

# Refresh Now

Art, craft, music and performance | Online and across Shetland

April 2021



[shetlandarts.org/refreshnow](https://shetlandarts.org/refreshnow)



## Fifteen new commissions to put a Spring in your step this April.

Refresh Now brings together Shetland grown talent for a celebration of culture this Spring. From specially commissioned films to live performances, we hope you enjoy our season of happenings.

Unless stated, all events take place online via Shetland Arts social media pages, and on the Refresh Now landing page throughout April. There's also a handy calendar on the page!

Works will be premiered across our YouTube, Facebook and IGTV channels, with all works available to view online until Monday 31 May.



Shetland Arts



@shetlandarts



@shetland\_arts

**[shetlandarts.org/refresh now](https://shetlandarts.org/refresh-now)**

Bringing together music, theatre and visual arts, this season of events is funded through Creative Scotland's Performing Venues Relief Fund and supported by Shetland Charitable Trust.



Funded by



**Shetland  
Charitable Trust**

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## Sonic Interactions

Renzo Spiteri

**These four video works premiering across April from artist, musician and composer Renzo Spiteri will explore new forms of composition, installation and performance aesthetics, featuring playful recordings and soundings from four outdoor sites across Shetland.**



[www.renzospiteri.com](http://www.renzospiteri.com)



[www.soundmigrations.com](http://www.soundmigrations.com)



[@sound\\_migrations](https://www.instagram.com/sound_migrations)



[@SoundMigrations](https://www.facebook.com/SoundMigrations)



[@SoundMigrations](https://twitter.com/SoundMigrations)

**Video pieces launch online on**

01.04.21, 08.04.21,

15.04.21 & 22.04.21 at 9am

**Screening at Sumburgh Airport  
& Northlink Ferry Terminal from**

01.04.21 - 22.04.21

“Rural environments in Shetland are a profound source of inspiration to me. I feel that it is the distinct atmospheres that such places transmit the particular scenario of stillness, quietness and the predominance of the natural environment that resonate with me in a unique manner.”

Working between Shetland and Malta, Renzo is a creative musician with a performance career spanning more than 30 years.

# Da Flit

Christie Williamson,  
Chris Stout  
& Sandra Voe

**Poet Christie Williamson,  
Shetland fiddler  
Chris Stout and actress  
Sandra Voe collaborate in a  
new sound piece to reimagine  
the migration of Christie's  
great-great grandmother from  
the island of Foula to Walls on  
the Shetland mainland, in a  
tapestry of poetry, new music  
and field recordings.**

A renowned trio of talent team up for this adventurous piece. Sandra, who voices *Da Flit*, is a Shetland born actress with a successful career in film, television and theatre, with credits including *Local Hero* and *Breaking the Waves*.



damagnifyingless.wordpress.com



@ChristieWilliamsonPoet



@peeriemagnie



@stoutfiddle



@chrisstoutmusic



@ChrisStoutMusic

**Sound piece launches online on**

02.04.21 at 10am

**Screening at Shetland Museum**

**Boat Hall from 02.04.21 - 11.04.21**

Free timed entry can be booked at

[www.shetlandmuseumandarchives.org.uk](http://www.shetlandmuseumandarchives.org.uk)



“This sound piece reimagine da journey o Lilies Christie fae Foula to Waas weaves recordings o da North Atlantic soundscape - wind, waves, rain and creaking timbers - wi original multi linguistic poetry written by her great-great-grandson, voiced by he and fellow descendant of Lilies Christie, Sandra Voe. Original fiddle music composed by Stout especially for this project will complete the evocation of migration by sea to the audience.”

- Christie Williamson

# The Muckle Stane

Gilly Bridle,  
Jen Hadfield &  
Jenny Sturgeon

**Video piece launches online on**

07.04.21 at 10am

**Screening at Bonhoga from**

07.04.21 - 18.04.21

Free timed entry can be booked at

[tickets.shetlandarts.org/sales](https://tickets.shetlandarts.org/sales)

**In the village of Stanewick, folk love to talk. They love to gossip, to tell tall tales and to help each other ... and when they have a problem no-one can solve, they look to the hills. But when they learn to tell the time, nature has to come to the villagers to sort things out.**

Enjoy a short animated film for all the family. With story by poet Jen Hadfield, handmade light puppets and paper-cuts from artist Gilly B, and rich soundscape of melody, song and field recordings from artist and musician Jenny Sturgeon, you won't want to miss it!



