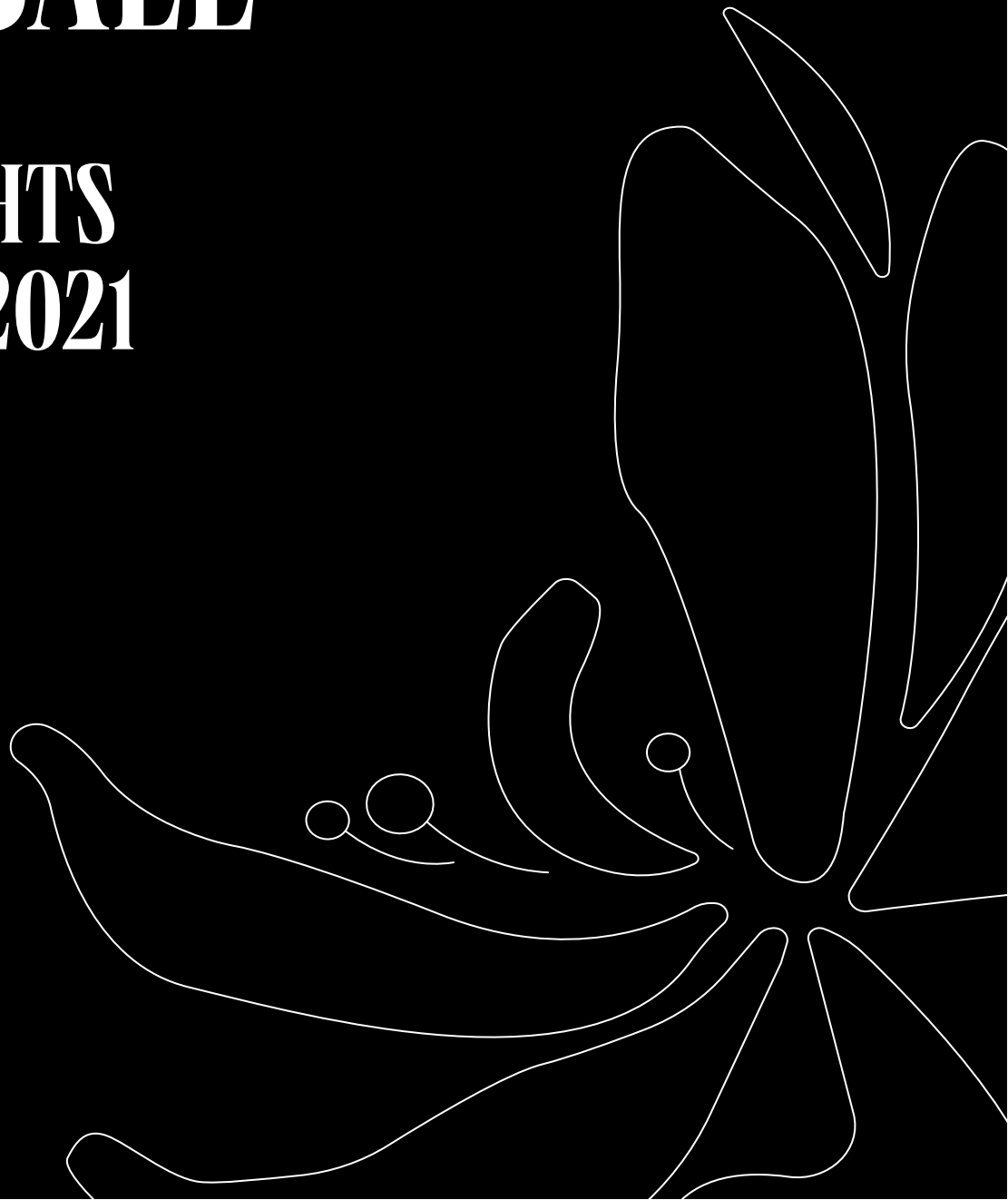




# THE COMING BACK OUT BALL

HIGHLIGHTS  
2019 TO 2021



## PRESS RELEASE



A **National Theatre of Scotland** and **All The Queens Men** co-production, in partnership with **Eden Court** and **Luminate** in association with **Glasgow City Council**.

