

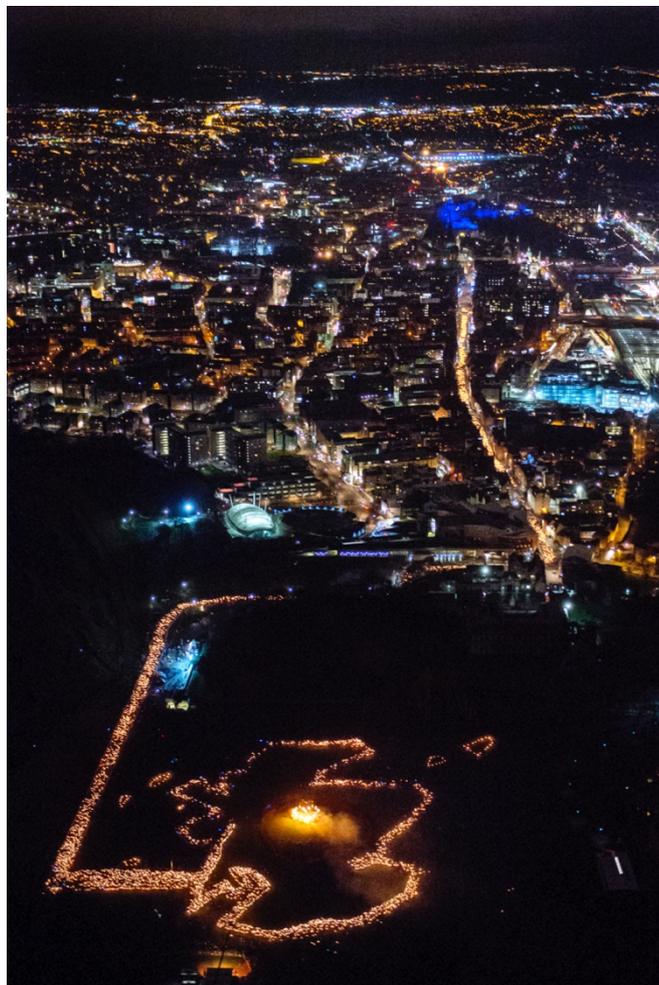
# EDINBURGH'S HOGMANAY 19 **an Underbelly event**

Press release for immediate use – 30<sup>th</sup> December 2018

## **Edinburgh's Hogmanay 19 blazes into life as thousands gathered for the Torchlight Procession**

### **[IMAGE LINK](#)**

- **20,000 participants alongside 20,000 spectators turned out for the Torchlight Procession in magical start to Edinburgh's Hogmanay 19**
- **Iconic visual message issued to the world with the fiery heart of Scotland formed by 14 stunning #ScotArt sculptures surrounded by Scotland's outline in thousands of torches on Holyrood Park creating a spectacular finale to the Year of Young People 2018**
- **Scotland's pioneering Celtic Fire Theatre company, PyroCeltica joined by young pipe and drum bands from across Scotland to lead the Procession**
- **Edinburgh now gears up for big events on 31<sup>st</sup> including the world famous Street Party hosted by Johnnie Walker, Concert in the Gardens and Ceilidh under the Castle**



Participants and onlookers numbering 40,000 gathered together for the sold out Torchlight Procession this evening in Edinburgh's historic Old Town to mark the magical start of Edinburgh's Hogmanay 19.

Families, friends, residents and visitors from 49 countries marched alongside pipe, drum and dance bands from across Scotland, including Edinburgh Samba Band, Glencorse Pipe Band and Hawick Scout Pipe Band generating a blistering beat to accompany the blazing Procession. Leading the charge this year was a 40 strong cast from Scotland's pioneering Celtic Fire Theatre company, PyroCeltica who's Highland Warriors showcased a dazzling array of fire skills featuring fire fans, huge flaming claymores and fire staffs, set to the booming beats of the Harbinger Drummers.

Marking the conclusion of Scotland's Year of Young People 2018, young people were firmly at the heart of the Torchlight Procession and the opening of Edinburgh's Hogmanay as part of #ScotArt, the national youth participation project which engaged 100s of young people across Scotland.