[www.gilly-b.com](http://www.gilly-b.com)



@gillybridle



@GillyBdesigns



[rogueseeds.blogspot.com](http://rogueseeds.blogspot.com)



@jenandherowl



@hadfield\_jen



[jennysturgeonmusic.com](http://jennysturgeonmusic.com)



@jennysturgeonmusic



@jennysturgeonmusic



Jenny Sturgeon





Vivian is an artist working from Shetland. She adopts a collaborative and systematic approach to making and sharing through performance, painting, textiles and the digital. Her work creates space to discuss island life from a contemporary, fine art context and explores the textures, qualities and values of material and space.



## The Island is The Gallery

Vivian Ross-Smith

**Artist Vivian Ross-Smith will appear across Shetland for three site specific outdoor performances. Audiences are encouraged to have non-verbal conversations with the living artwork, as they contemplate the space it inhabits.**



vivianrosssmith.com



@vrosssmith

### Live performances on

**10.04.21** at Harrison Square,  
Lerwick (11am – 12.30pm)

**17.04.21** at B9071, Gonfirth  
(11am – 12.30pm) [Latitude:  
60.338438, Longitude: -1.318864]

**24.04.21** at St Ninian's Isle  
(11am – 12.30pm)

Don't worry if you can't make it!  
Vivian will also be releasing a series  
of shorts after the performances  
which highlight the work.

Look out for a video on 01.04.21 too,  
which will give you a peerie teaser!



**Video launches online on**  
10.04.21 at 7pm

## Peter Alec Trio

**Featuring Peter Alec Kay (Guitar/Vocals), Steven Anderson (Bass/Vocals) and Douglas Stevenson (Percussion), the trio will play songs moulded over a few years of jamming sessions and meet ups. Their styles and influences vary greatly, from R&B/Neo-Soul/Funk/Rock to more traditional styles such as Folk/Shetland fiddle.**

 @\_peteralec\_

“Out of the many musicians I have performed with over the years, I’ve probably spent most of that time with Steven and Douglas. They are amazing musicians and we have a great understanding of each other. The pandemic has sadly brought the much of creative industry to a standstill for way too long. Playing music, with other humans, is something I have greatly missed.”

- Peter Alec Kay







## Ten Tonne Dozer

Formed in 2005 by Aussie frontman Dave Kok and local lad Jamie Duncan (lead guitarist), Ten Tonne Dozer are a powerful groove metal unit who are one of the UK's most northern heavy rock acts. The band features features Jamie Duncan (Lead Guitar), Dave Kok (Vocals), Keith Neill (Drums), Jamie Dalziel (Guitar) and Barrie Scobie (Bass).

**Video launches online on**  
11.04.21 at 7pm

“This is a fantastic opportunity for Ten Tonne Dozer, after years of supporting ourselves and representing Shetland everywhere we go on tour, writing and working with original music only and having never played a cover live, it will hopefully give the band a little bit of well earned recognition for our continual hard work towards Shetland heavy rock.”

- Dave Kok



[www.reverbnation.com/tentonnedozer](http://www.reverbnation.com/tentonnedozer)



@tentonnedozer

# The Stoals

**Video launches online on**  
17.04.21 at 7pm

The Stoals are a four piece rock outfit, playing melodic indie rock and bringing together a combination of different influences to make their music. The band is made up of Scott Tomlinson (Lead Vocals/Rhythm Guitar), Tom Smith (Bass), Callum Anderson (Lead Guitar) and John Gair (of Forgotten Sons, filling in on Drums).



Search on Spotify



@thestoals



@thestoals



@TheStoals

“Refresh Now will give us with so much material and also document all the work we’ve been doing over lockdown - a triumphant example of how, even when morale was rock bottom, we never gave in and kept pushing to improve.”

- The Stoals









## Sheer

**Video launches online on**  
18.04.21 at 7pm

With a sound which could be described as a mixture of grunge and alternative rock influences, Sheer are a four piece alternative hard rock band formed and located in Shetland, featuring Josh Smith (Vocals), Brydon Sales (Guitar), Ewan Moncrieff (Drums) and Scott Priest (Bass). Ewan, Brydon and Scott studied HNC Music at Mareel together in 2017 and formed the band not long after playing the first Student Night.

“Our goals for the future are to play more regular gigs and establish a foothold in the music scene off-island. We would also love to collaborate with other local bands and arrange shows together once the situation allows.”

 Search on Spotify  
 @sheer\_uk  
 @SheerShetland  
 Sheer UK

- Sheer

# Deliver: Double Bill

Da Choys

**Created and presented by Da Choys (Jacqui Birnie and Kathy Hubbard). The writing and performing duo chose the theme of 'deliver' for two short, complementary performance pieces, having pondered on its importance and significance in contemporary society.**

**Recorded performance launches on 19.04.21 at 7pm**



## For the Love of Che

written by Jacqui Birnie

A postal delivery goes wrong and Alice finds herself in the police station answering questions that become increasingly weird. Why would an empty Che Guevara metal tin get you into trouble? Why would an online shopping obsession with accompanying credit card bills be questioned so much? As the penny starts to drop and Alice realises that she is unwittingly at the centre of a criminal delivery supply chain how will she wriggle her way out of ending up in jail –and at the same time deal with the credit card bills!