***The Coming Back Out Ball*** - a spectacular interactive digital event on Saturday 26 June 2021 - celebrating Lesbian, Gay, Bisexual, Trans and Gender Diverse, and Intersex Elders in Scotland.

Hosted online by **Karen Dunbar** and **Jamie Rea** with performances from **Horse**, **Dean Atta** and **Jo Clifford** and a contribution from **Maggie Kinloch**

**Special 'A Ball in a Box' delivery for guests**

National Theatre of Scotland Creative Lead: **Lewis Hetherington**

All The Queens Men Creative Leads: **Tristan Meecham** and **Bec Reid**

Designer **CJ Mahony**, Lighting Design **Karen Bryce**, Video and Animation Design **Jamie Wardrop**

Creative facilitators: **Fraser MacLeod**, **Chris Stuart Wilson**, **Emma Jayne Park**, **Lou Brodie** and **Amy Watt**

***The Coming Back Out Ball*** is the spectacular culmination of monthly Social Dance Clubs for LGBTI+ Elders and allies which have been presented around Scotland and beyond since 2019, moving online in 2020. This unique interactive digital event invites all Social Dance Club participants, allies and the rainbow community to come together and celebrate LGBTI+ Elders across Scotland, UK and internationally.

***The Coming Back Out Ball*** promises a fabulous evening of music, dancing, creativity and chat and is hosted online by **Karen Dunbar** and **Jamie Rea**. The event features performances from Scottish icon and long-time project supporter **Horse** as well as **Dean Atta**, sensational performance poet and Stonewall 2020 Book Award Winner, alongside legendary playwright **Jo Clifford** performing new writing inspired by her involvement in the project and a special contribution from **Maggie Kinloch**. Ticketholders will receive a special 'A Ball in a Box' delivery in advance of the event, filled with surprises to ensure that everyone experiences a unique party atmosphere in their own living room.

The first ***Coming Back Out Ball*** and Social Dance Clubs were pioneered in Australia by arts organisation **All The Queens Men**. ***The Coming Back Out Ball*** project and Social Dance Clubs started in Scotland following discussions in which older members of the LGBTI+ community said they feared they may 'return to the closet' as they lose independence with age, particularly if needing to rely on carers or residential care. The project aims to strengthen the LGBTI+ over 50s community and promote their visibility and safety.

**Social Dance Club participant said** "*So much of last evening pushed me to the boundaries of my emotions. The fact that I felt happy and secure in letting myself experience those emotions just shows how important being with you guys is for me*"

The Social Dance Clubs in Scotland have created an ongoing friendly safe space for an under-represented community. **The Coming Back Out Ball** has been developed over the last two years by the Dance Club members and the creative team. The event will reflect and amplify the Elders' voices and stories, celebrating memories and their dreams together for the future. There will be three Social Dance Clubs in the run up to the final event.

**Lewis Hetherington, Creative Lead, The Coming Back Out Ball** said *"I feel so honoured to work on this project, with Scotland's incredible community of LGBTI+ Elders. From our first steps together at the first LGBTI+ Elders Social Dance Club in May 2019 to now, I have laughed, cried and been so inspired. I am so proud we've created a space where our Elders can step forward, in their own time, on their terms, to share their stories and express themselves."*

**Tristan Meecham and Bec Reid, Artistic Directors, All The Queens Men** said *"It is a profound honour to be connecting older LGBTI+ and allied communities globally in this online space. Older LGBTI+ people across Australia and Scotland have been able to creatively and socially connect in regular, joyful, inclusive and dynamic Social Dance Clubs during times of immense disconnection. This partnership with National Theatre of Scotland, Eden Court, Luminate and Glasgow City Council has inspired universal, values led connections. All The Queens Men look forward to welcoming more and more beloved LGBTI+ Elders and allies into the global Dance Club family."*

