



PRESS RELEASE UNDER EMBARGO UNTIL 00:01am TUESDAY 30th OCT

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KT Tunstall, Frank Turner, Ed Byrne and Craig Charles come and play in Dumfries for Big Burns Supper 2019

- **Big Burns Supper the world's biggest contemporary Burns celebration takes place from 24th January – 3rd February 2019**
- **Dumfries, one of Scotland's friendliest towns flings open its doors for 111 events across 11 days of world class music, comedy, theatre and cabaret**
- **KT Tunstall, Peatbog Faeries and Colonel Mustard and the Dijon Five to toast Scotland's national bard like no other celebration in the world with Burns Night Live**
- **2019 line-up welcomes Frank Turner, Ed Byrne, Craig Charles, Hardeep Singh Kohli, Hebrides Ensemble, Bootleg Beetles and Brainiac Live!**
- **Tickets on sale from 30th October 2018 via www.bigburnssupper.com or by calling 01381 271 820**

Come and Play! Festival organisers launched the Big Burns Supper 2019 festival programme with a warm invitation to audiences old and new from near and far to join them alongside a host of top Scottish and international artists for the biggest contemporary celebration of Scotland's national poet in town he called home, Dumfries.

Big Burns Festival 2019 runs from 24th January - 3rd February with over 111 events transforming the historic town with a blistering cultural celebration and a warm welcome for all. **Burns Night Live** (25th Jan) is very far from the traditional formalities of a Burns

Supper, as Scottish rocker **KT Tunstall**, award-winning contemporary Scottish folk band, **The Peatbog Faeries** and psychedelic cult rockers, **Colonel Mustard & the Dijon Five** join comedians, celebrity hosts and some of Scotland's top party animals to blow the roof off the world famous Spiegeltent for a Burns celebration quite unlike any other in the world! That's just for starters, the party doesn't stop after Burns Night at Big Burns Supper.

Music

The festival plays host to a hugely exciting array of musical talent to suit every possible predilection. Acoustic-folk extraordinaire and one of the UK's finest singer/songwriters **Frank Turner (31st Jan)** shares classic hits and tracks from his new album with an intimate solo performance. Actor, presenter, DJ, funk and soul icon, **Craig Charles (1st Feb)** will keep the dancefloor packed into the wee small hours followed by a very special afternoon celebration of Scottish trad music as one of the fastest rising bands on the UK Folk scene, **Talisk** join **Tide Lines (2nd Feb)** an upcoming powerful 4-piece from the Highlands for a proper foot-stomping workout!

The London Gospel Community Choir (26th Jan) one of the UK's leading gospel choir who have performed alongside the likes of Tina Turner, Puff Daddy and Sting bring their stunning harmonies followed that night by an entirely different musical experience with **Ibiza Live (26th Jan)**, think a collision of DJ's, sax, live bands and circus for a late-night party. Leading contemporary chamber ensemble, **Hebrides Ensemble (28th Jan)** who have established themselves as one of the foremost chamber music collectives in the UK delight audiences with celebration of trios, and quintets including Bach and Mozart.

Comedy

Comedy plays a strong hand across the festival programme featuring some of the best comedic talents from around the world including; top Irish stand-up comedian, TV presenter and actor **Ed Byrne (1st Feb)**, Scottish comic, BBC Radio 4 Sketchtopia host, Celebrity Big Brother star and Question Time and This Week regular **Hardeep Singh Kohli (27th Jan)** and International superstar, the boy wonder of Berlin, **Hans Like a German (27th Jan)** who is currently starring in America's Got Talent!

Theatre

The **Big Burns Festival Fringe** runs every Friday and Saturday of the festival with an innovative and challenging programme designed to showcase emerging artists and new work from established companies. Performances are housed in the pop-up festival venue, **The Container Theatre** which was created by festival organisers last year as part of their continued commitment to support theatre performers, producers and directors with accessible performance space and programming. Programme highlights include; **We know now Snowmen Exist**, is a ground-breaking piece of new writing which has emerged from the festival's **Creative Sparks** programme for new ideas, and tells the story of four girls who go missing in the Scottish mountains. Alan Bissett offers a distinctly Fife perspective with the highly comical **The Moira Monologues**, and if kitchen sink sounds too much like your own life, there is always the highly entertaining **Scottish Falsetto Sock Puppetry**.

Cabaret

Cabaret is the frantic beating heart of the festival and no stronger example of its ability to provide a contemporary reflection of Burns can be found than through that of the home-grown cabaret smash-hit, **Le Haggis**. Expect a heart wrenching Celtic rock harmony laid on rhythmic tribal anthem from an incredible live band of Scottish musicians alongside an international host of variety acts. It's not La Clique and it's not La Soiree, it's Le Haggis and

it's a Scottish national treasure. Returning after last year's storming success is **Queer Haggis (26th Jan)** which this year welcomes a brand-new cast of the nation's most celebrated LGBT artists peppered with a tight bondage of cabaret, aerial acrobatics, drag and disco.

Family

Big Burns Supper 2019 ensures that audiences of all ages are welcome to celebrate together. Kicking off with the **Youth Beatz Take Over (24th Jan)** when for one night only Scotland's biggest free youth music festival will take over the BBS Spiegelent for a brilliant night of live music and DJs. Following a hugely successful run at the Edinburgh Festival Fringe in 2018, strap on your safety goggles and get ready of science's greatest and most volatile show, **Brainiac Live! (2nd Feb)**. A fabulous **Family Roller Disco (26th Jan)** and the return of last year's hit **Baby Loves Disco (27th Jan)** alongside a very special **Family Sunday (27th Jan)** featuring a blend of locally sourced bands including up and coming **Kasama**, and **Juke Box Bingo** which is an interactive musical quiz for all the family and completely free. The festival retains its popular **kids go free at music shows** offer, as well as the **students go free offer** to help encourage audiences of the future.

