

PRESS INFORMATION

Tuesday 6th May, 2014

goNORTH Festival Wednesday 4th June & Thursday 5th June, 2014

FREE at venues across Inverness

CREATIVE CAVALCADE SET TO HIT INVERNESS

A creative boom is set to explode across the Highland capital of Inverness next month when the annual goNORTH Festival rolls into town.

The two-day long conference and showcase event, which will be held at venues across the city centre on **Wednesday 4th and Thursday 5th June 2014**, promises to be bigger and brighter than ever.

The yearly festival covers all the creative industries, from fashion and craft to music, screen, broadcast and publishing. A key theme this year will be the future of digital and how it affects those working across all creative sectors.

The festival's opening keynote speech will be given by Neil Cartwright, former head of New Media at Sony Music UK and now managing director of digital marketing agency, Million Media, whose clients have included; *Jamiroquai*, *Channel 4* and *The Prodigy*. Cartwright was recently named in the *Courvoisier Future 500* as one of 500 people who will help shape the future of the UK.

This year, for the first time in its 14-year-history, videogames will feature on the goNORTH programme, highlighting the importance of the industry to the economy of the Highlands and Islands. In collaboration with the *Scottish Games Network*, top game studio, Elgin-based *Hunted Cow*, will be creating a gaming playground in the foyer of an Inverness hotel, while leading figures in the videogame industry will gather for a 'Gaming Masterclass', later that day.

A major fashion event on the opening night of the festival also promises to put the work of Highlands and Islands-based designers firmly on the map.

As part of a short film showcase, top Scots crime writer, Denise Mina, will be showing *Multum in Parvo*, a short documentary film about her extended family made on an iPhone.

The Scottish premier of a unique online collaborative feature, *50 Kisses*, will also take place at goNORTH. Another highlight is an 'in-conversation' event with former *Skids* frontman, Richard Jobson, who epitomises the pioneering creative spirit of goNORTH.

Jobson was just 17 when he became a singer with legendary Dunfermline punk band, *The Skids* in 1977. He has gone on to work as poet, model, actor, TV presenter and now film director working on his own scripts.

New music, as always, lies at the heart of the festival, and this year, as well as showcasing the work of home-grown musical talent, organisers have worked with international partners to bring a selection of top international talent to Inverness.

Artists who will be taking part in the music showcase events across venues in Inverness on both nights include:

- **Siobhan Wilson** Glasgow-based singer-songwriter who is originally from Elgin
- **Neon Waltz**, Caithness-based six piece-band described by *NME* as 'the most promising new British band we've heard all year'
- **Broken Records**, 'the UK's answer to *Arcade Fire*' according to *The Guardian*
- **Miaoux Miaoux**, indie-tronic Glasgow-based producer Julian Corrie * **Eleanor Nicolson**, Lewis-based 16-year-old schoolgirl singer/songwriter
- **Hector Bizerk** Glasgow hip hop band, recently nominated onto long-list of Scottish Album of the Year
- **F**k Art Let's Dance**, cult indie-via-dance outfit from Hamburg

Announcing details of goNORTH 2014, director Amanda Millen said: "The boundaries between the creative industries are narrowing and this is coming across loud and clear in our programme this year.

"The skills and disciplines required for making a successful album, videogame, film or hit television series, for example, are also required in publishing and in fashion. If people have the energy and the passion, we can direct them to the right people and places.

"This year, we've a host of leading industry players in the field of fashion, music, gaming, screen, broadcast and publishing and the fact goNORTH is free to anyone who wishes to register makes it one of the most inclusive events of its kind in the UK."

Highlights of goNORTH will be broadcast over the course of the festival by Radio goNORTH, a two-week long training course for aspiring radio broadcasters.

Notes to editors:

About goNORTH Festival

- goNORTH Festival 2014 takes place on Wednesday 4th & Thursday 5th June across Inverness city centre
- For information on RadioGonorth visit www.radiogonorth.com
- goNORTH Festival video trailer: <http://www.youtube.com/user/goNORTHFestival>
- goNORTH was originally launched in 2001 to provide a platform for artists from the north of Scotland to showcase for music industry and media representatives
- goNORTH is now firmly established as Scotland's leading creative industries festival
- goNORTH is funded by Highlands and Islands Enterprise and the European Regional Development Fund (ERDF)

WEB: www.gonorthfestival.co.uk
TWITTER: @gonorthfest
FACEBOOK: www.facebook.com/gonorthinverness
HASHTAG: #gonorth2014

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