**James McKenzie-Blackman, CEO, Eden Court** said *"All of us at Eden Court have been greatly impacted by this special partnership with the National Theatre of Scotland, All The Queens Men and Luminate. The Social Dance Clubs have created a new space for LGBTI+ elders in the Highlands to meet, more recently digitally, to share stories, connect, debate and dance! We remain committed to further imbedding the project into the life of Eden Court, a building that proudly welcomes everyone, regardless of diversity or difference."*

**Anne Gallacher, Director, Luminate,** said *"It's been a privilege to share the journey of this project, and to connect with LGBTI+ elders across Scotland. The contribution they have made – and continue to make - to our society is huge. Older people have been disproportionately affected by the pandemic, and at this tough time we know that the social dance clubs have provided a welcome opportunity for LGBTI+ elders to feel part of a community, to connect with friends old and new, to feel safe, have fun, and learn something new along the way."*

**The Coming Back Out Ball** is presented in partnership with All The Queen's Men, the Australian cultural participatory arts pioneers, alongside Eden Court and Luminate, Scotland's creative ageing organisation, and in association with Glasgow City Council.

The National Theatre of Scotland Creative Lead on the project is **Lewis Hetherington** and for All The Queens Men, Artistic Directors **Tristan Meecham** and **Bec Reid**. The LGBTI+ Social Dance Club events are led by creative practitioners Emma Jayne Park, Fraser MacLeod, Chris Stuart Wilson, Amy Watt and Lou Brodie.

As well as the Ball and the Social Dance Club there is also an exhibition in Glasgow's Gallery of Modern Art from 26 June – 29 August. **Portraits of an LGBTI+ Generation** is an exhibition of photographs and videos taken by the Coming Back Out Ball's photographer in residence, Tiu Makkonen, featuring a selection of the Elders who have taken part in the project.

Join the conversation: **#comingbackoutball**  
comingbackoutball.com

# **MEDIA HIGHLIGHTS**

## **ONLINE ARTICLES**

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### **The National - 12 May 2019**

Mark Brown feature interviewing participants in the Social Dance Clubs in Glasgow - [available online](#)

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### **Sunday Post - 20 July 2019**

Interview feature and video with Lucinda Broadbent, one of the participants in the Glasgow Social Dance Clubs, about the project - [available online](#)

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### **Daily Record - 10 Jan 2020**

[Online article re Perth Social Dance Club](#)

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### **The Courier - 15 Jan 2020**

Perth Social Dance Club - [News](#)

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### **Small City Big Personality Blog - 15 Jan 2020**

Perth Social Dance Club - [Online Blog](#)

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### **Advantage Age Scotland Mag - March 2020**

Cover and feature inside (p.12-p.13)

[Link to Issuu](#)

## **Scottish Care Bulletin Magazine - March 2020**

Editorial and image for Conversation & Ball p.33

[Link](#)

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## **The Guardian - 17 April 2020**

Owen Jones video interview with David Allan, footage of SDC and short videos of David on the day - [Online Feature](#)

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## **Pink News - 13 May 2020**

Online Social Dance Clubs and Pride for All  
[Online Article](#)

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## **Pink Saltire - 13 May 2020**

Lou Brodie & Stewart Gow interviewed on [live stream](#) for #communitymatters

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## **Inverness Courier 20 Oct 2020**

Article about Eden Court project tackling loneliness  
[Link](#)

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## **Highland News - 09 March 2021**

CBOB ball announcement - [News](#)

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## **Sunday Post - 09 March 2021**

CBOB ball announcement - [Feature](#)

## **Inverness Courier - 12 March 2021**

CBOB ball announcement - [News](#)

---

## **Scene Alba - April 2021**

CBOB - [Feature](#)

---

## **Sunday Post - 26 May 2021**

Ball full announcement - [Feature](#)

---

## **Glasgow Live - 17 June 2021**

Stewart, Scott and David interviewed for Glasgow Lives section

Stewart- [Interview](#)

David- [Interview](#)

Scott- [Interview](#)

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## **Glasgow West End - 20 June 2021**

Preview of the Ball - [Online](#)

