

# Arctic Winds

Nightlands by Jack MacGregor

The Fallen Angels of The Moine by George Gunn

**DOGSTAR**  
THEATRE

**Dogstar Theatre Company**

Artistic Director – Matthew Zajac

Producer – Donna Macrae

**Arctic Winds is financially supported by**

Creative Scotland

Scottish Government Arctic Connections Programme (Creative Learning)

Federation Of Scottish Theatre (Assistant Director Bursary)

The Fraser Foundation



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# Meet the Arctic Winds Creative Team

## Matthew Zajac

Director and Artistic Director of Dogstar Theatre Company Company



Dogstar has been fortunate to work with a wonderful team on Arctic Winds Part 1, both on and off stage. We are extremely grateful for the hard work and talent reflected here and we hope you will take a few moments here to read about each of our actors, designers, writers, directors, creative learning and production staff. We also thank our main funder, Creative Scotland, along with the Scottish Government's Arctic Connections Programme, which is supporting our Creative Learning Programme, the Federation of Scottish Theatre (Assistant Director bursary) and The Fraser Foundation. Enjoy the films!

Matthew studied Drama at Bristol University and has worked as an actor for 40 years, alongside producing and directing many new plays. In recent years he has also become a writer. Theatre acting includes work at the Citizens Theatre Glasgow, Manchester Royal Exchange, Bristol Old Vic, Liverpool Everyman, Royal Lyceum Edinburgh, the Lyric Hammersmith, Bush Theatre and the Young Vic. Screen acting in recent years includes feature films *The Crucifixion* (Xavier Gens), *Valhalla Rising* (Nicholas Winding Refn), *And Violet* (Paul Gray), *A Lonely Place To Die* (Julian Gilbey) and TV appearances in *Shetland*, *One Of Us*, *Happy Valley* & *Still Game*. He wrote and performed *The Tailor of Inverness* for the company, winning the 2009 Best Actor Award at the Critics' Awards for Theatre in Scotland and several other awards. *The Tailor of Inverness* has played in 13 countries. His book, *The Tailor of Inverness* was published in 2013 by Sandstone Press.



Donna Macrae  
Producer

Donna Macrae was born in Inverness. She left school to attend the Edinburgh College of Art. Over the last 40 years, Donna has been involved in Production and Production Management in the Arts world with her business Firefly Productions delivering hugely successful productions and events across a wide range of disciplines from Television Production, Music Agency and Music Business Consultancy through to delivering the Highland-wide Blas Festival for 12 years from its inception through to November 2016. She has taught music business studies at the then R.S.A.M.D, and has been engaged as a consultant by a wide variety of businesses from photographers to jewelers. Donna ran the first professional 24-track digital music studio in The Highlands between 1993 and 2003.

Donna and Firefly Productions joined Dogstar in 2016 acting as producers for touring productions, delivering the general administration of the company and working with Matthew Zajac to further develop the company's reach.



Ali MacLaurin  
Set and Costume Designer

Ali trained in theatre design in Edinburgh and Croydon a very long time ago. Since then she has designed, devised, made, facilitated and taught all over the UK. She started her career in London, was resident designer with the Belgrade Theatre in Education Company and designed several community plays in venues from East End derelict churches to Scottish border stately homes. In 2003 she returned to Scotland to set up the costume design degree at Queen Margaret University. Since then she has made shows in a Chinese motorised rickshaw, a planetarium, a pub garden and a teapot, and has worked with numerous companies including Scottish Opera, Grid Iron, David Leddy/Fire Exit, Nutshell, Licketyspit and Birds of Paradise. She recently designed Romeo and Juliet, the opening show for the new Cumbernauld Theatre.

Ali is delighted to be working again with Dogstar, having first designed their award-winning show, The Tailor of Inverness. In her spare time Ali does yoga and 3D embroidery. She lives by the sea in Kinghorn with her husband, a dog and 120 teapots.

