

What's On

Your essential guide to the unmissable

In conjunction with our hot entertainment website www.whatson-north.co.uk



Nils Lofgren.
Picture: Jo Lopez

MAKE A DATE

- | | |
|--|---|
| THURSDAY
CherryGrove
Eden Court, Inverness | Hootananny,
Inverness |
| ICM Concert Series:
Sean Shibe
Smithton Culloden
Free Church | The Shire
Johnny Foxes,
Inverness |
| Tony McManus
The Old Bridge Inn,
Aviemore | Schiehallion
The Gellions,
Inverness |
| Robin, Derek and Bills
The Market Bar,
Inverness | SUNDAY
Mike Denver
Eden Court, Inverness |
| Brian Ó hEadhra
Hootananny,
Inverness | Norrie Tago MacIver
Eden Court, Inverness |
| Doc Livingstone
Johnny Foxes,
Inverness | The Blitz Awards 2015
The Ironworks,
Inverness |
| FRIDAY
BBC Scottish Symphony Orchestra
Eden Court,
Inverness | Ben and Emily
The Market Bar,
Inverness |
| Stetsonhead
The Market Bar,
Inverness | Willie Campbell
Johnny Foxes,
Inverness |
| Karima Francis, Michael Cassidy w/ support
Mad Hatters,
Inverness | Schiehallion
The Gellions,
Inverness |
| The Shire
Johnny Foxes,
Inverness | MONDAY
Nils Lofgren
Eden Court, Inverness |
| SATURDAY
Highland Showtime 2015
Eden Court, Inverness | Robin Abbot
The Market Bar,
Inverness |
| Magic Sho
Eden Court, Inverness | Andy Duncan
Johnny Foxes,
Inverness |
| Paul Van Dyk
The Ironworks,
Inverness | Caman
The Gellions,
Inverness |
| Dingwall and District Choral Society: Messa di Gloria
Strathpeffer Pavilion,
Strathpeffer | TUESDAY
Admiral Fallow
Hootananny,
Inverness |
| Front Country
Universal Hall,
Findhorn | Gareth Bryant
Johnny Foxes,
Inverness |
| Mystic Shoes
The Market Bar,
Inverness | WEDNESDAY
Back to Bacharach
Eden Court, Inverness |
| The Lowground | CAB Collective
The Market Bar,
Inverness |
| | Karaoke
Johnny Foxes,
Inverness |
| | Schiehallion
The Gellions,
Inverness |

BY MARGARET CHRYSTALL

FORTY-SEVEN years on the road for guitarist and musician Nils Lofgren may have seen off the signature backflips that were once a legendary part of his performances – he’s had two hip replacements.

But his love for playing live and “going fishing”, as he calls the magic moments when he likes to add some improv in his shows, is just as strong as it was for the teenager who went on the road with his band Grin back in the 60s.

Talking on the eve of his UK tour which brings him back to Inverness, Nils laughs: “I don’t think we have time to start at the beginning, we’re getting up there now!

“I’ve been 47 years on the road and I’m quite astonished and grateful that I have this 31-day trip to the UK and the chance to play for people who keep showing up.

“I was first over in 73 professionally to play with the Neil Young Tonight’s The Night tour.

“Then one of the promoters recommended I come on my own and I’ve been doing that ever since.”

Through his career, music has been what Nils calls “the gift” that has taken him from five-year-old starter accordionist to playing on Neil Young’s After The Gold Rush album, joining Bruce Springsteen regularly on tour and in stadiums across the world – and pursuing the solo career he took up after his teenage band Grin disbanded after four albums before disbanding back in 1974.

Nils has been reacquainting himself with his full musical life to put together a definitive set of recordings.

He said: “Last year I released a comprehensive 10-disc box set called Face The Music and in addition I’m kind of going back to the

beginning and taking the best of 45 years of recordings.

“I found a massive amount of basement tapes – unreleased tapes, Grim songs that were never finished. So we had 40 bonus tracks and B-sides and unreleased demos that I always wanted to share.

“So I’ve had this massive amount of music that I’ve had to dwell in for the last couple of years. And it reminded me of a lot of the things I’d forgotten about.”

But he’s also got the future in mind too.

“I am starting to write a little bit again and I’m hoping that in the next year I’ll write enough songs to record my own album next year.”

But he recalls clearly the start of his musical life: “My mother is Italian and my father has Swedish heritage and the accordion is big in both cultures.

“My parents danced as a hobby, so when I asked to take accordion lessons, they were happy to finance me as long as I did.

“Little did they know it was going to be a 10-year weekly investment!”

Taking up guitar and hanging out backstage asking touring musicians for advice, Nils met and told Neil Young he was headed cross country with his band Grin from Washington to LA in search of a record deal.

“Neil said ‘Look me up when you get there’. And true to his word, he kind of took us under his wing.”

Nils played on Young’s After The Gold Rush album and his career had begun.

“I believe in some kind of higher power. But I feel between that and my parents, I was given this gift of music – I’ve worked hard at it – but I didn’t create the gift.

“It’s almost like you won the musical lottery but you have to work your ass off. It’s like ‘Here’s the gift, go have fun.’”

■ Nils Lofgren plays Eden Court on Monday, November 16. For more: www.nilslofgren.com

ONLINE EXTRA

For the full Nils interview, go online

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