## How Did We Do?

written by Kathy Hubbard

Tom and Denise work in the dispatch office of a small courier firm somewhere in the north of Scotland. It is May 2020, two months into the global COVID-19 pandemic and the company is under relentless pressure to get vital supplies to where they are needed. But the universe -and in particular, the decisions taken by central government -is against them at every turn.

The piece is dedicated to Martin H, a hero of the pandemic.

**Film launches online on**

21.04.21 at 10am

**Screening at Bonhoga from**

21.04.21 - 02.05.21

Free timed entry can be booked at

[tickets.shetlandarts.org/sales](https://tickets.shetlandarts.org/sales)

## Wildie & Lalla

Catriona Macdonald  
& Shona Main

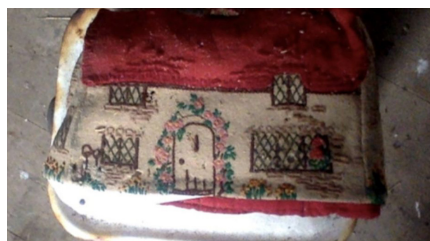
**This new musical composition and film from fiddler Catriona Macdonald and filmmaker Shona Main will view Unst-born Jessie M. E. Saxby as a woman, writer, folklorist and mother through the lens of contemporary female creative practice.**

“‘Wildie’ was the pet name given to Jessie by her father Laurence Edmondston, when she grew up in the house and and gardens of Halligarth, Baltasound, Unst. Jessie moved away to the Scottish mainland, for the benefit of her husband Dr Henry Saxby’s health, and after his early and untimely death, she lived in Edinburgh with her surviving children, for most of her adult life.”

“However, before she left Unst, Jessie experienced, like many other women of the period the loss of a much-loved child: their only daughter Laura, ‘Lalla’. Extraordinarily, unlike many other mothers of this time Saxby was able to articulate her own grief and loss via her own creative practice, writing an intimate portrayal of her child’s death in her 1875 book ‘The One Wee Lassie’.

Jessie returned to Unst in 1898, to her final home ‘Wulvers Hool’ which was built in direct view of Halligarth and Lalla’s resting place. Her final written works foreground her lifelong interest in Shetland folklore and cultural heritage, and I hope that this new creative work based on themes of her lived experiences will further elevate her as an important female figure in the cultural history of our islands.”

- Catriona Macdonald





# A Life of Wir Choosin Islesburgh Drama Group

**Hear a friendship develop among the barrels and creels of Shetland and Yarmouth in this new play adapted for radio, performed by Islesburgh Drama Group.**

“The play about women’s emancipation at the turn of the century and shows how different life was for the Shetland Gutter Lasses from the life behind doors of a Suffolk Mansion. The 30 minute audio is accompanied by traditional music and photographs of the period by permission of Shetland Museums and Archives.”

- Jennie Atkinson

**Radio play launches online on**  
23.04.21 at 7pm

## **Cast List**

Emily - Stephenie Pagulayan

Chrissy - Morag Mouat

Lizzy - Mandy Phillips

Betty - Zoe Galbraith

Esme - Joyce Williamson

Leely - Amber Thomson

Jasper - Fraser Wood

Constable - Stanley Manson

Willie - David Smith

Paul - Martin Summers

Martin - Karl Ward

**Writer** Lesley Leslie

**Producer /Director**

Jennie Atkinson

 [islesburghdramagroup.com](http://islesburghdramagroup.com)

 [@IslesburghDramaGroup](https://www.instagram.com/IslesburghDramaGroup)

 [@IslesburghDramaGroup](https://www.facebook.com/IslesburghDramaGroup)



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Shetland Arts



“Our music is popular in Scandinavian and Nordic countries, we have discussed playing some festivals and gigs and hope to get a tour arranged (if Covid ever allows!) - Refresh Now is a good opportunity to have something to share outside of Shetland so we can promote our gigs when we are able to play in person again.”

- Grimlok

**Video launches online on**  
24.04.21 at 9pm

## Grimlok

Grimlok are a grindcore duo from Shetland with the attention span of approx two minutes! Their music follows the general definition of Grindcore using riffs at furious speed with some groove infused breakdowns played at FULL volume, their songs range from 30 seconds to 2 minutes. They feature Matthew Robertson (Bass/baritone) and Rory Dalziel (Drums).