**Brian MacAlpine**  
Composer and Sound Designer

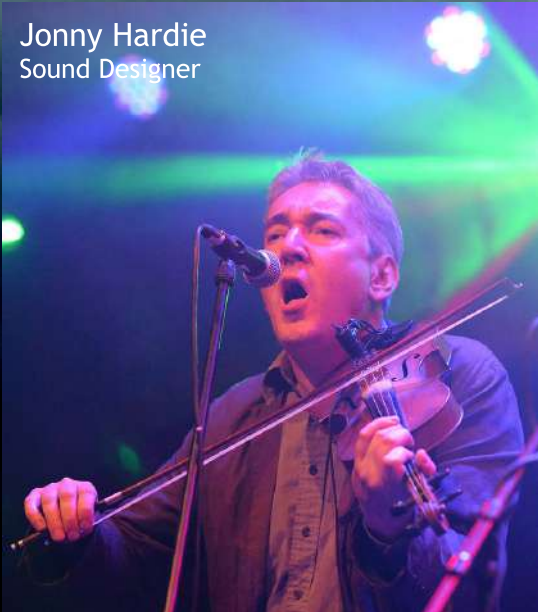


A world class multi-instrumentalist, Brian is well known on the Scottish music scene, working with some of the country's best musicians. He has 69 albums under his belt, including his solo album 'Mutual Imagination Society Vol 1', along with extensive live touring, radio sessions and television appearances. From performing to composing, arranging and producing, his skills reach across a wide range of genres from traditional to contemporary.

As a composer, he has a reputation for being a great listener and an exceptional collaborator when it comes to creating music for visuals. Over the past 5 years he has been producing consistently high-quality music for television, feature films, theatre, advertising and branding.

Brian is also Head of Production at Scotland's podcast network The Big Light Studio producing weekly shows such as Talk Media and Old Firm Facts - [www.thebiglight.com](http://www.thebiglight.com).

**Jonny Hardie**  
Sound Designer



Jonny was brought up in Aberdeenshire A fine exponent of fiddle and guitar, Jonny also studied viola at the Royal Northern College of Music.

Jonny co-founded Old Blind Dogs in 1929, or thereabouts. Since the band began, they have recorded 15 studio albums and two live albums.

Over the years, Jonny has been involved in many other musical collaborations. He has performed with/arranged or produced over 50 CDs in his career (so far) recording and performing with artists as diverse as Kylie Minogue and The Chieftains with Ry Cooder.

Jonny is also musical director and writer for Dogstar and teaches fiddle at Aberdeen City Music School.

**Brian Ross**  
Film Director



Brian Ross is a BAFTA winning producer/director. His most recent documentary *Undisputed: The Life and Times of Ken Buchanan* was commissioned by BBC Scotland. *Circling A Fox*, a blend of documentary and theatre based on Matthew Zajac's play *The Tailor of Inverness*, was described by the *Guardian/Observer* as a 'fascinating experimental documentary'. Brian Cox's *Jute Journey*, reviewed by A.A Gill as 'an unusual and beautiful documentary,' screened at the Valladolid Film Festival. *Scotland on Sunday* reviewed his music documentary, *Shetland Lone Star* as 'the week's most gloriously accomplished programme. Sublime.' His first feature length documentary *No One But Me* about the life of legendary Jazz Vocalist Annie Ross, launched to 4 star reviews at the Glasgow Film Festival.

Other productions include *Scotland's First Oil Rush* with Professor Ian Stewart, *Nukes, Subs and Secrets* with Jenna Watt, *Enlighten Up* with Robert Florence and Iain Connell Oscar Marzaroli, *Man with a Camera* and *No Sleep til' Yell*. He has worked in a broad range of genres, including comedy, drama and animation and was awarded a BAFTA for directing the CBBC fantasy adventure show, *Raven*.

**Nils den Hertog**  
Production Manager



I have worked in Scottish Theatre since 1978 after graduating from the Royal Scottish Academy of Music and Drama ( now the Royal Conservatoire) from 1983 I worked for STV for 11 years followed by 5 years as freelance in film and TV.

In 1998 I returned to theatre as Stage Manager at the Traverse Theatre and then went to Dundee Rep Theatre in 1999 as Company Stage Manager for the newly formed Dundee Rep Ensemble Company, followed by roles as Technical Manager and Production Manager for the same company.

From 2017 I have been freelance working for various companies such as Lung Ha, Ten Foot Tall, Dirlie Bane and Perth Theatre.

