



**EDINBURGH'S
HOGMANAY**

WEDNESDAY 21 DECEMBER 2011

Media information:

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

www.edinburghshogmanay.com

**ARE YOU AN UPPIE OR A DOONIE?
EDINBURGH'S HOGMANAY ASKS YOU TO TAKE SIDES
FOR THE NEW YEAR GAMES**

Organisers of Edinburgh's Hogmanay are calling for revellers to take sides this New Year's Day and choose whether they are an Uppie or a Doonie. The two teams will compete in the New Year Games on 1st January which will take place across the Old Town of Edinburgh. Edinburgh's Hogmanay have brought Scottish artists together with game design studio, Hide&Seek, to create The New Year Games, supported by the Scottish Government's Edinburgh Festivals Expo Fund, which include specially commissioned games from contemporary artists, giant board games, re-imagined classics, secret missions and a huge playground in the Grassmarket.

Revellers will choose their team – the Uppies or the Doonies. The names of the teams refer to the traditional Street Game of Scotland, which is played in Kirkwall in the far north, and Jedburgh in the far south. People in these towns join either the Uppies or the Doonies depending on where they are born, or live. In Jedburgh Uppies are from 'up' of the Mercat Cross in the town square, and Doonies are from the lower part of the town. For the New Year Games Edinburgh's Hogmanay have taken this differentiation in the broadest sense and invite revellers to also adopt either a symbolic creature as manifested in a giant totem or one of the colours associated with the animal.

Uppies: from somewhere a bit north – North America, North of the Forth, North island of New Zealand etc. Your colours are blue and silver and you're a high flying adventurer with a taste for surprisesthe Eagle is your totem.

Doonies: from somewhere Southerly – South Australia, South of the Thames, Southern Europe etc. Your colours are red, orange and pink and you're a brave roamer with your feet on the ground. . . .the Stag is your totem.

Residents and visitors are invited to play, participate or just spectate in a fun-filled afternoon of mental stimulation and physical challenges.





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In addition to the giant playground in the Grassmarket, participants can **Throw Things at Found** in The Hub, become **Scotch Hoppers** in Dance Base, play **Dreadnought** in the National Museum of Scotland and **Resonate the Labyrinth** in St Giles' Cathedral.

Pete Irvine, Creative Director of Edinburgh's Hogmanay, said "I live in the North of Edinburgh so count myself as an Uppie and am thoroughly looking forward to cheering on my team on the 1st. The New Year Games are a great way to spend the afternoon on New Year's Day, so get off the sofa, work off the effects of Hogmanay, and come and have fun with friends and family."

Culture Secretary, Fiona Hyslop, said "Hogmanay heralds the start of the Year of Creative Scotland 2012, and The New Year Games is the first activity in this fantastic year-long celebration of our world-class events, festivals, culture and heritage. Visitors can get involved by choosing to be an Uppie or a Doonie on January 1 and it is a great way for locals and visitors alike to join in the fun and experience Scotland's unique culture and creativity for themselves."

In addition to the games taking place in Dance Base, The Hub, St Giles' Cathedral and The National Museum of Scotland, there will be re-imagined version of 'peever beds' (hopscotch) scattered around the Old Town painted by Scottish artists John Byrne, Nico Major and Andrea Roe.

Full details of all the New Year Games, as well as the full programme for Edinburgh's Hogmanay can be found at www.edinburghshogmanay.com.

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For further information please contact:

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Editors Notes:

About Edinburgh's Hogmanay:

1. **About the Edinburgh's Hogmanay Festival:** Edinburgh's Hogmanay Festival runs from 30 December 2011 until 1 January 2012. Full programme details of events and activities across the festival will be announced early November. Now in its nineteenth year. For more information and to register for updates visit: www.edinburghshogmanay.com





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- About The New Year Games:** The New Year Games will take place on Sunday 1st January from 2.00pm to 6.00pm. There are games going on in the Grassmarket, The Hub, Dance Base, St Giles' Cathedral and the National Museum of Scotland. Totems for the two teams, Uppies & Doonies, will be in the giant playground in the Grassmarket.
- About the Year of Creative Scotland 2012:** The Year of Creative Scotland begins on January 1, 2012 and is a chance to showcase, celebrate and promote Scotland's cultural and creative strengths. Through a dynamic and exciting year-long programme of activity celebrating our world-class events, festivals, culture and heritage, the year puts Scotland's culture and creativity in the international spotlight with a focus on cultural tourism and developing the events industry and creative sector in Scotland. More information about the programme can be found at: www.visitscotland.com/creative The Year of Creative Scotland is a Scottish Government initiative led in partnership by EventScotland, VisitScotland, Creative Scotland and VOCAL.
- About the Scottish Government's Edinburgh Festivals Expo Fund:** Edinburgh's Hogmanay has been awarded £250,000 from the Scottish Government's Edinburgh Festivals Expo Fund for the New Year Games programme. The Scottish Government's Edinburgh Festivals Expo Fund totals £8 million over four years (2008-09 to 2011-12). It is available to all 12 Edinburgh Festivals to support the costs of new productions, events or exhibitions which involve Scottish-based participants and are premiered at any of the Edinburgh Festivals. The fund can also be used to support touring of events or performances after their premiere at the festival and allow successful work to reach new audiences.
- On-Sale Details:**