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# **MEDIA HIGHLIGHTS**

## **BROADCAST**

### **BBC - 17 October 2019**

News package filmed at Inverness Social Dance Club- carried on TV (Reporting Scotland), radio (Good Morning Scotland), and online - [link](#)

## **Channel 5 - 27 November 2019**

TV and digital package - filmed at Glasgow  
Social Dance Club - [Youtube link](#)

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## **BBC Radio Scotland - 24 June 2021**

Horse, Lewis, Carrie and Colin  
interviewed on Afternoon Show -  
[Interview](#) starts at 40 mins

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## **BBC Reporting Scotland - 25 June 2021**

Footage and interviews from media call on  
Reporting Scotland. Karen Dunbar, Chris  
Wilson and elder Pat Marron and Stewart Gow  
[Link to Vimeo](#)

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## **STV News - 25 June 2021**

Interviews with Colin & Stuart Mitchell,  
Horse, Karen Dunbar and Fraser MacLeod  
[Link to Vimeo](#)

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## **BBC Radio Scotland Good Morning Scotland - 25 June 2021**

Pauline McLean interviews Chris, Pat and  
Stewart - starts at 2hr 18:35 mins - [Interview](#)

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## **BBC Radio Scotland Lunchtime Live - 25 June 2021**

Pauline McLean interviews Chris, Pat  
and Stewart - starts at 18:23 mins -  
[Interview](#)

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# MEDIA HIGHLIGHTS

## PRINT ARTICLES

Inverness Courier – 26 March 2019

### City theatre issues invitation to attend the ball



LGBTI elders are being invited to meet new people and share stories, memories and even dance moves at Eden Court Theatre in Inverness as part of a Scotland-wide project. The *Coming Back Out Ball*.

MEMBERS of the LGBTI community in the Inverness area are being invited to share stories and memories as part of a one-year project.

The *Coming Back Out Ball*, pioneered in Australia, will include monthly social events for older people at Eden Court Theatre and will culminate in a spectacular final event in Glasgow next year.

The first Inverness LGBTI+ Elders Social Dance Club will be held on May 26 from 2pm to 4pm and will be free.

The project is a collaboration involving Eden Court, the National Theatre of Scotland, Australian arts company All The Queens Men, Scotland's creative ageing organisation Luminare and Glasgow City Council. Call 01 463 732695 for further details.

Highland News – 28 March 2019

# City theatre issues invite to attend ball

By Val

SWEENEY

**A** RADICAL community project aimed at older members of the LGBTI community is coming to Inverness as part of a year-long Scotland-wide programme.

The *Coming Back Out Ball*, which has been pioneered in Australia, involves the city's Eden Court working in partnership with the National Theatre of Scotland and All The Queens Men, an international community art and performance venture.

Luminare, Scotland's creative ageing organisation, and Glasgow City Council are also involved.

It is the first time the project has been delivered outside Australia and the aim is to create a series of regular social events for individuals and groups, offering the chance to meet new folk and celebrate community.

The first Inverness event will be the LGBTI+ Elders Social Dance Club at Eden Court on May 26.

The free event aims to bring people together to share stories, memories, hopes and passions plus dance moves, although the organisers stress no prior dance experience is required – just curiosity.

It will also give a

taste of plans for the final *The Coming Back Out Ball* which will take place in Glasgow next year. Although the full details will not be announced until next year, it is being hailed as a night of cultural significance in which the broader community can sit alongside LGBTI elders to eat, drink, dance, reminisce and dream together into the future.

The Inverness social events, led by artistic practitioners Amy Watt and Lou Brodie, will take place each month until next spring and will mirror a similar venture in Glasgow.

The organisers point out that in the UK, older people have lived through times when being LGBTI could result in imprisonment, loss of employment and rejection by family

and friends. For many, impending old age meant some were going back into the closet for fear of being deprived of companionship and quality care when they needed it most.

James Mackenzie-Blackman, chief executive of Eden Court, said: "This unique collaboration is the perfect example of how we intend to develop and grow our engagement programme at Eden Court.