## Grant Anderson Lighting Designer



Grant Anderson is a lighting designer for the entertainment industry, whose work covers the worlds of theatre, music, events, fashion and architecture.

Grant trained at The Royal Conservatoire of Scotland, receiving the Dean of Drama Award for Best Individual Work.

As well as the UK Grant has designed internationally and had work transfer around the world.

Grant is a member of the Association of Lighting Designers.

For further information on his work please visit [www.grantanderson.design](http://www.grantanderson.design)

Selected theatre credits include: Alan Cumming Sings Sappy Songs, Light on the Shore (Edinburgh International Festival); The Cook, The Thief, His Wife & Her Lover (Unigram); The Steamie (Neil Laidlaw Productions); My Left Right Foot, Submarine Time Machine, One Mississippi, To Begin (National Theatre of Scotland); The Broons, Frankenstein (Sell A Door); Cuttin' A Rug, Simon's Magical Christmas Socks, Panic Patterns (Citizens Theatre); A Christmas Carol, Love Song, In My Father's Words, Hecuba, Promises Promises, Baby Baby (Dundee Repertory Theatre); Miss Julie, And The Beat Goes On (Perth Theatre); Sleepin' Cutie, Chick Whittington, Weans In The Wood, The Little Mermaid, Aladdin, Beauty & The Beast, The Polar Bears Go Wild (Macrobert, Stirling); Summer on Stage 2012 - 2018 (Lyceum Theatre, Edinburgh); The Maw Broon Monologues, Mammy Goose, The Snaw Queen (Tron Theatre, Glasgow); We'll Live and Die in these Towns (Belgrade Theatre); News Just In (Random Accomplice); Wendy Hoose, Blanch & Butch, The Tin Soldier (Birds of Paradise); Without A Hitch (Room 2 Manoeuvre); Spring Awakening, Chess, Into The Woods, Cabaret, 9 to 5, Urinetown, Addams Family, Godspell, Avenue Q, Sunday In The Park With George, Company, Women on the Verge of a Nervous Breakdown, Wasted Love, Show Choir (Royal Conservatoire of Scotland); Little Red And The Wolf, Freak Show, Forest Boy, The Girl Who (Noisemaker); A Clockwork Orange (associate, Theatre Royal Stratford East).

Across the Music & Events sector Grant's work includes: Live In Leith, Celtic Connections, Karine Polwart, Alan Cumming's Club Cumming, GlasGLOW, Elfingrove, Edinburgh International Festival Opening Event, Botanic Lights and Edinburgh's Hogmanay Torchlight Procession & Street Party.

**Chariya Glasse-Davies**  
Stage Manager



Chariya trained at the Royal Conservatoire of Scotland (BA in Production Technology and Management), specialising in Stage Management.

Since graduating in 2017 she has worked with various well established theatre companies such as Perth Theatre, Scottish Opera, Scottish Ballet, Birmingham Opera Company, National Theatre of Scotland and The Royal Conservatoire of Scotland.

Most recently she has worked on series 6 of the TV drama "Shetland", and with Perth Theatre as their Seasonal Assistant Stage Manager.

She is delighted to be working with Dogstar Company.

**Keira Smith**  
Assistant Director



Keira is a recent graduate in Drama & Performance at the University of the Highlands & Islands. She previously studied Acting & Performance at North East College in her home town of Aberdeen. She is a founder member of Vivid Roots Collective, a theatre company devoted to new work from a feminist perspective based in Inverness.

Keira has acted in several productions, including Fame, Private Peaceful, Sideshow, Great Expectations & Much Obligated. She co-wrote Much Obligated with Sophie Bender and she also wrote, produced and directed Unnamed for the Highland Youth Arts Hub in 2020.

Laura Walker  
Creative Learning Officer



## Laura Walker Biog

Laura is an emerging freelance director / researcher based in Inverness. She is currently undertaking a masters by research at the University of the Highlands and Islands, exploring the relationship between physical theatres and Feminist performance through practice-as-research. She is bringing her experiences of directing and producing with the Inverness Student Drama Society, and teaching with Stagecoach Performing Arts, to her role as a Creative Learning Officer with Arctic Winds. Alongside her research and her work with Dogstar, Laura is also a Co-Founder of the Highland-based Vivid Roots Collective and a board member on the National Youth Arts Advisory Group and Findhorn Bay Arts.

