

**EDINBURGH'S  
HOGMANAY 19**

**STREET PARTY**

HOSTED BY

**JOHNNIE WALKER.**



Thursday 13 December. Press release for immediate use.

**Edinburgh's Hogmanay welcomes artists from across Europe and invites the world to share the love, embrace friends – old and new – and come together in the home of Hogmanay.**

**The new vixen of dark pop Stephanie Cheape today announced as opening the Waverley Stage.**

**Franz Ferdinand confirmed to lead the 61,000 capacity crowd in the arena wide rendition of Auld Lang Syne.**

**Edinburgh's Hogmanay, 30 December 2018 to 1 January 2019.**

**Tickets on sale at [edinburghshogmanay.com](http://edinburghshogmanay.com) and (+44) 131 510 0395**



*Compagnie Des Quidams (c) Marc Van Canneyt*

Images available [here](#)

**This year's Street Party hosted by Johnnie Walker is set to be a spectacular love-in.** From the moment the doors open at 7.30pm, till long after the midnight bells have fallen silent, bands and DJs, street artists, aerialists, musicians and dancers from Scotland and mainland Europe will all collaborate to make it the party of a lifetime.

**A celebration of Scotland's cultural ties with Europe** which go deep into the past and will continue into the future, everything about this year's Street Party shouts a loud and proud message from Scotland to Europe - We Love You! From three giant grannies providing a Scottish, Spanish and Eastern European welcome, **Compagnie des Quidams** riding four horsemen of the apocalypse down Princes Street, to **Edinburgh's All or Nothing Aerial Dance** Company teaming up with the fabulous French **Compagnie Transe Express** to bring us all together for the world's most inclusive and fantastically fabulous New Year's Party with a unique new collaborative performance, guaranteed to astound.

A warm welcome greets party goers through the doors with pipes and drums, traditional Scottish country dancing, the giant granny puppets by Vision Mechanics and the Hogmanay Hosts for the evening Edinburgh's own and **Love Island's Aftersun DJs The Mac Twins** to kick the action off from the very first moment.

**World music is at the heart of the Street Party** and Edinburgh's Hogmanay 19 brings some of the hottest acts of 2018 to new year fun seekers across three stages. From the home-grown new phenomenon that is **Gerry Cinnamon** to the classic Ibiza sounds of **Judge Jules** and **Snap!**, there's a whole continent of good times happening out on the street.

Headlining the Waverley Stage, **Gerry Cinnamon** tops off a whirlwind year of festival appearances and sell-out shows having blasted onto the scene as one of the best live acts in the UK. Also playing the Waverley Stage are the Edinburgh band with an indie-infused electro-

pop sound currently making waves, **Vistas** and **Snap!** the German Eurodance outfit whose hits *The Power* and *Rhythm is a Dancer* have filled dancefloors since the word “Discotheque” was almost considered new.

Announced today is the appearance of the fiery flame-haired new vixen of dark pop **Stephanie Cheape**. After blowing away a panel of judges to take the hotly contested Capital FM Best Unsigned Act at the end of 2017, she’s had a monster year tearing it up at festivals including TRNSMT, Belladrum and Party At The Palace, headlining the legendary King Tut’s in Glasgow and supporting the likes of Bryan Ferry in front of thousands at Glasgow’s iconic Kelvingrove Bandstand where the Roxy Music legend said on stage he was blown away by her performance. **Catch this force of nature opening the Waverley Stage.**

Taking to the St Andrew Square Stage is **Elephant Sessions**, the indie folk foursome from the Highlands who lifted BBC Scotland’s Trad Music Album of the Year in 2017 and Live Act of the Year 2018 at the Scots Trad Music Awards. Acclaimed Edinburgh band **Miracle Glass Company** brings its vibrant, psychedelic rock ‘n’ roll and Hamburg based **Meute** will wow the party-goers with its one-of-a-kind, live drum and brass arrangements of well-known techno and house numbers.

Headlining the Johnnie Walker Stage on Castle Street is the superstar DJ **Judge Jules** making his Edinburgh’s Hogmanay debut, taking the audiences up to the Midnight Moment. Local powerhouse **Trendy Wendy** kicks off proceedings with her trademark 21 Century disco and the Mac Twins are set to make sure the party turns up a notch after midnight, taking dancers through to 1am.

Whether your taste is indie or Europop, the **Silent Disco** has a playlist for you. Don your headphones on Market Street, choose your channel and get ready to learn some groovy new moves this Hogmanay.

