

Citizens Theatre

For immediate release

Glasgow invited to celebrate as Citizens Theatre reopens with Homecoming Festival

- A community procession in the Gorbals on 23 August will officially reopen the Citizens Theatre, launching a season of *Homecoming* celebrations.
- On 23 and 24 August, an Open House weekend of workshops and pop-up activities across the building, including on the main stage, invites everyone to explore the redeveloped theatre for the first time in over seven years.
- From 28 August to 5 September, the Homecoming celebrations continue with bookable events, including hands-on workshops, First Look building tours, and creative taster sessions.
- The Citizens Theatre's Homecoming Festival kicks off a full year of exciting new work, beginning with the main stage premiere of the first show, *Small Acts of Love*, in September.

Selected pictures from Citizens Theatre [available HERE](#)

After a transformative seven-year redevelopment of its Gorbals home, the Citizens Theatre today **marks one month until it reopens to the public on Saturday 23 August 2025**, launching a city-wide invitation to experience the new building and everything it now offers.

Catrin Evans, Participate Director, Citizens Theatre, said: *"The Homecoming Festival is inspired by our fantastic new building which we know so many people are keen to get inside - but it's also about so much more. It's about reconnecting with our neighbours, welcoming new voices, and celebrating creativity itself as a form of home-making. We're offering a range of activities so that everyone and anyone can step into the Citizens Theatre, try something new, take themselves on a journey and feel that this space belongs to them. Whether it's your first time through the doors or you've been part of the Citz story for years, we can't wait to welcome you."*

Kicking off the celebrations, Gorbals residents are invited to join a vibrant community procession, departing from The Barn at 12.30pm. Together, they'll make their way to Gorbals Street, crossing the threshold of the Citizens Theatre to reawaken the building and usher in a bold new chapter.

Leading the procession are two specially crafted puppets – Comedy and Tragedy – inspired by two of the Greek goddess statues on top of our building, Melpomene (Tragedy) and Thalia (Comedy). These colourful, larger-than-life characters haven't had anywhere to play while the Citizens Theatre was closed – but now, they're finally making their way home. As they travel through some of the new housing that has emerged whilst they've been gone, they'll be joined by community performances and interactive moments, inviting everyone to take part in the story. The procession ends at the new Citizens Theatre, where alongside poetry and song, a co-created living heritage banner will be unveiled – a beautiful artwork made with neighbours and the wider community, celebrating the many voices, cultures, and stories that shape the theatre's home.

Doors to the Citizens Theatre will then remain open for a full Open House weekend of free celebratory activities, giving the public their first chance in over seven years to step back inside this much-loved building. Everyone is invited to come in, explore, take part and enjoy the space - whether eager to get hands-on with creative workshops, excited to get a moment on the main stage, or simply want to soak up the atmosphere of this iconic venue.

Following the Open House weekend, celebrations continue. Between 28 August and 5 September, bookable activity includes First Look building tours, taster workshops and special events designed to welcome even more people into the newly reopened Citizens Theatre.

More information about all workshops and tours is available from <https://citz.co.uk/whats-on/homecoming-festival/>

Homecoming then moves onto the stage, as live performance makes its long-awaited return to the Citizens Theatre - launching a landmark year of bold storytelling and unmissable theatre. Opening the main stage on 12 September is *Small Acts of Love*, a powerful new play by Frances Poet, with songs and lyrics by Deacon Blue's Ricky Ross. Inspired by true events, it tells the moving story of the extraordinary friendships forged between Lockerbie residents and American families in the wake of the Pan Am 103 atrocity. Featuring a large ensemble cast of 14 and a live roots band, this is theatre with heart, humanity and a powerful sense of place.

Then in October, the new 150-seat Studio Theatre is opened with two productions devised and presented by the theatre's Participate groups – *Close* by the Young Co, which opens on 08 October, and *Making Your Mark* by the Citz Community Collective, which opens on 22 October.

The Citizens Theatre's redevelopment and Homecoming celebrations have been made possible thanks to the generous support of key funders — including the Scottish Government, Glasgow City Council, The National Lottery Heritage Fund, Creative Scotland, and Historic Environment Scotland — alongside a wide range of trusts, foundations and individual supporters as well as the many local organisations whose collaboration and support has been instrumental.