Vicky MacRae  
Creative Learning Assistant



Vicky is a writer and freelance workshop facilitator from Inverness. After graduating from Queen Margaret University in Edinburgh, she moved home and adopted the role of leader and assistant director with the Junior group at the Florians Theatre. Her hugely positive experience of working with young people has furthered her interest in exploring the imaginative potential in everyone, and everything. Therefore, she is delighted to be working with Dogstar to deliver the workshops for Arctic Winds.

As a writer, she participated in the 2019 Autumn season, and was selected for the Spring 2021 season of the Traverse Theatre's Young Writers Group. This led to her collaboration with False Start Productions on their digital serial, 'Returning (the act of)' last summer. Currently, Vicky is also on the Youth Board for Wonder Fools, as part of season 2 of their international participatory project 'Positive Stories for Negative Times'.



# NIGHTLANDS

by Jack MacGregor



# **NIGHTLANDS by Jack MacGregor**

## **Cast**

Slava -Rebecca Wilkie  
Sasha - Matthew Zajac

## **Crew**

Writer & Director - Jack MacGregor  
Set and Costume Design - Ali Maclaurin  
Lighting Design - Grant Anderson  
Composer - Brian MacAlpine  
Sound Design - Brian MacAlpine and Johnny Hardie  
Film Director - Brian Ross  
Producers - Donna MacRae and Matthew Zajac  
Production Manager - Nils Den Hertog  
Stage Manager - Chariya Glasse-Davies  
Assistant Director - Keira Smith  
Set Builder - Scott Bisset  
Scenic Artist - Mhairi Wild  
Camera Operator - Jason Sinclair  
Production Photographer - Paul Campbell  
Press - Liz Smith

## **Creative Learning Programme (UK)**

Creative Learning Officer - Laura Walker  
Creative Learning Assistant - Vicky MacRae

## **Creative Learning Programme (Sweden)**

Patrik Ågren  
Lina Hognert  
Tobias Morin

## **With Special Thanks To:**

Alice Gray and the Kelvinbridge Parish Church  
Peter Vallance, Universal Hall and the Findhorn Foundation  
Perth Theatre  
Dundee Rep  
National Theatre of Scotland

Welcome!

Thank you for watching our new production by the remarkable new playwright, Jack MacGregor. *Nightlands* is an original and perceptive drama which takes its audience into an extraordinary place and into the psychological world of two characters who are desperately trying to make sense of a world in which they no longer fit. The play expresses much of the anguish and disorientation which accompanied the collapse of the Soviet Union and its aftermath during the 1990s, a period of a kind of capitalist anarchy in Russia which laid the foundations for the Russia we see today. This is undoubtedly a play for our times.

*Nightlands* is one of the two plays which form Dogstar's project *Arctic Winds Part 1*. This filmed version of *Nightlands* will be joined soon by George Gunn's *The Fallen Angels of the Moine*, a miniature Brechtian epic inspired by the proposal to build a spaceport on the Moine peninsula on the north coast of Scotland, encroaching on Europe's biggest blanket bog. Both of these plays are also provocative meditations on humanity's relationship with the planet. The project also includes an excellent Creative Learning Programme which is being produced with our Swedish partners, Profilteatern ([profilteatern.se](http://profilteatern.se)). Our Creative Learning Resources Pack is now available on our website for anyone to download.

*Arctic Winds Part 2* will see both plays toured in repertoire to audiences throughout Scotland later in 2022, or in 2023. This will be a new touring model for Dogstar: touring more than one play and residing in venues for longer, offering additional creative and participatory activities for audiences; the plays use the same set elements, in differing configurations, thus enabling a more efficient use of resources; and the production of the plays in both filmed and live theatre formats will enable wider access to these stories.

Dogstar has been fortunate to work with a wonderful team on *Arctic Winds Part 1*, both on and off stage. We are extremely grateful for the hard work and talent reflected here and we hope you will take a few moments here to read about each of our actors, designers, writers, directors, creative learning and production staff. We also thank our main funder, Creative Scotland, along with the Scottish Government's Arctic Connections Programme, which is supporting our Creative Learning Programme, the Federation of Scottish Theatre (Assistant Director bursary) and The Fraser Foundation. Enjoy the film!

