



PRESS RELEASE

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**THEATRE ROYAL GLASGOW 150TH ANNIVERSARY
CELEBRATIONS BROUGHT TO A CLOSE WITH
UNVEILING OF NEW SCULPTURE BY SCOTTISH
ARTIST FRASER TAYLOR**

To mark the conclusion of Theatre Royal Glasgow's 150th anniversary celebrations, a new sculpture by Scottish visual artist Fraser Taylor is being unveiled on November 28.

Commissioned by Theatre Royal Glasgow and Scottish Opera and made in the latter's workshop at Edington Street Production Studios, Fraser's sculpture entitled 'Look and Look Again' will be on public display in Theatre Royal's balcony foyer. Made up of seven components, it was inspired by a series of drawings Fraser made while observing the theatre's auditorium, foyer and dramatic spiral staircase and also Scottish Opera rehearsals and performances.

The unveiling next month brings to a close a year of special events for the 150-year-old Theatre Royal, which first opened in 1867. Scottish Opera's Community Choir, conducted by Katy Lavinia Cooper, will be performing in front of invited guests at the event.

Fraser Taylor was raised in Glasgow and studied at Glasgow School of Art and London's Royal College of Art. He moved away from Scotland in 1981 to work in London and America

and has recently returned to Glasgow permanently. Fraser's work has been exhibited in galleries and museums around the world, and last year he was awarded an Honorary Professorship by Glasgow School of Art.

Fraser Taylor said: 'The contrasting architectural styles, both historical and contemporary, provided a wealth of images, forms, shapes and patterns. Theatre Royal invites multiple experiences both socially and performative, encouraging the audience to move through and around the building, enjoying multiple vantage points and vistas.

'Look and Look Again' reflects this involvement. Its seven components are mobile and embrace the idea of being both the observer and the observed. The forms are larger than human scale and have a strong physical and formal relationship to the body. Shapes appear to be looking, peering around corners, and over balconies. The surfaces are rich in colour, pattern, painted brush marks, reflective and mirrored surfaces, all traces of movement and engagement.'

Home to Scottish Opera and Scottish Ballet, Theatre Royal first opened in 1867. It reopened in 1895 following two fires and was bought by Scottish Opera in 1974. A new extension featuring a spiral staircase and roof terrace was added in 2014.

To commemorate Theatre Royal's 150th anniversary, in November 2017 Scottish Opera presented three performances of *Lauder* starring Jamie MacDougall, and a special gala performance of *La traviata*, attended by HRH The Duchess of Gloucester, who has been the Patron of Scottish Opera for over 30 years.

150th anniversary tours around the theatre also took place, and there was a digital memory sharing campaign where audiences, employees and audiences were encouraged to share their memories of the Victorian theatre through the years.

Alex Reedijk, Scottish Opera General Director said: 'Fraser Taylor's keen sense of space and awareness of the human form has resulted in a fascinating combination of sculptures which are a fitting celebration of all the people that have visited Theatre Royal Glasgow over the past 150 years. His international portfolio and talent for skilfully bridging performance with sculpture made him the ideal artist to fulfil this very special commission.'

James Haworth, Theatre Royal Glasgow Theatre Director said: 'We are honoured to unveil Fraser Taylor's sculptures at Theatre Royal as our birthday celebrations draw to a close. It is

a fantastic way to mark the cultural impact of the venue in terms of a showcase for arts, education and architecture. We are extremely lucky to have Fraser create 'Look and Look Again' for us, and I encourage all to come and have a look for themselves.'

