



POMEGRANATES FESTIVAL

HIDDEN FACES

DANCE | MASKS | MUSIC | POETRY

29 APR 2025
18:30

SCOTTISH STORYTELLING CENTRE
43-45 HIGH STREET, EDINBURGH, EH1 1SR

TRADITIONAL
DANCE
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#traddance
#pomegranatesfestival
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“Following my Pomegranates Festival debut last year, I am really honoured to be invited back to direct this year’s finale *Hidden Faces*, plus I am particularly partial to the this year’s festival theme of masks. Traditional dance is important, including masked dance, because it represents living heritage while celebrating difference. I think we’ve reached a period in society where our differences are being used against us; our differences are being used to keep us separated; our differences are being used as judgemental tools. Manufactured polarisation. But our infinite differences define our identities, and still we have more in common than we have apart. Pomegranates Festival celebrates our differences.”

JONZI D

Pomegranates Festival 2024 and 2025 Hip Hop Dance Theatre Artist-in-Residence

POMEGRANATES FESTIVAL IS CURATED BY THE TRADITIONAL DANCE FORUM OF SCOTLAND IN PARTNERSHIP WITH

**TRADITIONAL
DANCE
FORUM OF
SCOTLAND**



THE UNIVERSITY OF EDINBURGH
Social Responsibility & Sustainability



WHY POMEGRANATES?

INTRODUCTION BY ILIYANA NEDKOVA AND WENDY TIMMONS



We are delighted to welcome you to Pomegranates Finale 2025 - a double bill of dance, music, poetry and masks, including *Hidden Faces* directed by **Jonzi D** and co-choreographed by **Emma Ready and Sean Edwards**, preceded by the curtain-raiser **Sequins** performed and choreographed by **Kalubi Mukengela-Jacoby**. A Festival finale sowing the seeds and sequins of international traditional dance in Scotland and culminating in the celebration of UNESCO's International Dance Day (29 April).

Rewinding back to the Pomegranates Festival spoken word commission *Sequins of Poems to Dance To* by **Ian McMillan**, the curtain-raiser *Sequins* is a new solo by **Kalubi Mukengela-Jacoby**, which fuses the alphabet of traditional Congolese dance with hip hop rhythm, haunting soundscapes and spoken word.

In tune with the Pomegranates Festival 2025 theme, this year's finale *Hidden Faces* explores the power of masks used in different traditions. It follows two days of workshoping and acquiring the skills, techniques and confidence of masked dancing, while reflecting on the beauty and mystery of masks in traditional dance from antiquity to modern days, including Venetian Friulian, Tarantella, Buso, Tibetan Opera, Chinese Nuo, Bellydance, Zaouli, Commedia dell'Arte and Hip Hop Breaking.

Just like in the first three years of the Pomegranates Festival, the finale is the outcome of two intensive days of professional development workshops led by artists and creative migrants based in Scotland, including **Tamar, Alena Shmakova, Monica di Ioanni, Inesa Vélavičiūtė, Árpád Vörös, Krisztina & Zsuzsanna Szabone, Yuxi Jiang, Yifeng Zhu, Kalubi Mukengela-Jacoby, Sean Edwards and Emma Ready**.

In addition, *Hidden Faces* is inspired by Venice - the city that gave birth to Antonio Vivaldi and to the mask and merry-making tradition known as the Venice Carnival. The show thus becomes the first opportunity for the newly-commissioned masks by our festival artist-in-residence **Lorraine Pritchard**, Scotland's only mask-maker trained in the Venetian style, to come alive on the stage, dancing to the music of the Venetian maestro Vivaldi and coming to a close with the rapping coda by **Sean Edwards**:

We call the masks of the world,
We call the faces of the soul,
We stand between them —
and we welcome what wants to be revealed.
The masks have spoken,
the faces have danced,
the soul has been seen.
We give thanks.
We release all back to the Mystery.



PROGRAMME

POMEGRANATES FESTIVAL WELCOME

ILİYANA NEDKOVA



MASKS

LORRAINE PRITCHARD

SEQUINS

NEW COMMISSION

CHOREOGRAPHER & DANCER: **KALUBI MUKENGELA-JACOBY**

POETRY AND VOICE: **IAN MCMILLAN**

SOUNDSCAPE: **ROBERT WILLS**

HIDDEN FACES

NEW COMMISSION

DIRECTOR: **JONZI D**

CO-CHOREOGRAPHERS **EMMA READY AND SEAN EDWARDS**

DANCERS: **IONA ADAMSON, ANGEL GODWIN, ANA BLINSTRUBAITE, TING CAI, QIANXI GUO, VALERIA LEVI, YIYA MA, ISLA HAMILTON, KALUBI MUKENGELA-JACOBY, ZIHAN ZHANG, XIAOXUAN ZHONG, EMMA READY, SEAN EDWARDS AND YU XIE**

MASKS: **LORRAINE PRITCHARD**

LIVE MUSIC: **CHRIS LYONS, EMMA JANE LLOYD AND SAMI** INSPIRED BY *THE FOUR SEASONS. OP. 8* BY ANTONIO VIVALDI (1678-1741) AND *APACHE* (1960) BY THE SHADOWS

POST-SHOW Q&A

SEAN EDWARDS AND CREATIVE TEAM

PLEASE NOTE, THE PERFORMANCE IS BEING FILMED, EDITED & SHARED BY TRADITIONAL DANCE FORUM OF SCOTLAND

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EXECUTIVE PRODUCER: TRADITIONAL DANCE FORUM OF SCOTLAND AS PART OF TRADITIONAL ARTS AND CULTURE SCOTLAND (TRACS) | CURATED FOR POMEGRANATES FESTIVAL 2025 | CURATORS/PRODUCERS: **WENDY TIMMONS AND ILİYANA NEDKOVA** | ARTIST-IN-RESIDENCE: **LORRAINE PRITCHARD** | SOUND & PROJECTION: **RODDY SIMPSON** | VIDEO AND PHOTOGRAPHY: **MARE TRALLA AND BASYA VOLODARSKAYA** | CURATORIAL SUPPORT: **XIAOXUAN ZHONG, JINGYIN CAI AND YU XIE** | PR AND PUBLICITY: **EMMA HENDERSON** | SOCIAL MEDIA: **ALISON HARM** | INSTITUTIONAL SUPPORT: SCOTTISH STORYTELLING CENTRE, MORAY HOUSE SCHOOL OF EDUCATION AND SPORT, UNIVERSITY OF EDINBURGH