Kate Denby, Executive Director, Citizens Theatre, said: *"The reopening of the Citizens Theatre marks a hugely significant moment – not just for the building, but for everyone who holds this theatre close to their heart. Our Homecoming year is a celebration of creativity, community, and connection. It's been made possible by the extraordinary efforts of so many people, and we're proud to be opening our doors with a programme that invites everyone to be part of our next chapter. The Citz has always been a theatre for the people of Glasgow – and now, more than ever, we want everyone to feel welcome here."*

Eilish McGuinness, Chief Executive of The National Lottery Heritage Fund, said: *"The Citizens Theatre is held in great affection in Glasgow and far beyond. Over history it has nurtured and launched inspiring talent from its home in the Gorbals onto a worldwide stage. Generations of Glaswegians have been part of the Citz story so it's only right that community involvement continues to take centre stage of their reopening and future plans. It's important to us that projects we fund, support inclusion, access and participation in heritage so I'm excited to see the doors to this jewel, which has been transformed thanks to support from the National Lottery, thrown open to welcome everyone back in, reaffirming people's pride in the Citizens Theatre and in their community."*

For more information about all Homecoming activity and ways to get involved, visit citz.co.uk.

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NOTES TO EDITORS

Citizens Theatre

The Citizens Theatre is Glasgow's major producing theatre and one of the leading theatre companies in the UK. It is internationally renowned for ground-breaking theatre productions and a pioneering programme of participatory and community work. It is led by Artistic Director, Dominic Hill who is regarded as having "*a talent for classical drama which is genuinely world class.*" (Daily Telegraph) and Executive Director, Kate Denby. The theatre presents bold new interpretations of classic texts alongside new writing. It is firmly rooted in the Gorbals community at the heart of Glasgow's cultural and creative offering, while maintaining a national and international outlook.

Redevelopment Project

The Citizens Theatre moved out of its historic home in the Gorbals in June 2018, ahead of the first major redevelopment of the Category B listed building since it began life as a working theatre in 1878. The redeveloped building will transform the experiences of audiences, participants and performers and secure the future of one of Scotland's most iconic buildings and leading producing theatre companies.

Designed by Bennetts Associates, the extensive redevelopment has brought the iconic building into the 21st century. At its heart is a substantial restoration of the original sandstone Victorian auditorium, wrapped in an entirely new three storey building which crucially provides universal access for artists and audiences. It also delivers new rehearsal, participation, and studio spaces supporting expanded activities for the community and offering Scotland's rich ecology of theatre companies' new spaces to rehearse and perform in. This includes a new 150 seat Studio Theatre.

Key funders of the project include Scottish Government, Glasgow City Council, The National Lottery Heritage Fund, Creative Scotland and Historic Environment Scotland in addition to a range of trusts and foundations and individual supporters.

The National Lottery Heritage Fund

Our vision is for heritage to be valued, cared for and sustained for everyone, now and in the future. That's why as the largest funder for the UK's heritage we are dedicated to supporting projects that connect people and communities to heritage, as set out in our strategic plan, [Heritage 2033](#). Heritage can be anything from the past that people value and want to pass on to future generations. We believe in the power of heritage to ignite the imagination, offer joy and inspiration, and to build pride in place and connection to the past.

Over the next 10 years, we aim to invest £3.6billion raised for good causes by National Lottery players to make a decisive difference for people, places and communities.

heritagefund.org.uk

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Key Dates – Citizens Theatre Homecoming Festival

Saturday 23 August

12.30pm - 2pm

Community Procession

Join the vibrant public celebration that reopens the Citizens Theatre! Starts 12.30pm from The Barn, led by giant puppets and local performers.

Saturday 23 - 2pm – 5pm

Sunday 24 August – 12.30pm - 5pm

Open House Weekend

Step inside the new Citizens Theatre for the first time in 7+ years. Free tours, workshops, pop-up performances and activities for all.

28 August – 5 September

Bookable Festival Events

Creative workshops, First Look tours and taster sessions continue across the building.

From 12 September

Main Stage Reopens

[*Small Acts of Love*](#) premieres. A powerful new play by Frances Poet, with music by Ricky Ross, telling the story of connection and compassion after the Lockerbie atrocity.

From 08 October

Studio Theatre Opens

[*Close*](#) by the Citizens Theatre Young Co

[*Making Your Mark*](#) by the Citizens Theatre Community Collective

Full details and booking: citz.co.uk/whats-on/homecoming-festival