



Energising

IMAGINATION

perththeatreandconcerthall.com

Central to local cultural life for over 120 years, **Perth Theatre and Concert Hall** create life affirming, shared experiences in the performing arts that ignite the imagination and make living more meaningful. Our world-class venues, award-winning programming and inclusive Learning & Engagement projects play an essential role in stimulating positive wellbeing within the communities we serve, benefitting the local economy and raising the profile of the area.

*‘it was a decision maker for me moving to Perth...
when I saw that it actually had a theatre and concert hall’*

Audience Member

Perth Theatre and Concert Hall

Founded in 1900, Perth Theatre established Scotland's oldest repertory theatre company in 1935. Following a three-year period of restoration and redevelopment, it reopened in 2017. The transformed venue houses a traditional Victorian auditorium, studio theatre, dedicated community rooms, café, and spacious and welcoming public areas. Alongside our successful programme of own-produced and touring theatre as well as our joyous annual panto, we support the country's theatre ecology by providing talent development opportunities for early career artists, as well as research, rehearsal, and performance spaces for non-building-based companies.

‘the most blooming magical, inclusive, theatre experience for everyone’

Perthshire Advertiser on *Jack And The Beanstalk*



Perth Theatre

Our annual programme builds on Perth Theatre's heritage and profile as a leading producing house. We create three in-house productions - one summer commission, a community show and panto - plus two co-productions with national partners, one spring and one autumn. We actively explore touring opportunities for all productions, working closely with Scottish, UK-wide and international theatres individually and collectively.

As a place for playwrights to develop their craft, Perth Theatre supports future talent by commissioning mainstage and studio productions by new and emerging writers as well as offering residency opportunities and specialist services to visiting artists.

Developed and implemented in response to audience demand, our newly revived Perth Theatre Season Subscription is the lynchpin between in-house programming and toured-in work. Every six-months, it features one in-house/co-production and four touring shows including a classic, comedy, musical, new writing and whodunnit across all Theatre spaces.

Perth Theatre has been so supportive these past two years in helping me develop an idea and bring it to a full length play

Anita Vettesse, playwright

Our Theatre Programme

Devised as part of the city's millennium celebrations, and opened in 2005, Perth Concert Hall is a modern and elegant space that houses a diverse programme of concerts, performances, talks, competitions, and events. Boasting an acoustically acclaimed auditorium, plus elegant studio space and flexible meeting rooms, it has: established itself as a go-to venue for major music and comedy tours; become an exclusive second home for Scotland's national orchestras, and secured its place as a firm favourite on the conference circuit.

Perth Concert Hall's beautiful acoustic and excellent piano make it one of the best concert venues in the UK

Steven Osborne, pianist

Perth Concert Hall

Our reputation as investors in classical music has gone from strength-to-strength. We continue to introduce audiences to classical music exclusives through new relationships with emerging artists and presenting established ensembles and companies from both at home and overseas. We curate our two unique series – Lunchtime Concerts and Classical Stars – and work in partnership with Scotland’s national orchestras to present our annual Perth Concert Series.

In parallel, we deliver a commercial programme of touring rock, pop, and acoustic music, plus comedy and other events including dance and talks. Our Joan Knight Studio Sessions specifically showcase local bands taking their first steps and support mid-career jazz and traditional music artists on the Scottish touring circuit. Highlights include Bohemian Monk Machine, Cassani / Campbell, Helena Kay, Longstay, The New Madrids, Parlamo, Ross & Ali and Katie Whittaker.

‘great venue and great stage setup for live bands’

Audience Member,
Joan Knight Studio Sessions

Our Music Programme

Learning & Engagement is at the heart of everything we do. It is the primary pathway to developing audiences and will continue to inform our programming. We believe that participation in creativity has a vital role to play in supporting individual and community resilience in a fast and ever-changing world. It provides us with the very tools to understand and reflect on our lives and those of others.

We are home to Perth Youth Theatre, the oldest dedicated youth theatre in Scotland and we hold regular drama, song and music workshops for young people.

Beyond creative learning, we champion the further benefits the performing arts bring to people's health and wellbeing. *Dance for Parkinson's* and Scottish Ballet's *Elevate* provide physical, mental and social support for people living with Parkinson's and Multiple Sclerosis. Our Mindspace creative writing workshops and *My Story, My Stage* project give an outlet to those with mental health conditions. We are also home to PKAVS Carer's Choir and Vocal Chord, supporting those with chronic health conditions through singing, in partnership with NHS Tayside.

I have been able to work with amazing directors that have let me explore my acting abilities

Perth Youth Theatre Member

Learning & Engagement

Initially developed to combat isolation during lockdown, our award-winning *Gig On A Truck* is a portable stage bringing shared connection through music to thousands in schools, care homes and communities, with free gigs by local bands and singers. Now exploring Theatre in community settings, we are developing and programming a new, complementary series of *PT Pop-ups* featuring graduating members of Perth Youth Theatre as well as known faces from the local acting community.

These music and theatre projects are the focal point of a new, year-round strand of site-specific work. Following our autumn 2023 partnership with Tangled Feet Theatre, we are evolving our approach to include a site-specific classical music performance in every spring season, followed by *Gig On A Truck* and *PT Pop-ups* getting out-and-about over the summer months, then a site-specific theatre performance every autumn.