"I'm thrilled that Highland-based artists Lou Brodie and Amy Watt will work with local partners to develop relationships with LGBTI+ elders across the region with the ambition to make connections, build friendships and tackle all forms of isolation and stigma.

"Eden Court is a place where everyone is welcome and it's with this openness and with these values that we embark on this hugely special project."

Interested parties are welcome to turn up at the first Inverness session, which will take place in Eden Court's McLean Room on May 26 between 2pm and 4pm.



## DIARY

FROM SCOTLAND'S NEW YEAR-LONG SERIES OF EVENTS AIMED AT OLDER LGBTIQ FOLK, TO POKÉ'S 10TH BIRTHDAY BASH, THERE'S A PLETHORA OF QUEER LOVELINESS THIS MONTH...



### 21.04

#### MASK 4 MASK Looking Glass, London

A charity fundraiser dedicated to London's queer artists and raising money for the Kaleidoscope Trust. Special guest DJs include Georgie Bee and Tequila Addams. The dress code? "Masked elegance" no less. Dance good, feel good, do good.  
[tinyurl.com/divamask4](http://tinyurl.com/divamask4)

### 21.04

#### FANCY A FEMME Megaro Hotel, London

Looking for love? This Easter speed dating event for femme women-loving women is the perfect opportunity to meet like-minded lez/bi lovelies - and tickets are selling fast.  
[tinyurl.com/divaeasterfemme](http://tinyurl.com/divaeasterfemme)

#### WHAT'S ON WHERE YOU ARE?

Know of a scorbie outside of London? Get in touch! We're dead keen on featuring more events outside of the capital. Send your listings to us via email or tweet @daniellejournal

### 24.04

#### SPUDS! Jericho Tavern, Oxford

The Oxfordshire Drag Collective brings you quirky queer cabaret in this space created especially for local LGBTIQ talent. With lip sync poetry, burlesque and much more, anything goes at this diverse queer mash-up.  
[tinyurl.com/divaspuds](http://tinyurl.com/divaspuds)

### 24-28.04

#### LOVERS FILM FEST Turin, Italy

The oldest festival in Europe, this year's competition categories are All The Lovers, Real Lovers, Irregular Lovers and Future Lovers. Directed by Irene Dionisio, special guests to the Over the Rainbow-themed festival include actor Alba Rohrwacher and director Yann Gonzalez. Film buff? This one's set to be molto bene.  
[loversoff.com](http://loversoff.com)

### 26.04

#### QUEER VOICES II Gallery Café, London

The second edition of Queer Voices is set to be jam-packed with drag performances, comedy, poetry, live music, art and lots, lots more. Sounds perf.  
[tinyurl.com/divaqueervoices2](http://tinyurl.com/divaqueervoices2)

### 26.04

#### TROJAN HORSE The Marlborough, Brighton

At a time when queer spaces are increasingly under threat from gentrification, this programme of films about LGBTIQ spaces is essential. Presented by Videoclub and Fabrica, Trojan Horse will be showing films exploring queer spaces as "pieces of resistance, community, desire and historical significance." Tickets are first come, first served.  
[tinyurl.com/divatrojan](http://tinyurl.com/divatrojan)

IMAGE COURTESY OF NATIONAL THEATRE SCOTLAND



Bec Reid and Andrew Westle of All The Queens Men, also involved in the year-long programme, Lewis Hetherington of National Theatre of Scotland and Lou Brodie and Amy Watt of Eden Court.

## LGBTI event was a success

A PROJECT which aims to bring together older members of the LGBTI community in the Inverness area has held its first gathering.

The LGBTI+ Elders Social Dance Club is a year-long programme taking place throughout Scotland and will culminate in a **Coming Back Out Ball** in Glasgow next year. It has been pioneered in Australia and partners include Eden Court, the National Theatre of Scotland and Glasgow City Council.

The organisers of the project said impending old age meant some were going “back into the closet” for fear of being

deprived of companionship and quality care when they needed it most.

Amy Watt, producer of theatre projects at Eden Court, was delighted with the success of the first social dance club.

“The two hours flew past, filled with interesting chats, plenty of tea and a good bit of disco dancing!” she said.