Mathew Zajac, Artistic Director

## Jack MacGregor on Nightlands

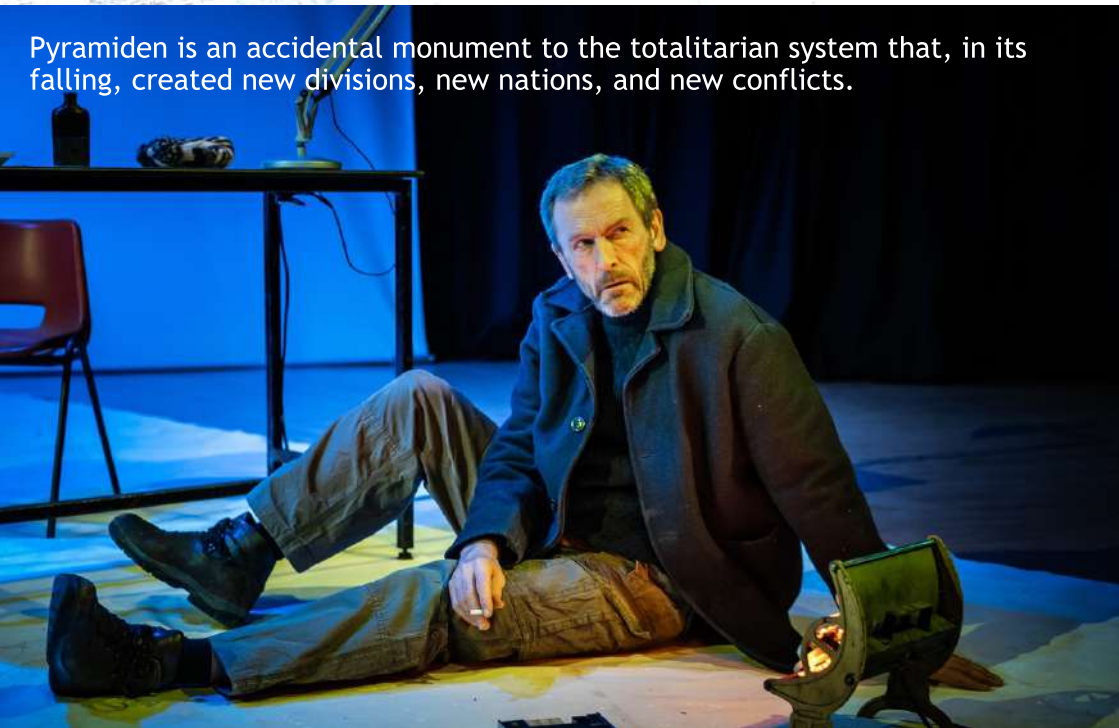
Nightlands is a story about memory, how we can look at the same past and become very different people. In 1991 the Soviet Union collapsed into fifteen independent countries, we are still living with the often violent political and economic consequences of this event. These complex and often contradictory feelings are characterised by the Belarussian author Svetlana Alexeivich as “the Russian-Soviet soul” - the twin parts of yearning for the past, and the desire to escape it.

Nowhere is this felt more acutely than the Russian-Ukrainian exclaves perched in the Norwegian archipelago of Svalbard, high in the Arctic. These remote mining settlements have faced cultural and economic shocks in the decades since dissolution, with austerity measures forcing the town of Pyramiden, home to nearly a thousand residents, to close in 1998.

It is here where Nightlands finds its setting; in the ruins of a Soviet model town at the end of history, where two strangers, caretakers of the settlement, try to pick up the pieces of a world they no longer feel a part of. Slava, a young woman from the provinces of Russia’s vastness, barely clings to the hope of a democratic spring after a decade of desperate poverty. Sasha, an older man from eastern Ukraine, who spent his youth in the aftermath of the Great Patriotic War, now lives a bitter exile, working in Pyramiden, shunning the outside world. Both must work together to survive the polar night.

