sport, University of Edinburgh. 2 co-curators + 3 artists-in-residence + 10 musicians + 60 participants (estimate)



23-30 APRIL 2024

We staged our second Pomegranates Festival 2024 exhibition at the Scottish Storytelling Centre Court. It took the media by storm. Entitled **Vengefully Changed Allegiance**, it was **Alison Harm's** first solo exhibition in a public space. It explored the role of tartan in Scottish and Irish trad dance through sustainable fashion costumes, photography and performance.



1 artist-in-residence + 1 sold-out fashion show for 70 participants + 2 co-curators + 10 exhibition tours + 1 commission of 11 trad dance costumes + 1,000 exhibition visitors (estimate)



25 APRIL 2024

We launched our Pomegranates Festival with a lunchtime public talk about **Europeade** - the largest festival of European trad dance, costume and music with 6,000 participants from across the continent, taking place in a different European city every year. The talk was led by **Rüdiger Heß**, President of the Europeade International Committee, as part of his visit to Scotland to explore the prospect of us co-hosting **Europeade in July 2027 in Perth** - the first host opportunity for the UK in the six decades of this festival's history.



Welcome address by Ms **Kaukab Stewart**, the Minister for Culture, Europe and International Development at the Scottish Government.



TRADITIONAL
DANCE
FORUM OF
SCOTLAND

TRADITIONAL
DANCE
COLLOQUE
D SCOTLAND

BUIDHEANN
DANNSA
TRADISEANTA
NA H-ALBA

SUPPORTING DIVERSE TRAD DANCE IN SCOTLAND THROUGH FREE
MEMBERSHIP + 3 ROUTES: RESIDENCIES, FESTIVALS, AND PRODUCTIONS.
AFFILIATED WITH TRACS (TRADITIONAL ARTS * CULTURE SCOTLAND)

TDFS.ORG INFO@TDFS.ORG

Registered Charity SC045085

TRACS

TRADITIONAL
ARTS * CULTURE
SCOTLAND

Registered office: Scottish Storytelling Centre, 43-45 High Street, Edinburgh, EH1 1SR

TRADITIONAL DANCE FORUM OF SCOTLAND

HIGHLIGHTS

APRIL 2024 - MARCH 2025



27 APRIL 2024

One of the highlights of Pomegranates Festival 2024? Our production **Elegies** - the first dance adaptation of the poetry book **Elegies for the Dead in Cyrenaica (1948)** by **Hamish Henderson**. Set in a dancehall and a desert war theatre, it embodied ceilidh, jive, swing and lindy hop, evoking the popular social dance culture of the 1940s, creating a bridge to the present day. It featured artists **Helen Gould, George Adams, Nicola Thomson, Edwin Wen, Morag Anderson, Stephen Watt, Cera Impala, Katie Duxbury and Roddy Simpson**, plus co-curators **Jim Mackintosh, Iliyana Nedkova and Wendy Timmons**.

★★★★ 'Evocative and relevant' All Edinburgh Theatre
 ★ ★ ★ ★ 'Respectful and sincere. Sombre and considerate' Corr Blimey

28 APRIL 2024

Our first Pomegranates Festival Family Sunday celebrated world trad dance while planting the seeds in the hearts and minds of the new generation of trad dancers. The day was packed with trad dance shows, as well as a ceilidh expertly called by **Caroline Brockbank** for all the family, accompanied by live music.



3 co-curators + 4 sold-out shows + 66 pupils from Abbeyhill, Royal Mile and Edinburgh & Lothians Gaelic Primary Schools + 50 dancers from the Bulgarian, Ukrainian and Chinese community schools aged 6 and over + 200 attendees (estimate)



29 APRIL 2024

The finale of our Pomegranates Festival 2024 marked UNESCO International Dance Day with a triple bill of poetry, film and dance. The evening culminated with our new hip-hop theatre show **United Nations?** choreographed by our festival resident artist **Jonzi D** who also performed alongside 20 Scotland-based trad dance artists and musicians.



It also featured our 2 co-curators + 2 festival artists-in-residence: **Mare Tralla** who premiered her short film commission **Kaera Jaan** and **Jim Mackintosh** who performed his new poems and launched his latest poetry collection **We are Migrant**.



