

# EDINBURGH'S HOGMANAY 19

Press release for immediate use. [Photos here](#)

**Globally renowned street performers, Transe Express brings its French flair on a massive scale to Edinburgh's Hogmanay celebrations thanks to support from the new PLACE programme.**



As a result of support from the **newly established PLACE programme** – a unique three-way partnership between the Scottish Government, the City of Edinburgh Council and the Edinburgh Festivals - Edinburgh's Hogmanay will invite an international arts company to take over and reimagine segments of the iconic Street Party on 31 December each year.

**In its first year the PLACE programme enables Edinburgh's Hogmanay to bring the spectacular French company Transe Express to the world-famous Street Party, where its trademark combination of circus, aerial work, popular, folk and classical music is set to make**

a massive contribution to this year's theme - "We Love You", a celebration of Scotland's ties with Europe.

Although 1 January 2019 marks the start of the year in which Scotland may leave the European Union, Scotland remains part of Europe and so Hogmanay 19 will be a celebration of our continental ties and our shared history and culture. Every year Edinburgh welcomes the world to ring in the New Year in the home of Hogmanay and celebrate Scotland's cultural connections with the world. Transe Express joins other bands, artists and musicians from Europe at Edinburgh's Hogmanay 19 to celebrate our ties with Europe and ask the world to say – "WE LOVE YOU"

For over 25 years Transe Express has been making innovative street performance that is captivating, celebratory, and fun. The company's world-leading street and aerial performance develops ideas that Edinburgh's Hogmanay started last year by bringing spectacular acts, in addition to the bands, to entertain party-goers across the arena.

Striking, colourful and massive opera singers will roll along Princes Street in bulbous skirts singing funky-up famous classical arias to the accompaniment of crazy wild drummers. The anarchic drummers will get up close with revellers getting everyone dancing before taking to the skies like a bedroom mobile suspended 25 metres above the street, banging out their fiesta beats.



This unique PLACE [Platforms for Creative Excellence] programme will provide £400,000 over the next three years, which on top of enabling Edinburgh's Hogmanay to bring leading companies from around the world to Edinburgh, also supports collaborative performance

and professional exchange between these globally renowned international artists and local artists at the world's biggest New Year celebration and the home of Hogmanay.

Each year the world-leading cultural partner will collaborate with Scottish companies to create large-scale interventions along Princes Street, at the heart of the Hogmanay celebrations. In front of crowds of thousands, these innovative partnerships will result not only in new work, but skills development and the exchange of ideas across international boundaries, as well as growth in the organisational capacity, competency and creative practice of all partners.

**This year Transe Express offers interaction and professional development opportunities for Scotland's aerialists in collaboration with All or Nothing Aerial Dance company.** As part of this exchange there will be workshops where Scottish-based aerial artists, some for the first time, will have the opportunity to experience aerial work on a crane and Transe Express's bespoke rigging, exploring the nature of street performance on this scale.

The Programme is funded by the Scottish Government, the City of Edinburgh Council, and the Edinburgh Festivals, and supported and administered by Creative Scotland.

### **Edinburgh's Hogmanay 19 Street Party**

**This year's Street Party hosted by Johnnie Walker is set to be spectacular.** From the moment the doors open at 7:30pm, till long after the midnight bells have fallen silent, bands and DJs, street performers and dancers from Scotland and mainland Europe will all combine to make it the party of a lifetime.

Alongside **Transe Express**, French company **Compagnie Des Quidams** will lead a herd of beautiful larger than life glowing white horses to wind their way along the Princes Street, giant colourful puppets from Spanish-based **El Carromato** will dance through the revelling crowds, and striking stilt-walkers from Dutch theatre company **Close Act**, will add to the carnival atmosphere. **Louise Marshall** returns with her all female **Diva and Districts Pipes and Drums**, aerialists **All or Nothing Aerial Dance Theatre** animate the skies and after their big hit at last year's Street Party the **Got Soul! Choir** return appearing throughout the night to lead the party-goers in song all whilst **PyroCeltica** dazzle with spectacular show of fire theatre embracing Celtic myths and folklore.

Returning to their home city, this year's Street Party Hosts are **Love Island's Aftersun DJs** **The Mac Twins**. Music is at the heart of the Street Party and Edinburgh's Hogmanay 19 brings some of the hottest acts of 2018 to new year revellers across 3 stages. From the home-grown headline phenomenon that is **Gerry Cinnamon** and the best of local bands **Elephant Sessions** and **Miracle Glass Company**, to the classic Ibiza sounds of **Judge Jules** and **Snap!**, there's a whole continent of good times happening out on the street. And whether your taste is indie or Europop, the **Silent Disco** has a playlist for you.

Underbelly has reassembled last year's fantastic creative team of sound, light, audio visual and production designers to build on the Street Party celebrations on the 31<sup>st</sup> December. The team is once again led by **Martin Green**, one of the UK's leading live event producers.

**Charlie Wood and Ed Bartlam, directors of Underbelly who produce Edinburgh's Hogmanay on behalf of City of Edinburgh Council said:** "There are many best bits of working on Edinburgh's Hogmanay but one of the best is being able to ask artists from around the world to be part of it. What PLACE does is allow us to take this to another level - with a programme that will make Edinburgh the ultimate place to see in the new year anywhere in the world. We're delighted that Transe Express have accepted our first invitation and we're confident that they will astound and amaze our audience.

"Thanks to the PLACE programme we're also able to create opportunities with this world-class company for local artists to collaborate and develop their skills and knowledge, and we're delighted that our partner, All or Nothing will work this year with Transe Express and we look forward to presenting their collaboration in just a couple of months time at Edinburgh's Hogmanay."

On the PLACE programme, **Culture Secretary Fiona Hyslop, said:** "The investment is about ensuring Festivals can continue to develop and innovate so they can be world leading in a competitive market, to share the cultural experiences of the Festivals more widely across Scotland and to help more residents and communities of Edinburgh to be part of the Festivals city.

"The Scottish Government is committed to sustaining and improving Edinburgh's position as the world's leading festival city. This partnership will provide £15 million over the next five years and builds on the £21 million we have provided to the Edinburgh Festivals through the Expo fund since 2008."

**Councillor Donald Wilson, Culture and Communities Convener for the City of Edinburgh Council, said:** "Edinburgh's Hogmanay will be the first opportunity to experience the benefits of the PLACE Programme, when Underbelly brings an international arts company to reimagine parts of the city's iconic Street Party. We'll see Transe Express partner with Scottish companies to create an incredible large-scale masterpiece along Princes Street, in front of crowds of thousands.

"This means revellers in Edinburgh will be the first to see this exciting international collaboration, which would not be possible without the joint support of the Council, Scottish Government and Festivals through our pioneering PLACE programme."

## Notes to Editors

**/ENDS**

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

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### **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, Underbelly 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)