Notes to Editors

Fraser Taylor biography

Fraser Taylor was raised in Glasgow, Scotland, and is an interdisciplinary visual artist and educator. After receiving his Bachelor of Arts in printed textiles from Glasgow School of Art, Taylor continued his studies at the Royal College of Art in London where he earned a Master of Arts. In 1983, upon completion of his studies, Taylor co- founded The Cloth, a creative studio focused on exploring fine art and design practices with particular application to contemporary textile design and production. Works from The Cloth are part of the permanent collections of the Victoria and Albert Museum in London and the Art Institute of Chicago. The Cloth disbanded in 1987. Concurrent with and following Taylor's involvement with The Cloth, his work has been exhibited in galleries and museums around the world, including Jill George Gallery, StART SPACE, Fine Art Consultancy, and the Victoria & Albert Museum, London; The Mackintosh Museum, Glasgow School of Art; Studio Pavilion House for an Art Lover, and The Briggait Project Space, Glasgow; Open Eye Gallery, Edinburgh; Gallery Boards, Paris; Galeria Jorge Alcolea, Madrid; Tim Olsen Gallery, Sydney; Axis Gallery, Gallery Aoyama, Sigacho Bis, and SPICA Art, Tokyo; Baryshnikov Art Center, Converso, New York; Museum of Contemporary Art, Balloon, Threewalls, Thomas McCormick Gallery, Bucket Rider Gallery, Alfedena Gallery, mn Gallery, Queer Thoughts, and Hyde Park Art Center, Chicago; Evanston Arts Center, Evanston; Institute of Contemporary Art, Boston; Foster Gallery, HAAS Fine Arts Center at the University of Wisconsin; Sybaris Gallery and Linda Ross Contemporary, Detroit; and Aurobora Press, San Francisco. Since 1983, Taylor has lectured at leading fine art and design institutions of higher learning, including Goldsmiths, University of London, the Royal College of Art, and Central Saint Martins College of Art and Design in London. In 2001 he was appointed the Visiting Artist in the Department of Fiber and Material Studies at the School of the Art Institute of Chicago. In 2017 he was awarded an Honorary Professorship from Glasgow School of Art, University of Glasgow.

Theatre Royal

The Theatre Royal is the oldest theatre in Glasgow and first opened in 1867. The current building dates from 1879 and the auditorium is the largest surviving example of the work of architect Charles Phipps seating 1,541 people.

The Theatre Royal's £14 million revamp was completed in December 2014. The brand foyer area includes a dramatic new entrance, spiralling staircases, a new box office, lift access, a rooftop terrace and the addition of a cafe, 'Vanilla Black at the Theatre'.

Home to both Scottish Opera and Scottish Ballet, the theatre is central to the cultural life of the city. It also presents a variety of dance, drama (including productions from the National Theatre of Scotland), musicals and comedy.

The Theatre Royal is also available to hire for hospitality events, filming, photoshoots, conferences and private events.

Scottish Opera

Scottish Opera is Scotland's national opera company and the largest performing arts organisation in Scotland. It was founded by Alexander Gibson in 1962 and was inaugurated with a production of *Madama Butterfly* at the King's Theatre in Glasgow.

Notable achievements include the world premiere of James MacMillan's *Inés de Castro* at the 1996 Edinburgh International Festival; complete Ring cycles at the 2003 Edinburgh International Festival, which won the 2004 South Bank Show Award for Best Opera Production; and the Achievement in Opera Award at the 2017 UK Theatre Awards for Sir David McVicar's production of Debussy's *Pelléas and Mélisande*. Recent commissions include *Five:15 Operas Made in Scotland* (2008-10); *The Lady from the Sea*, *Clemency*, the double bill of *In the Locked Room* and *Ghost Patrol* (winner of a South Bank Sky Arts Award) which premiered at the 2012 Edinburgh International Festival and 2016's *The Devil Inside* by Stuart MacRae and Louise Welsh. Earlier this year the Company made its US debut with *Bambino* at the Metropolitan Opera New York, and returns to the city's Brooklyn Academy of Music with Turnage's *Greek* in December.

Scottish Opera is committed to bringing the widest possible range of opera, performed to the highest possible standards, to the maximum audience throughout Scotland and the UK.

Each year it performs in Glasgow, Edinburgh, Aberdeen and Inverness, as well as smaller theatres, village halls and community centres throughout the country.

Scottish Opera's Education and Outreach Department was the first of its kind of any opera company in Europe. It operates an extensive programme which involves over 8,000 primary school children every year as well as many other activities including adult learning and *Unwrapped* taster sessions.

Scottish Opera is supported by the Scottish Government.



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