Their intergenerational and political conflict sheds light on the division that today’s autocrats use to gain power. The play expresses the loss of faith in democratic institutions in the face of austerity and a culture of unaccountability.

Pyramiden is an accidental monument to the totalitarian system that, in its falling, created new divisions, new nations, and new conflicts.



Jack MacGregor  
Writer and Director



**Jack MacGregor** is an Inverness-based writer and director developing film and theatre across Scotland. His recent work includes *Amnesty* (2021), developed as a part of Scottish Youth Theatre's COP26 programme *Phonecall to the World*, the comedy webseries *Chair Guy* (2021), and the solo show *Frame 34* (2019). Jack is the writer and director of the Soviet-Arctic drama *Nightlands* (2022), which was developed after conducting field work on Svalbard, exploring the abandoned settlement of Pyramiden as part of the play's research and development, which was supported by both Dogstar Theatre Company and the University of the Highlands & Islands. *Nightlands* represents Jack's professional debut as a writer and director of a full-length play for Scottish stages.

## NIGHTLANDS CAST

Rebecca Wilkie  
Actor



"Rebecca is a recent BA acting graduate of The Royal Conservatoire of Scotland, where she won their James Bridie gold medal award for best performance. Her credits include *Never Land* (Eden Court Theatre), *A Whirl Around The Gaiety* (The Gaiety Theatre), *A Midsummer Nights Dream* (Ten Feet Tall Theatre), *The Stoor* (APA/ The Tron Theatre), *The Infernal Serpent* (A Play, A Pie and A Pint), *2020 Stories* (Scottish Youth Theatre).

This is Rebecca's first time working with Dogstar Theatre and she is very excited to be working on two brilliant plays with a fantastic team

Matthew Zajac  
Actor



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# THE FALLEN ANGELS OF THE MOINE

by George Gunn





# The Fallen Angels of The Moine by George Gunn

## Cast

Cait, An Slanagher - Rebecca Wilkie  
Cianna, Feannag, Belle O'Rangag, Gabriel - Tara McGirr  
Robbie Oliphant, Lucifer, Dick Nectar, Parker, Mad Irishman - Matthew Zajac

## Crew

Writer - George Gunn  
Director - Matthew Zajac  
Set and Costume Design - Ali Maclaurin  
Lighting Design - Grant Anderson  
Composer - Brian MacAlpine  
Sound Design - Brian MacAlpine and Johnny Hardie  
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Perth Theatre  
Dundee Rep  
National Theatre of Scotland

Welcome!

Thank you for watching our new production by the North of Scotland's most experienced playwright, George Gunn. The Fallen Angels of the Moine is an extraordinary miniature epic, a poetic firecracker of a play which, in the great Brechtian tradition, provokes the viewer to make her own connections and considerations of its subject. In this case, we are dealing with humanity's impact on our planet, the struggle between conservation and corporate interests in economic, environmental and cultural terms. This struggle is embodied by each of the play's earthly characters, Cait Mackay, Robbie Oliphant and Cianna Swann, ordinary people faced with the challenges and compromises presented by powerful external forces.

The Fallen Angels of the Moine is one of the two plays which form Dogstar's project Arctic Winds Part 1. This filmed version of the play joins Jack MacGregor's Nightlands, a play about contemporary Russia set in the abandoned ex-Soviet mining town of Pyramiden on the Svalbard archipelago during a ferocious Arctic winter. The project also includes an excellent Creative Learning Programme which is being produced with our Swedish partners, Profilteatern (profilteatern.se). Our Creative Learning Resources Pack is now available on our website for anyone to download. [www.dogstartheatre.co.uk](http://www.dogstartheatre.co.uk)

Arctic Winds Part 2 will see both plays toured in repertoire to audiences throughout Scotland later in 2022, or in 2023. This will be a new touring model for Dogstar: touring more than one play and residing in venues for longer, offering additional creative and participatory activities for audiences; the plays use the same set elements, in differing configurations, thus enabling a more efficient use of resources; and the production of the plays in both filmed and live theatre formats will enable wider access to these stories.

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Enjoy the film!

