



University
of Glasgow

Royal
Conservatoire
of Scotland

In association with John Tiffany

She's Behind You

Pavilion Theatre, Glasgow

Sunday 19th January 2025



Johnny McKnight

Johnny McKnight is an award-winning writer, director, educator, dramaturg and performer. He has been described as the 'vanguard of post-modernist panto', with 31 productions. His recent production of *Aganeza Scrooge* (Tron Theatre) won Best Panto (under 500 seats) at the UK Pantomime Awards 2024, whilst *Aladdin* (Macrobert) was awarded *Special Achievement In Inclusive Practice* at the same Awards. His theatre work includes the recent tour of *101 Dalmatians (Runaway Entertainment)* and *No Love Songs* (Dundee Rep) which played at the Goodspeed Terris Theatre, Connecticut, USA. Recent directing credits include: *Radiant Vermin* (Tron Theatre); *Thrown* (National Theatre of Scotland/Edinburgh International Festival); *Aladdin* (Macrobert) and *Peter Panto & The Incredible Stinkerbell* (Tron Theatre). Johnny also writes for the screen and his 20th Anniversary Special of *River City* for BBC Scotland won the 2024 Royal Television Award (Scotland) for Best Drama. Johnny holds the teaching position of Reader on the Playwriting/Screenwriting course at the University of St Andrews.

Dr John Tiffany, OBE

John Tiffany graduated from the University of Glasgow in 1994 with an MA in Theatre and Classics. He was Associate Director of the National Theatre of Scotland from its inception in 2006 until 2013 and enjoys a stellar career in theatre, winning armfuls of Olivier Awards and Tonys for his productions. His credits include the internationally successful productions *Harry Potter and the Cursed Child*, *The Glass Menagerie* and the musical *Once*. He created *Black Watch* for the National Theatre of Scotland, widely regarded as one of the seminal theatre works of the 21st century. John was awarded an Honorary Doctorate by the University of Glasgow in 2017 for his contribution to theatre and in 2018 he was awarded an OBE for services to drama. John's new production of *Wild Rose* opens at the Royal Lyceum Edinburgh in March 2025. *Wild Rose*, written by Nicole Taylor, is a new stage musical based on the Bafta-winning country music film of the same name.



The Cameron Lecture

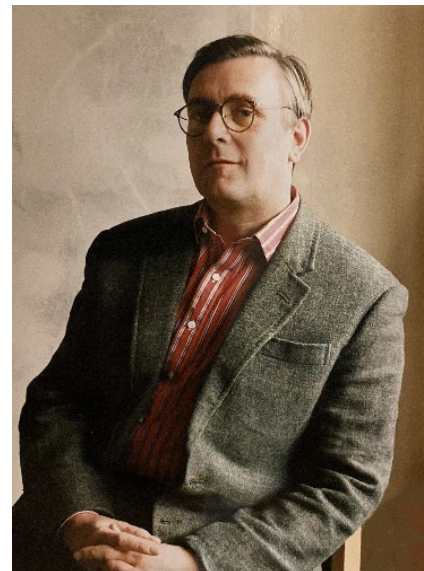
She's Behind You is the second in a series of lectures, devised and supported by John Tiffany under the banner of The Cameron Lecture, to honour the life and achievements of the late Dr Alasdair Cameron. The Cameron Lecture is devised in partnership with the University of Glasgow, Royal Conservatoire of Scotland, Robin Cameron and the Cameron Family. The ongoing series commends the special qualities of Scotland's dynamic and provocative theatre and performance creators, the unique heritage of the performing arts in Scotland and the important impact they continue to have across the globe.

The first Cameron Lecture was given by actor Alan Cumming, in the magnificent Bute Hall at the University of Glasgow, in December 2019. The second Cameron Lecture, *She's Behind You*, was originally mounted in the Bute Hall in February 2024, the year that marked the 30th anniversary of Alasdair Cameron's untimely death.

Dr Cameron was a renowned, much-admired and influential scholar and teacher in the University of Glasgow's Department of Theatre Studies, as well as a champion of Scottish theatre. His former student, the Theatre Director John Tiffany, has created *She's Behind You* to celebrate the life-changing tutor who inspired him to follow a career in the theatre.

Dr Alasdair Cameron

Alasdair Cameron was born on the 2nd March 1953. He was the eldest of three children and attended Kilmarnock Academy. Initially, he went on to the University of Stirling, before transferring to the University of Glasgow in 1972. The report from the Dean at Stirling said that Alasdair had not "done himself justice" at Stirling, but that he might "flourish and do good work" at another institution. At Glasgow, Alasdair did just that, winning the 1st prize in his drama class in 1972-3. He graduated with an MA in Drama and English Literature in 1976. Alasdair went on to a PhD at the University of Warwick researching the repertory theatre movement in Britain between 1907 and 1919, and then took an MA in Arts Administration at City, University of London. This was followed by a stint in management at London's Cockpit Theatre. When Alasdair returned to Glasgow in 1984, it was to take up a teaching position in the University of Glasgow's Theatre Studies Department. He was later promoted to a Senior Lecturer position. Alasdair became a leading voice and champion for Scottish theatre and a keen advocate for a Scottish National Theatre, celebrating what had gone before, and inspiring others to create anew. He chaired the boards of Clyde Unity and Big Stramash Theatre Companies, the New Moves Festival, was on the advisory board of TAG Theatre Company and, shortly before his death, had been invited to chair the board of the newly-established Glasgay. Many of his students went on to jobs in theatre, including those who started their own companies.



In June 1994, Alasdair died after a short illness. He was 41. Within a year of his death, those he had influenced came together at the Citizens Theatre to perform *Tartan Trifles*, a celebration of Scottish theatre and variety. *Tartan Trifles* was the inaugural event aimed at raising funds for The Alasdair Cameron Scholarship which exists to support the creation of a piece of performance by a recent graduate or senior student of Theatre Studies at the University of Glasgow. To date, The Alasdair Cameron Scholarship has supported over 20 students to create a new piece of original theatre.

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