#ScotArt Young Champions who have led the project, each carried a banner emblazoned with their regional symbol joined the young pipe and drum bands at the head of the Torchlight Procession down the Royal Mile into Holyrood Park where the Procession formed the distinctive outline of Scotland lit by thousands of torches. The #ScotArt sculptures then came together to form a heart shape at the centre of this outline of Scotland, creating a spectacular finale to the Year of Young People 2018 with an iconic visual moment shared with the world.

Following the grand #ScotArt collective moment, those gathered were kept warm by dancing to an evening of top entertainment, including performance from PyroCeltica, DJ Calverto, The Torches and a very special headline performance from Stephanie Cheape, Scotland's new vixen of dark pop before the night comes to a sparkling end with fireworks lifting from Calton Hill.

As part of Edinburgh's Hogmanay renewed partnership with **One City Trust**, 50 pence was donated from every ticket sold for the Torchlight Procession raising over £10,000 for the Trust as the Torchlight Procession Charity Partner.

The sold-out Torchlight Procession marked a stunning start to Edinburgh's Hogmanay 19, with the big events on the 31<sup>st</sup> Dec and 1<sup>st</sup> January still to come. At this point a handful of tickets still remain for the Concert in the Gardens, headlined by Scottish rockers Franz Ferdinand, the Ceilidh under the Castle and the world-famous Street Party hosted by Johnnie Walker. The party continues into New Year's Day with The Loony Dook, Carlos Nunez, the First Footers Ceilidh and Capercaillie in the majestic McEwan Hall and of course, Message from the Skies which runs through to Burns Night.

**Charlie Wood and Ed Bartlam, directors of Edinburgh's Hogmanay said:** "We're so thrilled and honoured to have put young people at the BURNING heart of Scotland at the start of Edinburgh's Hogmanay and the close of the Year of Young People. Edinburgh and SCOTLAND are welcoming the world to its new year celebration. We Love You."

**Edinburgh's Lord Provost, Frank Ross, said:** "What an amazing feeling leading thousands of torchbearers through Edinburgh's Old Town for our annual Torchlight Procession.

"This year's event was even more breath-taking thanks to its fiery finale, which featured hundreds of young Scots arranging their torches in order to create a glowing outline of Scotland.

“It marked the start of our Edinburgh’s Hogmanay celebrations and I hope the 150,000 people who join us over the course of our famous three-day festival enjoy taking part. Happy New Year everyone.”

**Paul Bush OBE, VisitScotland’s Director of Events, said:** “Edinburgh Hogmanay’s incredible Torchlight Procession has once again kick-started three-days of celebrations for those seeking to bring in the New Year in style. Famous the world over for spectacular images of both visitors and locals illuminating the city streets, the event continues to reinforce Scotland as the perfect stage for events.”

“EventScotland is once again proud to support the event, which this year formed a fitting finale for Scotland’s Year of Young People 2018.”

Year of Young People 2018 is a celebration of Scotland’s incredible young people, while giving them a louder platform for their voices to be heard.

Edinburgh’s Hogmanay is supported by City of Edinburgh Council, EventScotland International Events Programme and Scotland’s Winter Festivals Fund and the Year of Young People 2018 Events fund and Creative Scotland through the Scottish Government’s Festivals Expo Fund, all working together to create a bold new Hogmanay for Scotland.

**[edinburghshogmanay.com](http://edinburghshogmanay.com)**

**#edhogmanay**

**@edhogmanay**

**#YOYP2018 @YOYP2018**

**[facebook.com/edinburghshogmanay](https://facebook.com/edinburghshogmanay)**

**IMAGES AVAILABLE [HERE](#)**

**/ENDS**

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

**NOTES TO EDITORS**

**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, Udderbelly 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)

### **The Final 15 #ScotArt Symbols:**

<b>Region</b>	<b>Chosen Symbol</b>
Dunbartonshire + Argyll & Bute	Steam boat on Loch Lomond in front of Ben Lomond
Central Scotland	TV set with thistles for an aerial
Edinburgh & Lothians	Greyfriars Bobby guarding Arthur's Seat
Dumfries & Galloway	Peter Pan and Tinkerbell touching a star over a large open book
Lanarkshire	Coal cart filled with Irn Bru
Renfrewshire	Witches hat with Paisley swirl for the tip
Grampian	Lighthouse with waves spelling out 'Fit like?'
Ayrshire	Tam o' Shanter riding his horse Meg over the Brig o' Doon, pursued by Nannie the Witch
Highlands & The Islands	Stag in a kilt, highland dancing with a dram of Whisky in its hand
Fife	Peacock wearing a crown with the struts of the Queensferry Crossing as its tail feathers
Shetland & Orkney	Viking Puffin
Glasgow	Billy Connolly busking with his banjo
Tayside	Person with Scotland flag at top of Dundee Law
Europe	Patchwork love heart with peace sign behind
Borders	Highland cow with rugby 7s ball on its head