Our Outreach

this was a roaring success with lots of new faces from the community coming along to enjoy the entertainment, make the most of the weather and generally enjoy being part of a community event

Letham Community Sports Club, Letham FC

“The auditorium looked amazing, the food was delicious and plentiful and the sound, lighting etc. was excellent too. All of this trumped by the staff who helped make the event a success on the day.”

Conference Client



ENERGISING IMAGINATION

We offer some of the most exceptional conferencing and events spaces businesses can encounter anywhere in the UK. Perth Concert Hall's Gannochy Auditorium is equipped with several flexible staging configurations meaning we can accommodate theatre style presentations and host events from gala dinners to award ceremonies and offer a significant flat-floor exhibition area for trade fairs. An additional range of variously sized rooms in the Concert Hall and Theatre offers suitable spaces for smaller meetings, breakouts and corporate events, all with appropriate infrastructure and technical expertise.

In an unparalleled escape from the corporate confines of the boardroom, our *Page to Stage* project provides fun, energetic and participatory sessions for business users: teams can become a theatre company or a band for the day; writing and rehearsing their own short play or song, and performing them on one of our stages by the end of their session.

Conferencing & Events

I am but one of many who share the huge enjoyment and satisfaction that you have all given us

Audience Member

In 2022/23, we celebrated our most successful year ever, achieving:

- An Economic Impact of **£16 million**;
- **133,000+** attendances across **534** cultural events;
- From **57%** repeat and **43%** first time bookers;
- **62%** were residents of Perth & Kinross;
- **11%** were from the most deprived areas in Scotland;
- plus, **13,600** delegates across **75** conferences and other events.

Our Audience Impact

‘I have seen hugely increased levels of engagement from specific children who would normally refuse to participate in any drama or music activities’

Teacher

EVERYTHING
NEEDS TO

In 2022/23, our Learning & Engagement team worked with participants of all ages and across diverse backgrounds, benefitting:

- **13,400 children and young people:**
 - **43%** from the most deprived areas in Scotland;
 - **16%** with mental health conditions;
 - **6%** with mental or physical impairments;
 - and **1%** who were young carers.
- **5,200 adult learners:**
 - **23%** with chronic health conditions;
 - **17%** with mental or physical impairments;
 - **11%** from the immigrant, refugee or asylum populations;
 - **11%** with mental health conditions;
 - and **9%** who were carers.

Our Participant Impact

Our vision for Perth Theatre and Concert Hall's artistic offer is one that is inclusive and meaningful, agile and sustainable, engendering a sense of connectedness and community spirit by involving artists and audiences at every stage of the creative journey.

Upcoming Theatre highlights include a bold new Perth Theatre presentation of Morag Fullarton's *Casablanca* and community productions involving our engaged and enthusiastic local casts, and we will continue emerging themes of music and mystery with Gabriel Quigley's *There's A Place* and Anita Vettesse's *FAITH. A Ghost Story*.

We will expand on our programme of Studio Sessions for musicians by offering recording opportunities for emerging local bands and accordionist Ryan Corbett will undertake a residency to develop a new participatory dance performance of works by Piazzolla.

Across music and theatre, we are evolving our residency model beyond traditional rehearsal and development periods. Over intensive six-month to annual cycles, emerging artists will receive the opportunity to learn from our in-house teams to share and expand their practice. The next three-years will see a minimum of 18 emerging artists benefit from these opportunities.

*'you add style, culture
and experiences that
distinguish the city from
others'*

Audience Member

An Ambitious Future

In April 2023, we launched our new Inclusion, Diversity, Equality & Accessibility (IDEA) Strategy; cementing our commitment to providing life-enhancing experiences for everyone, whatever their age, background, ethnicity, gender, geographical location, physical or mental ability, religion, sexual orientation, social conditions, work or employment status. Necessarily, our approach steps beyond the letter of the law to embrace the full spirit of inclusivity to achieve this.

Evolving our Green Plan, sustainability efforts are well underway including bee hives housed on the roof of Perth Theatre (with Perth & District Beekeepers Association); our upgraded Building Management System for Perth Concert Hall; major capital bids submitted for new LED stage lighting; smart sockets and thermostats installed across both buildings, and replacing all disposable cups and glasses behind our bars with re-useable plastics on a deposit return scheme. Funds raised will contribute towards further greening initiatives.

‘what I found more striking was the demographic breadth of the audience. It was really heartening to see all walks of life and all ages represented so well, and all seeming to really enjoy the work’

Audience Member

Our Commitment to the Environment and IDEA

With Thanks

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Perth Youth Orchestra

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Scottish Ballet

Scottish Chamber Orchestra

Scottish Model Engineering Trust

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Youth Music Initiative

Youth Theatre Arts Scotland

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and to everyone else we work with.



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Perth Theatre and Concert Hall is the trading name of Horsecross Arts Ltd, the charitable organisation and company limited by guarantee, established in 2005 to run both venues. Horsecross Arts Ltd is registered in Scotland, no. SC301328 and a charity no. SC022400.

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PERTH
THEATRE
AND CONCERT
HALL