30 APRIL 2024

The final word at the Pomegranates Festival was had by our artist-in-residence **Jonzi D** who delivered the keynote talk **Decolonising the Expressive Arts Curriculum**, drawing on his illustrious career as an MC, dancer, spoken word artist and educator. He advocated for the recognition of the hip hop disciplines at the vanguard of dance, theatre and formal art education. Jonzi reflected on his professional development projects, including **Open Art Surgery**, through which he has supported hundreds of hip hop dance and rap/poetry artists on their journey to creating theatre.



In partnership with Moray House School of Education and Sport, University of Edinburgh. 2 co-curators + 35 attendees (estimate)



TRADITIONAL DANCE FORUM OF SCOTLAND

TRADITIONAL DANCE COLLOQUE D SCOTLAND

BUIDHEANN DANNSA TRADISEANTA NA H-ALBA

SUPPORTING DIVERSE TRAD DANCE IN SCOTLAND THROUGH FREE MEMBERSHIP + 3 ROUTES: RESIDENCIES, FESTIVALS, AND PRODUCTIONS. AFFILIATED WITH TRACS (TRADITIONAL ARTS * CULTURE SCOTLAND)

TDFS.ORG INFO@TDFS.ORG

Registered Charity SC045085

TRACS

TRADITIONAL ARTS * CULTURE SCOTLAND

Registered office: Scottish Storytelling Centre, 43-45 High Street, Edinburgh, EH1 1SR

TRADITIONAL DANCE FORUM OF SCOTLAND

HIGHLIGHTS

APRIL 2024 - MARCH 2025



23 JUL - 29 AUG 2024

In 2024 we continued with our #traddance campaign, highlighting the contribution of trad dance artists in the programmes of the Edinburgh summer festivals, on a whole new level. We launched our first-of-its-kind **Traditional Dance Criticism Course**, led by dance writer **Róisín O'Brien**. It provided training and editorial support to 6 emerging trad dance critics who authored 15 new reviews of 10 shows with trad dance roots across the Edinburgh's summer festivals, all published on our new platform <https://www.tdfs.org/reviews>

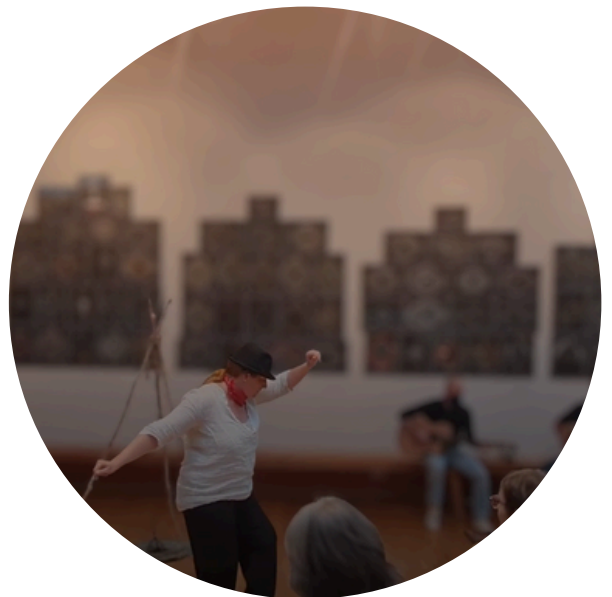


In partnership with Moray House School of Education and Sport, University of Edinburgh + funded by Creative Scotland through TASGADH (Traditional Arts Small Grants) + 2 co-curators + 500 views (estimate)

31 JULY 2024

As part of our #traddance campaign at Edinburgh summer festivals we also curated and premiered **Stones are Alive** - a new work-in-progress as part of the Edinburgh Festival Fringe. It was inspired by stories of stones, cairns and rebels, including Nikos Kazantzakis' Zorba the Greek and Mairi Campbell's Living Stone. Choreographed and performed by **Vassia Bouchagiar-Walker** to live Rebetiko music, it was showcased at the preview of Campbell's Living Stone exhibition and music theatre project.

★★★★★ 'Bouchagiar-Walker's technique is excellent throughout, but in this piece her flowing, evocative spinning actions and use of scarf really complement the music'. **Catherine Coutts** at www.tdfs.org/reviews



20 SEPTEMBER 2024

We were one of the Scottish organisations supporting the third in a series of four UK-wide, hybrid symposia as part of the **Critical Dance Pedagogy Network** aimed at raising awareness of the numerous inequities and injustices in dance and dance education. This third symposium focused on pedagogies and practices.