“We were delighted with the turnout and look forward to having new faces join us on June 9. Dancing is not compulsory!”

It will be held in the MacLean Room between 2pm and 4pm.

■ **For more, email [awatt@edencourt.co.uk](mailto:awatt@edencourt.co.uk) or call 01463 732695.**

# The Courier - 16 Jan 2020

Small article on the Perth Social Dance Club

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## LOCAL BULLETIN

### SOCIAL CLUB

## Dancing event for older LGBT+ community coming to Perth

An LGBTI+ Elders Social Dance Club founded in Australia is coming to Perth for the first time this weekend.

The series of dance clubs was set up to provide older members of the LGBT+ community with a chance to meet.

They are run by the National Theatre of Scotland throughout the year in the lead-up to a Coming Back Out Ball.

The project came to Scotland for the first time in May, with clubs launching in Glasgow, and will arrive in the Fair City as part of its expansion.

Perthshire Pride, the group that led a major city centre celebration last year, described the club as “fantastic”.

It will be at Perth Theatre on Saturday from 2-4pm.

# The Herald – 26 June 2021

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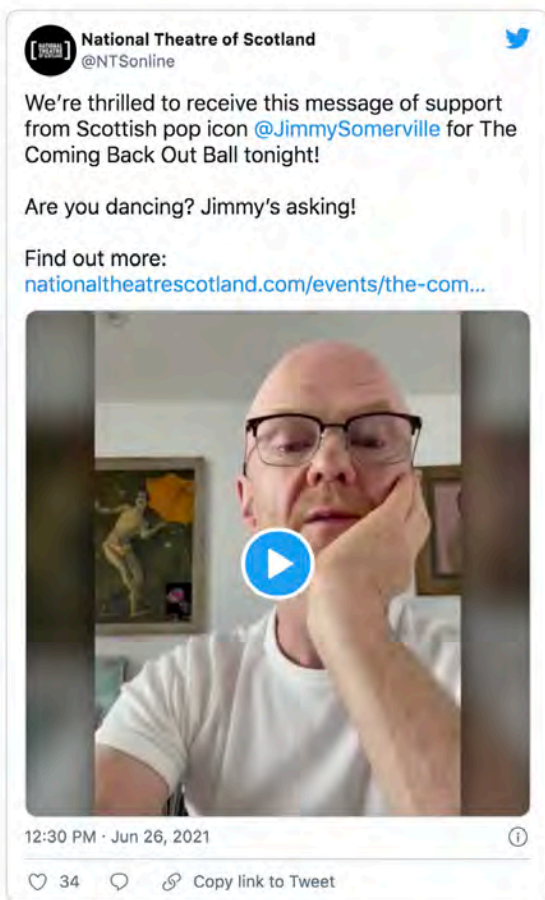
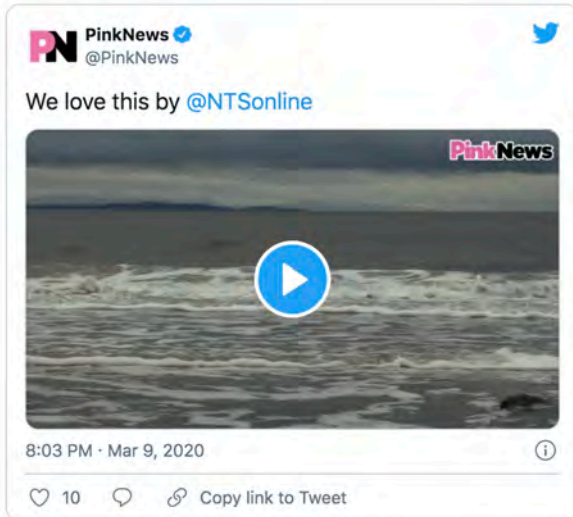
### Around the UK



Performers at the Coming Back Out Ball, a spectacular interactive digital event celebrating Lesbian, Gay, Bisexual, Trans and Gender Diverse, and Intersex Elders in Scotland  
Picture: Kirsty Anderson

# SOCIAL MEDIA HIGHLIGHTS

PINK NEWS - [LINK TO POST1](#)  
[LINK TO POST2](#)



A special message from Jimmy Somerville – [LINK TO POST](#)

**Jordy Deelight** @jordy\_deelight

Thank you @NTSONline for a truly fantastic evening. Shed many a tear, danced aw the dances & was forever inspired by a room of incredible people.