Tickets for all Edinburgh's Hogmanay 2011/12 events and registration are available now on a first come first served basis in the following ways:

Online: www.edinburghshogmanay.com
By phone: Edinburgh's Hogmanay Box Office: 0844 573 8455
Tickets can also be purchased through associated ticket agents as follows:

The Fringe Office, 180 High Street, Edinburgh EH1 1QS
Phone: 0844 573 8455
Opening Hours: 10am - 6pm Monday - Saturday

Tickets Scotland, 127 Rose Street, Edinburgh EH2 3DT
Phone: +44 131 220 3234
Opening hours: 9am-6pm (until 8pm Thursdays). 11am-6pm Sundays

Ripping Records, 91 South Bridge, Edinburgh EH1 1HN
91 South Bridge, Edinburgh EH1 21HN
Opening hours: 9am-6pm (12.30pm-5.30pm Saturdays)
- Ticket Prices:**

Edinburgh's Hogmanay Street Party: £15.00 administration + booking fee
n.b. Entry to Edinburgh's Hogmanay Street Party on 31 December is strictly by ticket only. There are no restrictions on the quantity of tickets which can be purchased. Travel Trade & Accommodation Providers can reserve tickets by emailing: groups@edinburghshogmanay.com

Concert in the Gardens: **Enclosure – SOLD-OUT**, Gardens - £35.00 + booking fee
n.b Tickets to Concert in the Gardens also grant access to the Edinburgh's Hogmanay Street Party.

The Keilidh: £35.00 + booking fee
n.b Tickets to The Keilidh grants access to the Edinburgh's Hogmanay Street Party.
Subject to booking fee.

Torchlight Procession: Torches available for purchase in advance for £6 each or buy them on the night for £7.00

Candlelit Concert in St Giles' Cathedral: £16.00 + booking fee
n.b This event is not suitable for babies or young children.



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Loony Dook: £6.00 Registration Fee (includes donation to RNLI)

n.b Participants **MUST** register for the Loony Dook prior to the event. There will be no registration on the day and availability will be on a first come first served basis.

The Official Edinburgh's Hogmanay After Show Club: Tickets available from www.ticketweb.co.uk or www.ticketsoup.com

- About Edinburgh's Hogmanay Street Party:** Described as the original and best New Year's Party, Edinburgh's Hogmanay Street Party annually attracts tens of thousands of residents and visitors from around the globe. Taking place on 31 December along Princes Street in the centre of Scotland's capital, party-goers come together to sing, dance, hug, kiss and celebrate the New Year. Featuring a selection of stages brimming with live music and entertainment, the iconic Midnight Fireworks display, singing and dancing all set against the magnificent backdrop of Edinburgh Castle, Edinburgh's Hogmanay Street Party really is *the* place to be to see in the New Year in true Scots style. This year features live music stages, DJ stages, giant screens and a spectacular midnight moment. For tickets and more information: www.edinburghshogmanay.com
- About Scotland's Winter Festivals:** Scotland's Winter Festivals begin with St Andrew's Day on 30th November and includes Scotland's Hogmanay celebrations on 31st December, culminating with Burns night on 25th January. Scotland's Winter Festivals bring together three of our cultural celebrations, showcasing Scotland as a great visitor destination and the perfect stage for events all year round. Scots and Scots at heart, both at home and abroad, celebrate Scotland's unique heritage and distinctive culture through our St Andrew's Day, Hogmanay and Burns. Many of Scotland's top visitor attractions will open to the public for free over the St Andrew's Day weekend, offering everyone a way to celebrate our national day and experience world class visitor attractions on our own doorsteps.

You can find further information and listings of events across Scotland at www.scotland.org/winter

- Edinburgh Sparkles** promotes the city as 'the best place in the UK to enjoy Christmas and New Year', due to Edinburgh's magical setting, host of festive things to enjoy and an unparalleled atmosphere. For more information visit www.edinburghsparkles.com
- Edinburgh's Hogmanay 2011/12 funders and sponsors:**
Edinburgh's Hogmanay 2011/12 is funded by the City of Edinburgh Council.
Supported by EventScotland, Scotland's Winter Festivals, The Scottish Government's Edinburgh Festivals EXPO Fund.

Sponsored by G4S, Crabbies, Arnold Clark Car & Van Rental, Haggis Adventures.
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- Edinburgh's Hogmanay is a City of Edinburgh Council initiative created and produced by Unique Events.