Big Burns Supper 2019 will conclude with an interactive arcade game projected through centre of Dumfries with computer games being played on buildings as the finale light show to the festival which will run from the **31st January– 3rd February, titled, Arcade** and co-produced by live art agency, **D-Lux**.

Executive Producer, Graham Main said: "Our 2019 Festival is packed full of surprises, featuring big names acts alongside quirky and interactive moments for everyone to enjoy. There isn't a Spiegelent programme in the world that beats our artistically diverse and intimate programme, offering local audiences and visitors a warmly authentic winter festival experience."

"2019 marks the eighth year of the Big Burns Supper and we are hugely grateful to our loyal local audiences who support every aspect of the festival, from buying tickets to performing themselves. This local support, coupled with the thousands of visitors and new audiences our festival attracts gives Big Burns Supper its heart. It's the sense of togetherness, of coming together to celebrate culture in the dark winter nights that Burns himself held dear and which Burns Supper's all over the world seek to mark, we just pride ourselves in doing it a bit differently here in Dumfries!"

KT Tunstall said: "I'm delighted to be a part of 2019's Big Burns Supper. It's always fun to celebrate Burns Night, but it's been a long time since I spent one in Scotland, so I'm definitely doing it right in 2019!"

Minister for Europe, International Development and Europe Ben Macpherson, said: "The Big Burns Supper is a great occasion to bring together audiences from far and wide and showcase Scottish and international talent.

"Burns Night is one of Scotland's most well-known and best loved national days, and an opportunity to celebrate the vibrancy and diversity of what it means to be Scottish. This year, I invite everyone in Scotland to join the celebrations as a fitting finale to Scotland's Winter Festivals."

2019 marks the eighth edition of the festival which created by festival organisers in 2012 as a coming together of people and culture, centred around the core meaning of a Burns Night celebration, togetherness. The festival has enjoyed steady growth in audiences year on year through passionate local support and innovative programming, bringing top UK and

international talent to Dumfries, performing alongside the finest local artists and providing a vital platform for emerging Scottish artists. Big Burns Supper is the local festival that opens its heart to the world.

The 2019 Big Burns Festival runs from 24th January – 3rd February. Tickets are available to book from 30th October via www.bigburnssupper.com or by calling 01381 271 820.

Big Burns Supper Festival is a non-profit event, produced by local charity Elektronika and has received support through **Scotland's Winter Festivals**.



Burns Night

www.bigburnssupper.com

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Ends

For further information, images, interview or press ticket requests please contact **Kate Bouchier-Hayes** on 078 25335489 / kate@thecornershoppr.com or **Will Moss** on 07443334085 / William@thecornershoppr.com

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Listing Highlights can be accessed [here](#)

Images can be accessed [here](#)

Notes to Editors

About Big Burns Supper

Big Burns Supper is Scotland's landmark Burns Night event which takes place in Dumfries and features a heady mixture of cabaret, comedy, music and entertainment in over 30 different venues as the town goes bonkers for nine days of winter magic. If you are going to check out Dumfries – this is definitely the time to do it, with events including Burns Night Live – which is streamed live to the world. The festival is also the home of Le Haggis, Scotland's finest five-star cabaret experience.

www.bigburnssupper.com

Elektronika

Elektronika (formally Electric Theatre Workshop) is a cultural producer which creates platforms for audience engagement through a diverse range of community arts based programmes, including Big Burns Supper Festival, Carlisle Fringe Festival, Creative Schools, Dumfries Community Choir, Dumfries Youth Theatre and our award winning participatory programmes that have helped to transform the communities we serve. We believe everyone has the right to experience culture.

www.elektronika.org.uk

Scottish Winter Festivals

SWF aims to mobilise the people of Scotland and those with an affinity to Scotland to join in the St Andrew's Day, Hogmanay and Burns celebrations, boosting our key tourism and events sectors and the wider economy, enhancing community engagement and raising Scotland's international profile.

Scotland's Winter Festivals is a Scottish Government initiative, delivered in collaboration with VisitScotland, BEMIS Scotland, the Fair Saturday Foundation, the English-Speaking Union Scotland and a range of other partners.

Scotland's Winter Festivals will welcome hundreds of thousands of people to funded events celebrating St Andrew's Day, Hogmanay and Burns right across Scotland; significantly boosting the economy and engaging our diverse communities during the winter months whilst showcasing our unique world class tourism assets to a global audience.

Burns Night

1. Robert Burns is Scotland's national poet and his birthday is marked every year on January 25th with celebrations of his life and his cultural legacy at home and around the world.
2. After his death at the age of just 37, Burns' works became internationally renowned and the sentiments of many of his poems and songs continue to resonate to this day with people from all corners of the world singing 'Auld Lang Syne' to bring in the New Year.
3. There are many ways to get involved and celebrate the life and works of Robert Burns. For example, host a Burns Supper. A Burns Supper is an inspiring event to be part of. The haggis is traditionally piped in to dinner and then specifically addressed in poetry. Further poems including 'A Toast to the Lassies' are exchanged by dinner guests with accompanying drams of whisky, however there are many modern variations and twists on these traditions that befits Scotland, a country that champions fairness, equality and inclusivity.
4. In addition, the national and community events programme celebrating Burns Night offers something for everyone with events taking place right across the country. Further information is available at scotland.org/burns.
5. Learn more about Robert Burns himself and how to hold your own modern Burns Supper as well as the meaning behind some of his most famous words and phrases by visiting scotland.org/burns.