10:01 PM · Jun 26, 2021

9 1 Copy link to Tweet

**Kate Holderness** @KateHolderness

This is so wonderful 🥰 About to go to the @NTSONline #ComingBackOutBall & they've sent these beautiful 'Ball in a Boxes' to elders of the LGBTQIA+ community with their tickets. Had a little cry reading the personal messages 🥹 Thank you our incredible elder heroes! 🏳️‍🌈

6:33 PM · Jun 26, 2021

15 1 Copy link to Tweet

**Oliver Emanuel** @OillyEmanuel

loving the wonderful stories from the LGBTI+ Elders at @NTSONline Coming Back Out Ball 🏳️‍🌈 🎉

8:39 PM · Jun 26, 2021

15 Copy link to Tweet

**Fran(z)z** @FranEvergreen

A wonderful performance by @horsemusic during the coming back out ball. Such a fantastic online event - so emotional already 🥰 🥹 🏳️‍🌈 🏳️‍🌈 🏳️‍🌈

#LGBTQIA #Pride @NTSONline

7:55 PM · Jun 26, 2021

13 Copy link to Tweet

**Horse McDonald** @horsemusic · Jun 27, 2021

Replying to @KateHolderness @AdeleRoberts and @NTSONline

It's been an incredible and moving journey - everyone has loved it and thanks for your support 🥰

**Adele Roberts** @AdeleRoberts

Wonderful night, we absolutely loved it. Such a gorgeous tribute & celebration to all those who've gone before us. Seeing everyone dancing around the world was the best! You got everyone going 🎉 Top night! Xx

6:41 AM · Jun 27, 2021

3 1 Copy link to Tweet

**Horse McDonald** @horsemusic

@NTSonline everything coming together in rehearsal for the #comingbackoutball sat 26th @karendunbar147 and I having a wee hoot ... @chrisjwilson keeping us in line 🏳️🌈🌟 last day for tickets fb.watch/6gcJlIPSc/



12:42 PM · Jun 21, 2021 from Glasgow, Scotland

11 likes, 1 reply

**Adam Knight** @addyknight

This is definitely the best online event of the last two years. Huge congratulations to @LewHetherington @A.T.Q.M @NTSonline @horsemusic and the rest of the team. 🌟

So glad we were able to get @LGBTYS involved along the way. ❤️

**Adam Knight** @addyknight

Sending love & solidarity to everyone at #TransPrideLondon and #OrkneyPride today! I can't tell you how jealous I am. ❤️

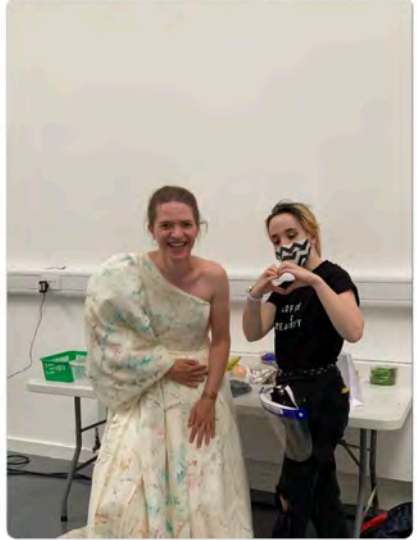
I'll be having a delightful time in my living room at the @NTSonline #ComingBackOutBall tonight, celebrating our queer elders.



9:54 PM · Jun 26, 2021

**laura wilkie her/them** @laurajwilkie

@NTSonline 🌟🌟🌟🌟❤️




11:25 PM · Jun 26, 2021

2 likes

**Chris Stuart Wilson** @chrisjwilson

We came, we danced, we celebrated, we loved. Last night's @NTSonline @A.T.Q.M #comingbackoutball marked the end of a 2 year chapter celebrating the lives of LGBT+ elders. It has been a joy to be part of the team and build this incredible community.