Last year, the festival asked up-and-coming Scottish band *Niteworks* to compose the soundtrack for the Midnight Moment fireworks. Continuing this theme and in keeping with this year’s celebration of Europe, Edinburgh’s Hogmanay has commissioned a soundtrack to the fireworks from German band, **Meute**, who will also perform on the St Andrew Square Stage. Meute is working with the Novello award-winning composer and sound designer **Dan Jones**, who will also sound design the Street Party arena. The soundtrack has been recorded by the **Macedonian Symphonic Orchestra**.

**But there is also more to the Street Party** than great live bands. Scotland shows Europe and the world what it is made of when **Louise Marshall** concludes another spectacular year of piping around the world by bringing her all female **Divas and District Pipes and Drums** to Scotland’s leading new year celebration. Last year’s surprise singing sensations **Got Soul Choir**

get everyone singing with its 140 strong choir bringing together members from Dundee, Glasgow, Dunfermline, Kirkcaldy and Edinburgh. **PyroCeltica** is set to dazzle with spectacular show of fire theatre portraying Celtic myths and folklore, **and Prison Break Rockerz, Belgium's most talented breakdancing troupe, will wow revellers with their energetic and skilful choreography.**

Stunning colourful puppets **Big Dancers** from Spanish-based **El Carromato** will dance on stages along the street to entertain party goers. The spectacular site of giant illuminated horses, trotting down the Mound is thanks to the **French Compagnie Des Quidams** whose choreographed beautiful Fiers a Cheval, will grace the Street Party before disappearing into the night to re-emerge seeming to float high on the buildings.

As the evening progresses performers move across the streets and climb up to animate the buildings and into the night sky as the clock inches closer to midnight.

For over 25 years **Compagnie Transe Express**, the world-leading street and aerial performers have created spectacular aerial shows all over the world. Their striking, colourful and massive opera singers will roll along Princes Street in bulbous skirts singing famous classical arias to the accompaniment of crazy wild funk'd up drummers. Their anarchic drummers will get everyone dancing before taking to the skies suspended 25 metres above the street, banging out their fiesta beats.

Love is in the air, literally as **All or Nothing** Aerial Dance Company create romantic aerial interludes along the balconies of Princes Street, and keeping our heads lifted high, illuminated stilt-walking creations from Dutch theatre company **Close Act** will glide high above the party goers as street and skies are animated with the world's finest acts during the world's best Street Party!

With an as yet unconfirmed level of irony **Europe's "Final Countdown"** takes us into the last moments of 2018.

The Concert in the Gardens is one of the best spots in the world to enjoy Hogmanay and the midnight moment with incredible views of the fireworks launching from Edinburgh Castle. In a very special rendition of Auld Lang Syne, **Franz Ferdinand** take us through midnight and into 2019 where the party continues through to 1am finishing with a sweep of Pipers to send folk on their way home to prepare for the Loony Dook. On the main stage in the gardens, Franz Ferdinand is supported by **Metronomy** and **Free Love**.

Underbelly has reassembled last year's fantastic **creative team** of sound, light, audio visual and production designers to build on the Street Party celebrations on the 31<sup>st</sup> December.

The Street Party has its own Director, **Struan Leslie** (Royal Shakespeare Company Head of Movement, Paul Smith #asuittotravelin World Tour, Babs and Casanova BBC One). Under the guidance of Executive Producer **Martin Green** (London 2012 Olympic Ceremonies, Hull 2017 UK City of Culture) Lighting Designer **Durham Marengi** (Rio 2016 Olympic Ceremonies, the Queen's Diamond Jubilee celebrations, The Wall for Roger Waters in Berlin), Sound Designer and film composer **Dan Jones** (On Chesil Beach, Shadow of the Vampire, Max, Sky Orchestra and Kursk) and Set Designer and architect **Ala Lloyd** (Head of Design London 2012 Olympic Ceremonies) and TV Production Director **James O'Brien** (Head of Sport Presentation for LOCOG, Production Executive MTV Networks Europe, Head of Production Rapido TV) come together to design and animate the arena through the use of light, sound, new stages and performers.

Street Party ticket holders will be given the option of making a donation when purchasing a ticket to raise money for Brain Tumour Charity, an organisation Underbelly raises money for year-round, and for which it raised over £30,000 this summer. **Brain tumours are the biggest cancer killer for children and adults under 40 and increased funding for research is desperately needed.** Around 500 children and young people in the UK are diagnosed each year but diagnosis times of childhood brain tumours are longer in the UK than in many other countries. The Brain Tumour Charity's ***HeadSmart*** campaign aims to reduce brain tumour and brain cancer diagnosis times to four weeks or less.

