

XpoNorth 2015
MEDIA INFORMATION
Thursday 22nd January 2015



WINDOW OPENS FOR CREATIVE SCOTS

Scotland's leading creative industries festival is urging filmmakers and musicians to apply now to be part of a showcase which places emerging talent in front of key creative industries players from across the globe.

The annual Inverness-based **XpoNorth** festival, which until last year was known as goNORTH, will take place this year on **Wednesday 10th and Thursday 11th June** at venues across the Highland capital.

It is free for the public to attend and its aim is to boost creative careers in crafts and publishing, as well as screen, broadcast and music across the Highlands and Islands of Scotland.

At a special launch event as part of *Celtic Connections' Showcase Scotland* in Glasgow today (Thursday 22nd January), it will be announced that musicians and filmmakers looking to be part of the festival's all-important showcase events have from today until Friday 3rd April to apply.

Guests at the historic Glasgow Art Club will be entertained with an exclusive set by up-and-coming Mull-based singer-songwriter, *Sorren Maclean*, before his high-profile gig at Glasgow's Royal Concert Hall on Saturday (24th January) night with Canadian five-piece band, *Fish & Bird*.

Maclean is about to embark on a major nationwide tour with Fife-based *King Creosote* before going on tour with Scots indie rockers *Idlewild*. His debut album, *Winter Stay Autumn*, will be released in April by Highlands-based *Middle of Nowhere Recordings* label.

The only event of its kind in Scotland devoted to crafts, publishing, screen and broadcast as well as music, **XpoNorth** is attended by leading creative industry insiders, who take part in workshops and masterclass sessions over the course of both days.

Last year's film showcase included animator Ross Hogg's Scottish BAFTA-nominated *Spectators* and Black Isle-based Tristan Aitchison's short psychological horror film, *Care*, which has since screened at film festivals worldwide.

Every year, **XpoNorth's** influential new music showcase takes music stars of tomorrow from the UK and beyond and places them on stages across Scotland's most northerly city over two nights. The 2014 music showcase schedule in Inverness included much-lauded emerging artists such as *Neon Waltz*, *Baby Strange*, *Siobhan Wilson*, *Hector Bizerk* and *Broken Records*.

Festival Director, Amanda Millen said: “Since the festival re-branded as **XpoNorth** at the end of last year, there has been an added frisson of excitement about this year’s event.

“In 2014, more than 1300 people working in a wide cross-section of the creative industries attended the festival in Inverness, compared to just 500 people in 2011. It really is the ‘go-to’ creative industries festival in Scotland. There’s nothing else quite like it.

“This year, in the screen and broadcast side of **XpoNorth**, we’re expanding the open call for submissions and developing our curated programme in partnership with UK and European film festivals.

“Just as it was at goNORTH, the music element of **XpoNorth** is a vital component of the festival’s success. Just as we have done in previous years, we’ll be programming a stage at the *Belladrum Tartan Heart Festival* in Beaulieu this summer and putting new artists on stage at *Loopallu* in Ullapool in late September.

“All the acts will come from our 60-strong showcase list in June and we’ll be working with organisers from both events to secure additional opportunities for 20 acts from this year’s showcase.

“Our **XpoNorth Emergents** programme for Craft, Fashion and Textile will bring together many experts in the field including the UK Fashion and Textiles Association, The Design Trust, Scottish Textiles Skills Partnership, Make Works and many more in a programme of masterclasses, discussions, and showcasing events.

“Also as part of *Emergents*, this year’s **XpoNorth** Writing and Publishing programme will reflect our continued engagement with and exploration of the exciting opportunities available to writers working in all media and cross-media formats. We’ll also be showcasing the best of the Highlands and Islands’ new writing in traditional platforms and media.”

EDITOR’S NOTES:

Scotland’s leading creative industries festival covers four genres under the collective banner of *XpoNorth*.

XpoNorth Crafts/Fashions/Textiles and XpoNorth Writing and Publishing

Supported by *Emergents*, the network which co-ordinates HIE industry networks for craft, fashion and textiles as well as writing and publishing. It is managed by Pamela Conacher and Peter Urpeth, who both bring extensive experience in their respective fields of craft, fashion and textiles, and writing and publishing, to **XpoNorth**.

XpoNorth Screen and Broadcasting

ScreenHI is headed up by Amanda Millen, who is also director of **XpoNorth**. *ScreenHI* is the Screen and Broadcast Industry Network for the Highlands and Islands and has been operating for four years. It offers experiences, job opportunities and industry networking to screen and broadcast businesses in the Highlands & Islands.

XpoNorth Music is managed by former *goNORTH* music producer Alex Smith with *Ironworks Group* directors, Robert Hicks and Caroline Campbell. It has been established

as the new Music Industry Network for the Highlands and Islands and will be delivered by *Ironworks Group*. The 2014 festival showcase schedule in Inverness included much-lauded emerging artists such as *Neon Waltz*, *Baby Strange*, *Ella The Bird*, *Hector Bizerk* and *Broken Records*.

XpoNorth, is funded by Highlands and Islands Enterprise (HIE) and the European Regional Development Fund (ERDF).

Website: www.xponorth.co.uk

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