We ran an open call for participation, presented the pedagogical activities of Traditional Dance Forum of Scotland at the symposium and curated the opening Gaelic song and step dance performance, featuring duo **Evie Waddell and Andrew Herrington**.

20 SEPTEMBER 2024

We teamed up with independent Scottish publishers Birlinn for a sold-out double-bill launch of **The Bright Fabric of Life** - our new screen dance production inspired by the new book under the same title by **Mhairi Collie**. Mhairi was joined for the Q&A by author **Alexander McCall Smith** and members of our screen dance team **Mare Tralla, Chris Lyons Vincent Hantam, Susie Dinan-Young, Iliyana Nedkova and Wendy Timmons**.

★★★★★ Using the body language of traditional African dance choreographed specifically for the camera, **The Bright Fabric of Life** tells stories of motherhood and kinship, love and loss from Scotland and Sub-Saharan Africa.



TRADITIONAL
DANCE
FORUM OF
SCOTLAND

TRADITIONAL
DANCE
COLLOQUE
D SCOTLAND

BUIDHEANN
DANNSA
TRADISEANTA
NA H-ALBA

SUPPORTING DIVERSE TRAD DANCE IN SCOTLAND THROUGH FREE
MEMBERSHIP + 3 ROUTES: RESIDENCIES, FESTIVALS, AND PRODUCTIONS.
AFFILIATED WITH TRACS (TRADITIONAL ARTS * CULTURE SCOTLAND)

TDFS.ORG INFO@TDFS.ORG

Registered Charity SC045085

TRACS / TRADITIONAL
ARTS * CULTURE
SCOTLAND

Registered office: Scottish Storytelling Centre, 43-45 High Street, Edinburgh, EH1 1SR

TRADITIONAL DANCE FORUM OF SCOTLAND

HIGHLIGHTS APRIL 2024 - MARCH 2025



28 SEPT - 7 DEC 2024

Did you know that the Traditional Dance Forum of Scotland was established in 2014? To mark our 10th anniversary we curated **Ten out of Ten** - a series of events with traditional dance roots across Scotland. We hand-picked 10 events in Edinburgh celebrating the diversity and breadth of traditional dance activities by our 250+ members. We started with our 10th Annual General Meeting over a celebratory cake!



Our Ten out of Ten: Edinburgh featured workshops in Scottish Step, Country Dance and Breton, a course in Scottish Enlightenment Dance, an Indian Classical Dance Recital and a range of Ceilidhs, including our inaugural Ceilidh Plus nights: www.tdfs.org/ten-out-of-ten

2 NOVEMBER 2024

We celebrated our 10th birthday dancing with over 100 guests and dance callers **Marina Sharp, Angel Godwin and Yanmei Bowie**, plus dance musicians **Chris Lyons, Morag Brown, Lewis Powell-Reid, Eddie McGuire, Chenhao Wang and Tai Shing Lin**. This was the first of our **Ceilidh Plus** events where the tradition bearers of Scottish Ceilidh share the stage with the dance traditions of other cultures that have become an integral part of contemporary Scotland, such as the American Country Line and Chinese Square Dance.

★★★★★ 'Vibrant + enriching' 'Energetic + enthusiastic' 'Warm + lively'
www.tdfs.org/ceilidhplus



17 NOVEMBER 2024

What is the most stylish and sustainable way to celebrate one's 10th anniversary? Enter **ReFashion Edinburgh** - a sustainable slow fashion in aid of a different national charity every year since 2022. We were picked as the national charity of choice for 2024. Together with 200 guests we were wowed by the sustainable fashion creativity of the nine Edinburgh designers, supported by 18 models, a collective of makeup and hair professionals, plus light, sound, video, photo specialists - all volunteering to bring us this event.



Thank you, ReFashion Edinburgh and founder **Alison Harm of Psychomoda!** Your donation raised from the ticket sales enabled us to continue embedding diversity and sustainability in trad dance across Scotland: www.tdfs.org/refashion-edinburgh



7 DECEMBER 2024

For our festive sold-out **Ceilidh Plus** event we wizzed from Scotland to the sunnier climes of Greece and Southern Italy with our 150 guests and dance callers **Marina Sharp, Monica de Ioanni and Vassia Bouchagiar-Walker**, our resident dance musician **Chris Lyons**, plus **Rona Wilkie, Stefanos Tzotzolakis, Michele Quarta, Simone Caffari and Alessandro Parlato**. Also with MC **Jim Mackintosh** & the Greek family bakery **Think Pastry**.