**Special FREE trams** (till 5am) and a local bus service by Lothian Buses at £4.50 (in advance and £5.00 on the night) is available till 4.30am to take people home safely after the event. Thank you to Official Transport Providers Edinburgh Trams, in association with City of Edinburgh Council.

**Charlie Wood and Ed Bartlam, directors of Underbelly who produce Edinburgh's Hogmanay on behalf of City of Edinburgh Council said:** "We set out to put Edinburgh's Hogmanay in the front rank of new year celebrations so we're tickled pink to see this world class celebration come together. We're saying goodbye to 2018 and a big hello to 2019, which we celebrate with an explosion of talent from across Europe and say "We Love You". In the words of our friends Snap!, "You can feel it everywhere / Lift your hands and voices / Free your mind and join us".

**Councillor Donald Wilson, Culture and Communities Convener for the City of Edinburgh Council, said:** "Councillor Donald Wilson, Culture and Communities Convener for the City of Edinburgh Council, said: "Edinburgh's Hogmanay is THE place to be to bring in the bells and with a strong Scottish line-up, it's going to be one of our best celebrations yet."

“Kicking off the festivities, the Torchlight Procession will this year create a spectacular outline of Scotland using hundreds of flaming torches - symbolising Edinburgh and the nation’s place in the world as we blaze a trail towards 2019.”

“On New Year’s Eve, Franz Ferdinand will headline the world-famous Concert in the Gardens, while a packed programme of live pop, rock, and ceilidh will entertain the Street Party as acrobats liven up the skies above.

“Meanwhile, we’ll welcome the return of the popular Bairns Afore concert and Message from the Skies, and of course the much-loved Loony Dook in the Firth of Forth – the iciest dip you’ll ever have but the best way to blow away the cobwebs! Don’t miss it.”

The Street Party hosted by Johnnie Walker comes hot the heels of the iconic **Torchlight Procession** on the 30<sup>th</sup> December and ahead of **The Loony Dook** and **Message from the Skies** on New Year’s Day, which runs through to Burns Night in a unique cross artform collaboration with ten of Scotland’s best artists, designers and musicians, six Scottish or Scotland based writers will pen a love letter to Europe which will be projected on to buildings across the city.

**/ENDS**



For further information, interviews, media passes and any other media enquiries please contact

Susie Gray [susie@thecornershoppr.com](mailto:susie@thecornershoppr.com) 07834 073 795

Kate Bouchier-Hayes [kate@thecornershoppr.com](mailto:kate@thecornershoppr.com) 07825 335 489

**Tickets on sale now at [edinburghshogmanay.com](http://edinburghshogmanay.com) and (+44) 131 510 0395**

**[IMAGE AND VIDEO LIBRARY](#)**

**NOTES TO EDITORS**

**Edinburgh’s Hogmanay 19**

**Edinburgh’s Hogmanay 19 features an incredibly diverse programme spread across 3 epic days, with something on offer for party goers, families, culture seekers and those keen to experience one of Scotland’s most iconic traditions in one of the world’s most beautiful cities.**

Edinburgh's Hogmanay starts with fire and fanfare on **30<sup>th</sup> December in the Torchlight Procession**. The spectacular family-friendly event winds through Holyrood Palace and the Scottish Parliament before culminating in Holyrood Park where torchbearers will form the distinctive outline of Scotland. Fourteen wicker sculptures, each representing a region of Scotland and created by young people as part of #ScotArt will be placed within the outline and set ablaze as Scotland's beating heart, marking the end of Scotland's Year of Young People 2018. Continue the party on the 30<sup>th</sup> December with UK premiere of **Symphonic Ibiza** at Edinburgh's stunning McEwan Hall.

On 31 December, the party starts at 5pm with **Bairns Afore** when families and children have the opportunity to share in the full Hogmanay party experience including a dazzling firework display over Edinburgh Castle. Edinburgh Fringe favourites, Massaoke, bring their infectious live energy to West Princes St Gardens, playing the greatest pop, rock and kids anthems of all time to get audiences singing, dancing and celebrating the start of 2019.

At 6pm is the traditional **Candlelit Concert** in St Giles Cathedral. The cathedral's own Choir, directed by Michael Harris, with the St Giles' Camerata, and leader Angus Ramsay, are joined by a stunning array of talented young soloists for works by Charpentier and Bach.