### **The City of Edinburgh Council**

The City of Edinburgh Council has been involved with Edinburgh's Hogmanay since its inception in 1998. The Council is also a core supporter of Edinburgh's 11 Festivals which, alongside major events, enhance residents' quality of life and cultural opportunities, and attracts significant numbers of national and international visitors to the city, along with the world's print, broadcast and online media. Edinburgh Festivals 2015 Impact Study confirms the huge contribution that Edinburgh's Festivals make to the quality of life, international reputation and economic vitality of Edinburgh and Scotland, including attracting audiences of more than 4.5 million and generating an impact of £280m in Edinburgh and £313m in Scotland.

### **Scottish Government – Edinburgh Festivals Expo Fund**

The Edinburgh Festivals Expo Fund assessment process and funding is administered by Creative Scotland, with input from Event Scotland, Scottish Enterprise, Festivals Edinburgh and City of Edinburgh Council.

The 2017/18 EXPO Fund has a budget of £2.1m for Edinburgh's Festivals and £200,000 is provided to Festivals Edinburgh to promote and position Edinburgh as the world's leading festival city.

### **EventScotland**

EventScotland is working to make Scotland the perfect stage for events. By developing an exciting portfolio of sporting and cultural events EventScotland is helping to raise Scotland's international profile and boost the economy by attracting more visitors. For further information about EventScotland, its funding programmes and latest event news visit [www.EventScotland.org](http://www.EventScotland.org). Follow EventScotland on Twitter @EventScotNews.

EventScotland is a team within VisitScotland's Events Directorate, the national tourism organisation which markets Scotland as a tourism destination across the world, gives support to the tourism industry and brings sustainable tourism growth to Scotland. For more information about VisitScotland see [www.visitscotland.org](http://www.visitscotland.org) or for consumer information on Scotland as a visitor destination see [www.visitscotland.com](http://www.visitscotland.com).

### **Year of Young People**

A global first, YoYP 2018 is a part of the Scottish Government's themed-year programme which focuses on celebrating Scotland's greatest assets. A year-long programme of events and festivals are taking place across the whole of the country for all ages to enjoy, led by EventScotland part of VisitScotland's Events Directorate. More information at [www.visitscotland.com/yoyp2018](http://www.visitscotland.com/yoyp2018) Edinburgh's Hogmanay is supported by the Year of Young People 2018 Event Fund, managed by EventScotland, part of the VisitScotland Events Directorate. EventScotland is working with the events and festivals sector to develop an exciting portfolio of Year of Young People 2018 public-facing events which provide opportunities for young people to express themselves through a wide range of activity. Local authorities, schools, youth groups and organisations are running their own YoYP 2018 activity. Search #YOYP2018 on Twitter for the latest news. Young people co-designed the Year. A group of young leaders, Communic18, lead on all key decision making. More than 380 Ambassadors are championing activity. The Year is delivered in partnership between the Scottish Government, VisitScotland and EventScotland - part of the VisitScotland Events Directorate, Young Scot, Scottish Youth Parliament, Children in Scotland, YouthLink Scotland and Creative Scotland. More information can be found at [yoyp2018.scot](http://yoyp2018.scot), searching @YOYP2018 #YOYP2018 on Twitter or by emailing [yoyp2018@gov.scot](mailto:yoyp2018@gov.scot)

### **Creative Scotland**

Creative Scotland is the public body that supports the arts, screen and creative industries across all parts of Scotland on behalf of everyone who lives, works or visits here. We enable people and organisations to work in and experience the arts, screen and creative industries in Scotland by helping others to develop great ideas and bring them to life. We distribute funding provided by the Scottish Government and the National Lottery. For further information about Creative Scotland please visit [www.creativescotland.com](http://www.creativescotland.com). Follow us @creativescots and [www.facebook.com/CreativeScotland](http://www.facebook.com/CreativeScotland)