## The Rag Tree

### Open Door Drama Group

**Written and directed by John Haswell, the play was written for Shetland Youth Theatre in the 1990's and remains disturbingly relevant today.**

First written and performed in 1995, 'The Rag Tree' is notionally set in Pre-Christian Scotland. It was a reaction to the intolerant, ignorant and reactionary attitudes surrounding AIDs. It is a tragedy that with Covid 19 it is relevant today.

**Recorded performance launches on** 26.04.21 at 7pm

#### **Cast**

Makar - Shaela Halcrow  
Dearshul - Heather Mowat  
Mother - Hermione Boyes  
Seer - Barnum Smith

#### **Recorded Cast**

Stranger/Spirit - Donald Anderson  
Leader - Bob Lowes  
Girl - Martha Robertson

#### **Chorus**

Torana Bland, Alfie Boyes, Michael Boyes, Kirsten Cook, Nicola Finch, Nicola Fleck, Doug Forrest, Margaret Forrest, Carol Jamieson, Jenny Klimes, Matthew Lawrence, Caroline Williamson-Leask, Lesley Leslie, Jenny McDonald, Milky Milkinson, Debra Nicholson, Ciara North, Craig Odie, Hilary Smith, Iain Souter, Izzy Swanson, Marsali Taylor, Ann Thomson, Ted Watson, Hannah Whiley, Molly William

**Assistant Director** Izzy Swanson

**Audio** Bob Lowes

**Artwork** Laura Hughes

**Wardrobe** Izzy Swanson

**With thanks to** Gaada Artist Studios, Walls Community Hall, Lerwick Methodist Church

# The Imposters

**Recorded performance  
launches on 28.04.21 at 7pm**

The Imposters will be performing an exciting, socially distanced and entirely improvised comedy show pre-recorded at The Garrison. The Imposters are Shetland's only improvised comedy troupe and have been performing together since 2016. The current line-up features Marjolein Robertson, Ashlea Tulloch, Alex Garrick-Wright, Matthew Simpson, Les Sinclair and Thomas Jones.

We'll be taking suggestions for the show at the start of April, so watch out!

 @ShetlandComedy

 @shetlandcomedy

 @ShetlandComedy



# You Made Me: 'Oliver'

Islesburgh Drama  
Group

**A one act play sets out as an exploration of misogyny,  
Written by Stephenie  
Pagulayan and Directed/  
Produced by Morag Mouat.**

“You Made Me’ is a series of new contemporary plays I have been working on since 2019. The original one act play, which we will be staging for Refresh Now set out as an exploration of misogyny, its definition and origins inspired by witnessing perceived misogynistic behaviour in our community. I was taken aback by the reaction and reluctance people have to this term in everyday discussion, even when such behaviours are clearly visible or indeed personally experienced by people.”



islesburghdramagroup.com



@IslesburghDramaGroup



@IslesburghDramaGroup

**Recorded performance  
launches on 30.04.21 at 7pm**



“I hope the experience of staging one of the plays with Islesburgh Drama Group will enhance the ongoing work to develop the collection. Currently one of the six plays is complete, three are at the final draft stage and two are still in storyboard development.”

- Stephenie Pagulayan



## About the commissions

### Refresh Now 1

During the autumn of 2020, Shetland Arts put out a call for commissions for artists based in Shetland, or with strong island links, to create new works that would explore inventive methods and non-traditional and digital media to respond to the challenges in creating performance.

The successful projects were - A Life of Wir Choosin, Da Flit, Sonic Interactions, The Island is The Gallery, The Muckle Stane, and Wildie & Lalla.

### Refresh Now 2

In the second phase of the project, we commissioned performers and groups to reactivate The Garrison Theatre for Spring.

The successful projects were - Delivery Note, The Imposters, The Rag Tree and You Made Me.

### Refresh Now 3

In the third phase of the project, we commissioned bands and musicians making contemporary and non-traditional music and based in Shetland to record a live performance film, with an accompanying EP.

The successful bands were - Grimlok, Peter Alec Trio, Sheer, The Stoals and Ten Tonne Dozer.

### Refresh Now 4

The final set of Refresh Now commissions are new works from Shetland's artists and makers which will be available to purchase from Shetland Arts' retail outlets later this year.

## And finally...

A huge thank you to our filming team - Simon Thompson, JJ Jamieson, Liz Musser, Keiba Clubb, Dave Donaldson, Jonathan Bulter, and Vaila Walterson. And to you! For watching at home. Remember to share, and give feedback by messaging us on our social channels.



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