At 8:30pm dancers will experience the best of Scotland as they whirl or jig, fling or be flung at the **Ceilidh Under the Castle**. Join hands with friends old and new to dance in the New Year with a full ceilidh band and plenty of local food and drink to keep you spinning all night.

And of course, there's the world-famous **Street Party Hosted by Jonnie Walker**. Edinburgh invites the world to share the love, embrace friends – old and new – and celebrate the New Year in the home of Hogmanay. From the moment the doors open at 7.30pm until long after the midnight bells have fallen silent, bands, DJs and street performers from Scotland and mainland Europe will come together to make it the party of a lifetime. At midnight, German sensation Meute will be providing the soundtrack to the ultimate fireworks display from Edinburgh Castle. The music line-up, spread over three main stages, includes appearances from home-grown phenomenon Gerry Cinnamon and superstar DJ Judge Jules, as well as Meute, Vistas, Elephant Sessions, Miracle Glass Company, Trendy Wendy and hosts The Mac Twins.

The famous **Concert in the Gardens** this year is headlined by one of the standout bands from Scotland's musical heritage, Mercury Prize and BRIT Award winners, Franz Ferdinand. Gracing Edinburgh's Hogmanay Concert in the Gardens stage for the first time ever, they will bring their jagged riffs, hands-aloft choruses and euphoric sound to this New Year's Eve. They're supported by Mercury Prize nominees Metronomy and Glasgow-based Free Love.

On the 1<sup>st</sup> January **The Loony Dook** continues its New Year's Day tradition in South Queensferry. Dippers in fancy dress will brave the chill to raise money for charities while shaking off their Hogmanay hangover. Dookers will march the length

of South Queensferry High Street led by The Noise Committee drummers in the Dookers' Parade, before launching themselves into the freezing Firth of Forth.

Edinburgh's Hogmanay has partnered with Celtic Connections to present two special New Year's Day concerts at the historic McEwan Hall in Edinburgh's Old Town. At 4:30pm, the legendary **Capercaillie** invite guest musicians to join them to bring the sounds of the European family of nations together in an afternoon of shared cultural celebration. At 8pm, International Galician folk star **Carlos Nunez** joins special guests from the cream of the Scottish music scene for a very special evening of musical exchange at the magnificent McEwan Hall.

Running from 1 – 25 January, **Message from the Skies** returns to Edinburgh's Hogmanay with a selection of love letters written for Europe. The words of six internationally celebrated writers – Billy Letford, Chitra Ramaswamy, Kapka Kassabova, Louise Welsh, Stef Smith and William Dalrymple – will illuminate and animate buildings around the city during the first month of 2019.

### **PLACE Funding**

This unique PLACE [Platforms for Creative Excellence] programme is funded by the Scottish Government, the City of Edinburgh Council, and the Edinburgh Festivals, and supported and administered by Creative Scotland. It will provide £400,000 over the next three years, which on top of enabling Edinburgh's Hogmanay to bring leading companies from around the world to Edinburgh, also supports collaborative performance and professional exchange between these globally renowned international artists and local artists at the world's biggest New Year celebration and the home of Hogmanay. This year that fund supports the appearance of Transe Express.

### **About Underbelly**

Underbelly is a UK based live entertainment company the beginnings of which are rooted in the Edinburgh Festival Fringe in 2000. Its events and festivals division now operates one of the largest operations at the Fringe, selling over 460,000 tickets for over 200 shows in 22 venues over 25 days in 2018.

2019 will be the seventh Edinburgh's Christmas that Underbelly has produced for City of Edinburgh Council (2017/18 saw a record breaking 781,520 tickets issued to visitors from 47 different countries), and the second Edinburgh's Hogmanay also on behalf of City of Edinburgh Council, which in 2018 welcomed 160,000 over 3 days.

Elsewhere Underbelly also produces Underbelly Festival on the Southbank in London, this year in its 10th year and one of the biggest multi-arts offerings in London, Christmas in Leicester Square, Underbelly Festival in Hong Kong, West End Live in Trafalgar Square for Westminster City Council and the Society of London Theatre.

Through its Underbelly Productions arm it produces and promotes live shows in London's West End at the Edinburgh Fringe, and throughout the UK and on tour internationally.

In 2017 Underbelly sold over 1.4 million tickets to its various events.

[www.underbelly.co.uk](http://www.underbelly.co.uk)