Now off to charge my shoes



1:42 PM · Jun 27, 2021

53 likes, 3 replies

**Thomas Anderson** @ThomasAnderson

Getting ready for tonight's @NTSonline 'The Coming Back Out Ball' 🏳️🌈 featuring @horsemusic @DeanAtta @JoCliffordPlays + more. Loving my 'Ball in a Box', designed by Fraser Lappin #TheComingBackOutBall



6:27 PM · Jun 26, 2021

13 likes, 1 reply

**Thomas Anderson** @ThomasAnderson

That was definitely something else. @horsemusic and Karen Dunbar singing 'No More Tears (Enough Is Enough)'. Epic. Loving @NTSonline #TheComingBackOutBall 🏳️🌈



7:54 PM · Jun 26, 2021

10 likes

**Seona McClintock** @seonamcclintock

We're having a Ball!!! Literally! #TheComingBackOutBall Lots of distanced dancing in the Empire theatre! @NTSonline @EdenCourt



8:54 PM · Jun 26, 2021

39 likes, 3 replies

**Theresa** @TheresaDewa

Okay, I'm very glad I bought tickets for @NTSonline 's Coming Back Out Ball! I really enjoyed this shift from digital theatre being static to digital theatre being an experience brought into your home. Theatre as an experience is a really cool shift in the industry.

5:01 PM · Jun 23, 2021

1 like, 1 reply

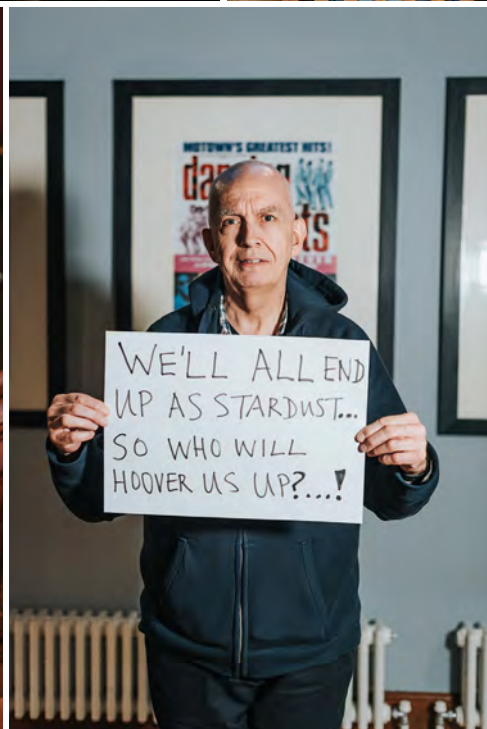
# GALLERY

## GLASGOW ELDERS



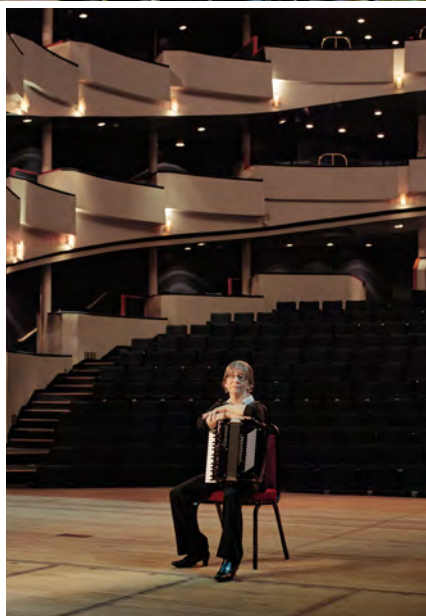
All images by Tiu Makonnen

# INVERNESS ELDERS





# PORTRAITS OF LGBTQ+ GENERATION



All images by Tiu Makonnen

# THE COMING BACK OUT BALL PRODUCTION PICTURES



All images by Tiu Makonnen



All images by Tiu Makonnen

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