



*****STRICTLY EMBARGOED UNTIL 00:01hrs WEDNESDAY 18 JAN 2012*****

GLASGOW CELEBRATES TEN YEARS OF LAUGHTER

Glasgow International Comedy Festival Unveils Tenth Anniversary Line-Up

Glasgow will celebrate the city's famous sense of humour once again this spring as the Glasgow International Comedy Festival, Europe's premier comedy event, returns for its tenth year.

The city will play host to a bumper gathering of some of the world's most in-demand comedians when the festival rolls into town from 15 March to 1 April 2012 with nearly 100,000 tickets available for more than 300 shows across 40 venues.

Funded by Glasgow City Marketing Bureau and Event Scotland, over the last decade the festival has become a city and Scottish institution. Over 600,000 tickets have been sold and more than 2,000 comedians have graced the many stages the festival provides throughout the city over the last ten years.

This year boasts the best programme yet with more big name shows than ever before. The festival's official tenth anniversary line-up was revealed today unveiling a variety of top stand-up, sketch, music, theatre, TV and film performers from around the world.

Household names like Sarah Millican, Dara O'Briain, Rory Bremner, and Jenny Eclair are among the big acts performing at venues across the city this year. Nightly stand-up at the city's largest theatre, The Kings, includes stars like Stewart Lee, Ardal O'Hanlon and Dorothy Paul. A gala charity night on 19th March brings together two of Scotland's biggest stars – Frankie Boyle and Greg McHugh (Gary Tank Commander) to raise funds for Palestine.

The festival also provides a platform for up and coming comedy talent, from the Red Raw beginners' showcases at The Stand Comedy Club, to solo shows from rising stars like Josh Widdicombe, who will also take to The Stand's stage, and Jon Richardson, who will play the Garage. Due to overwhelming demand, Scotland's hottest new talent Daniel Sloss will be performing two shows at the King's Theatre.



2012 sees the festival champion a host of top home grown comedy performers including favourites Des Clarke, Raymond Mearns, Janey Godley, and Craig Hill.

This year will welcome a fresh crop of international talent. The yanks are coming in a US comedy invasion led by Michael Winslow (Police Academy), Doug Stanhope and Rich Hall. And the festival has teamed up with United Airlines to fly over a bunch of the best new US talent for the America Stands Up showcase on 31st March. Canadian TV favourite Tom Stade and German native and BBC Radio 4 personality Henning Wehn add to the global mix.

One decade on and the festival has helped catapult Glasgow on to the map as a destination for entertainment. It is even easier to visit Glasgow's carnival of comedy with travel partners United Airlines, Easyjet, Virgin Trains and P&O Ferries on board to help shuttle fun-loving punters from near and far.

Tommy Sheppard, Director of the Scottish Comedy Agency, the company behind the festival, said: "Each year the Glasgow International Comedy Festival becomes even more anticipated than the last. It is now a major date in the cultural calendar not just for Scotland, but throughout the UK.

"This year we'll celebrate ten years of the festival which is a fantastic achievement and shows what a perfect match Glasgow and comedy is. In conjunction with Glasgow City Marketing Bureau and Event Scotland we have been promoting the festival in London and attracting visitors to Scotland; more than ever, this is a great year to visit Glasgow. The calibre of comedians we have had grace the festival over the years has been tremendous and this year is no exception. We're very happy that we are still putting smiles on people's faces, especially in such tough economic conditions."

Councillor Gordon Matheson, Leader of Glasgow City Council and Chair of Glasgow City Marketing Bureau, said: "Glasgow International Comedy Festival has grown to become Europe's premier comedy event over the past 10 years.

"Year-on-year it has attracted increasing numbers of visitors and has brought some of the greatest comedy performers in the world to our city; gaining an enviable reputation as 'unmissable' among locals and visitors alike. Not only does this generate significant benefits for Glasgow's economy, it also demonstrates the city's ability to successfully host major international events.



“Glaswegians are renowned the world over for their hospitality and good humour, which makes Glasgow a natural home for this event; it perfectly encapsulates the city’s personality. This year’s Festival boasts another stellar line-up from home and abroad, which will reinforce its reputation on the global comedy circuit. With more than 300 shows over 40 venues, visitors are in for a real treat.”

Paul Bush OBE, Chief Operating Officer for EventScotland said: “Over the past ten years the Glasgow Comedy Festival has gone from strength to strength; showcasing Scotland as the perfect stage for events by attracting some of the world’s top comedians. In 2012 we are celebrating the Year of Creative Scotland, with the festival giving audiences the chance to see some of the country’s top comedic talents perform.”

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FURTHER INFORMATION:

Press release issued by Beattie Communications on behalf of Glasgow International Comedy Festival

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NOTES TO EDITOR:

- The **Glasgow International Comedy Festival** was established in 2003 and is now entering its tenth year.
- The Glasgow International Comedy Festival is supported by main funder, Glasgow City Marketing Bureau
- The festival is organised by the Scottish Comedy Agency, a sister company of Salt’n’Sauce Promotions Ltd, which owns and operates the highly successful Stand Comedy Clubs in Edinburgh and Glasgow.
- Tickets for all shows are available via the respective venue’s own box offices or direct from the festival ticket hotline on 0844 395 4005

Glasgow City Marketing Bureau is the official destination marketing organisation (DMO) for metropolitan Glasgow. It is engaged in national and international activity comprising: development and implementation of the city branding campaign **Glasgow: Scotland with style**; event creation, attraction, management and marketing; conventions, incentives, meetings and exhibition sales; accommodation bookings, public relations and optimisation of the website: www.seeglasgow.com.

EventScotland:

EventScotland is the national events agency. EventScotland is working to make Scotland one of the world’s leading event destinations. 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.

About the Year of Creative Scotland 2012:

The Year of Creative Scotland began on January 1, 2012 and is a chance to showcase, celebrate and promote Scotland's cultural and creative strengths on a world stage. 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.