Part-funded by Creative Scotland through TASGADH (Traditional Arts Small Grants) + 2 co-curators.



TRADITIONAL DANCE FORUM OF SCOTLAND

TRADITIONAL DANCE COLLOQUE D SCOTLAND

BUIDHEANN DANNSA TRADISEANTA NA H-ALBA

SUPPORTING DIVERSE TRAD DANCE IN SCOTLAND THROUGH FREE MEMBERSHIP + 3 ROUTES: RESIDENCIES, FESTIVALS, AND PRODUCTIONS. AFFILIATED WITH TRACS (TRADITIONAL ARTS * CULTURE SCOTLAND)

TDFS.ORG INFO@TDFS.ORG

Registered Charity SC045085

TRACS

TRADITIONAL ARTS * CULTURE SCOTLAND

Registered office: Scottish Storytelling Centre, 43-45 High Street, Edinburgh, EH1 1SR

TRADITIONAL DANCE FORUM OF SCOTLAND

HIGHLIGHTS

APRIL 2024 - MARCH 2025



20 FEBRUARY 2025

Masked dancers, costume designer **Gerry Gapinski**, mask maker **Lorraine Pritchard** and festival co-curators gathered to launch our fourth annual Pomegranates Festival programme of 15 events which ran from 25 to 30 April 2025 at 5 venues across Edinburgh. We announced this year's festival themes: traditional dance, masks and intangible cultural heritage.

★★★★★ "Pomegranates Festival continues to be an important platform celebrating Scotland's rich traditional dance heritage alongside the diverse influences that shape our communities today." **Vanessa Boyd, Creative Scotland**

22 FEBRUARY 2025

We were invited to contribute to the conference **By Creating We Think** and present some of the research findings from our screen dance exploratory project **By Leaves We Live** aiming to 'dance in the footsteps' of Scotland's early environmentalists and educators Patrick Geddes and Margaret Morris. The conference was officially part of the Edinburgh 900 celebrations.



Our **By Leaves We Live** project was funded by the British Council through the UK-France Spotlight on Culture Programme.



8 MARCH 2025

Released to mark International Women's Day, our latest **Trad Dance Cast** podcast episode once again celebrated the role of women in traditional dance. Our Trad Dance Cast host **Eleanor Sinclair** talked to dance researcher **Alena Shmakova** who uncovered the dance herstory of Scotland, from the Renaissance to the Georgian era, with a focus on Mary, Queen of Scots and lead dancer Sophia Parker.



Tune in to travel to 16th century Scotland and meet Mary, Queen of Scots. Find out how her passion for dance had provoked John Knox's protestant fury and backlash: www.tdfs.org/trad-dance-cast

21 MARCH 2025

With our first **Ceilidh Plus** for 2025 we marked Ireland's patron St Patrick and the 10th anniversary of Scotland's first Bulgarian School 'Nadezhda Stanchova - Lady Muir'. Once again, we offered a taste of world dance rolled into three hours of fun, this time with Irish Ceilidhs, Bulgarian Horos and Scottish Ceilidhs. We were guided by our dance callers **Dianne Newman, Ariana Stoyanova and Marina Sharp**, plus our ace dance musicians **Morag Brown, Lewis Powell-Reid and Frazer Watson**. Our 150 guests enjoyed our new photo booth and the special Bulgarian snacks.



Part-funded by the Consulate General of the Republic of Ireland in Scotland. In partnership with the Bulgarian Cultural and Educational Centre Scotland, Moray House School of Education, University of Edinburgh and Edinburgh College: www.tdfs.org/ceilidhplus



TRADITIONAL
DANCE
FORUM OF
SCOTLAND

TRADITIONAL
DANCE
COLLOQUE
D SCOTLAND

BUIDHEANN
DANNSA
TRADISEANTA
NA H-ALBA

SUPPORTING DIVERSE TRAD DANCE IN SCOTLAND THROUGH FREE
MEMBERSHIP + 3 ROUTES: RESIDENCIES, FESTIVALS, AND PRODUCTIONS.
AFFILIATED WITH TRACS (TRADITIONAL ARTS * CULTURE SCOTLAND)

TDFS.ORG INFO@TDFS.ORG

Registered Charity SC045085

TRACS

TRADITIONAL
ARTS * CULTURE
SCOTLAND

Registered office: Scottish Storytelling Centre, 43-45 High Street, Edinburgh, EH1 1SR