Matthew Zajac  
Artistic Director

George Gunn  
Writer



I was born in Caithness, where I live. I have been a deep-sea fisherman, a North Sea oil driller, a journalist, poet and playwright. My first play was *Roughneck* (Traverse, 1984). Since then I have written over 50 plays for stage, community groups, schools and BBC radio. For 19 years, until 2010, I was Artistic Director of Grey Coast Theatre Company which was based in Caithness. We produced new plays by new Highland writers which toured Scotland, as well as large and small scale site-specific productions in the Far North, and lots of work with and for schools throughout the Highlands and Islands. These included *Songs of the Grey Coast* (1992), published with *The Gold of Kildonan* (1989, Eden Court), *The great Bunillidh Volcano* (1994), *The Niss* (1996), *Camster & The Orkneyinga Saga* (1998), *Egil* (1999) & *Atomic City* (2001).

*Atomic City* and *Egil*, were published in 2010 and my collection of poems, *A Northerly Land*, was published in 2013. I write a monthly column for *Bella Caledonia* called "From The Province of the Cat," and I also now run the Ravenskald Writers' Workshop.

I live in Thurso with my wife Christine. My play, *3000 Trees*, was produced by Grey Coast for the Edinburgh Festival Fringe in 2014. In 2018 I was commissioned by the Royal Lyceum to write *Call Me Mister Bullfinch*. In 2019 I received an Open Space award for my play *The Fallen Angels of the Moine* which will be produced by Dogstar Theatre. My collected poems *After The Rain* was published by Kennedy and Boyd in 2018.

## George Gunn on The Fallen Angels of the Moine

The bogs of the north of Scotland - The Moine - have been the source of myths, legends, strange events and sightings throughout history. Kelpies, feachs, fairies and other weird and supernatural beings provide a rich folklore.

This is a story about The Shee who have travelled across the universe and through time and who have chosen to reside beneath The Moine. Environmental calamity now threatens their chosen home.

The play describes how The Shee live and how humanity can learn from them. Cianna, an hydrologist, with the help of a local young woman, Cait, of extraordinary preternatural gifts, discovers the reality of what has been going on, about the truth behind a nearby rocket launch site or space hub and what the company who are constructing it, and who Cianna is working for, propose for The Moine. It is Cait who tells Cianna about The Shee. Robbie Oliphant, a local councillor, is caught in the middle of all of this. On one hand he carries a torch for Cait and on the other he has to deal with the builders of the space hub.

Is nature constant? The play contends that everything changes: that there are processes of decay, and processes of substitution and adaption. The story of our otherworld visitors The Shee and their relationship with the central characters in the play will suggest that environment governs change, that real change for humanity is in the way we live. We watch what is going on around us, and we change according to circumstances. We have to change in order to live. But how we live determines how we behave, and how we behave determines how we live. Humanity is complex - a duality comprising reason and the unknown. Like The Shee, we can change profoundly, and like them we can dream a better version of ourselves. This is the positive message of the play. Humanity - like the characters in the play - is compelled to change and to move forward, yet we are unclear about it, ambivalent about it, troubled by it. The Shee are not like that - they are certain of their task: to journey on.

George Gunn 2022.



## THE FALLEN ANGELS OF THE MOINE CAST

Rebecca Wilkie  
Actor



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Tara McGirr  
Actor



Tara is half Thai and Scottish. She was raised in Thailand where she studied at a performing arts school from aged 15 to 18. At age 14, she was a TV host on day time Channel 3's TV show "Strawberry Cheesecake".

She starred in many leading roles at Vic Hua Hin Theatre all directed by National Artist, Patravadi Mejudhon including, Andromeda in Viva Ha Pra Samutr (2013), Supanakhe in Rocking Rama the Musical (2014), Matthanasena in Vetala (2015).

At 18, she moved to London to continue her training at East 15 Acting School and graduated with a first class degrees honours in BA World Performance. Most of her training has been in various theatre art forms and world music including Thai Classical Dance &

Before moving to Scotland in 2019, Tara wrote and directed her first short play TABLE LICKING which premiered at Southend Fringe Festival in 2018. She also performed in EGO directed by Alexandra Andrei at Camden Fringe Festival in 2017.

Tara is currently based in Glasgow. Her most recent short film GROOM directed by Leyla Coll-O'Reilly will premiere at Glasgow Short Film Festival 2022.





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