

# artsandentertainment

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What's On **North**

## Still sharing the gift of his music after 47 years

### Rock

**F**ORTY-SEVEN years on the road for guitarist and E Street Band member 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 a 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's Tonight's The Night tour. Then one of the promoters recommended I come on my own and I've been doing that ever since."

Throughout his career music has been what Nils calls "the gift". It has taken him from five-year-old starter accordionist to playing on Neil Young's After The Gold Rush album, and from regular stints with Bruce Springsteen's E Street Band to a lengthy solo career following the break-up of his own band, Grin, in 1974 with four albums under their belt.

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, Grin 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."



Nils Lofgren.

Picture: Jo Lopez

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](http://www.nilslofgren.com)

### ONLINE EXTRA

For the full Nils interview, go online at [www.inverness-courier.co.uk](http://www.inverness-courier.co.uk) and click on the what's on section.



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## Dance night set to be full of energy

### Dance

ONE of Scotland's most influential DJs will make his Inverness Ironworks debut on November 28.

A co-founder of the record label and club night Numbers, Jack Revill - aka Jackmaster - has provided the beats at parties and superclubs from Glasgow to Berlin to New York.

The Numbers influence has spread across clubs and into the mainstream, with names such as Jessie Ware, SBTRKT,

Rustie, Hudson Mohawke and Jamie xx all having released material with the label.

Jackmaster himself comes with a reputation for being able to fill the dance floor quicker than many of his contemporaries thanks to a simple mission statement: "I don't think about music in terms of genre, I think about it in terms of energy levels."

Support for his first Ironworks show will come from Jordan Cooper, Vault95 and Alan Grant. Tickets are on sale now via The Ironworks website and box office.



Norrie 'Tago' MacIver plays at Eden Court on Sunday.

Picture: Callum Mackay, Image No. 027223

## Norrie is looking forward to doing his own thing

### Gaelic

SINGER-SONGWRITER Norrie "Tago" MacIver returns to Eden Court with his own band this weekend following a recent visit as frontman for Gaelic group Mánran.

Originally from Carlway on the Isle of Lewis, the musician has been called "the Gaelic cross-over voice of his generation" by no less an authority than Runrig's Calum MacDonald.

A former student of the National Centre of Excellence in Traditional Music in Plockton and the Royal Scottish Academy of Music and Drama in Glasgow, he was also lead singer of award-winning group Bodega until it disbanded

in 2011 and has also toured with Skerryvore and appeared as a guest singer on albums for Daimh, Skipinnish, Rachel Walker and Julie Fowlis.

Voted Gaelic singer of the Year at the MG Alba Scot Trad Awards in 2011, his debut solo album, Dams an Rathaid (The Road Dance), is out now on his own label, Tago Records.

"My solo performances are a reflection of what I have been doing for the last 10 years of my career," he said.

"Being able to perform my own songs is something I have wanted to do for a long time and it is great to now have the chance to do that."

"For my first album I wanted to include songs I had loved

performing over the years but also wanted to include a few of my own that I felt worked well with the other songs I had picked."

"For my show at Eden Court I will be performing songs from the album, along with a few more that didn't make it on and a few of my own new songs. I will be joined by some of the musicians who recorded on the album with me as I wanted to showcase the songs as they appear on the album."

"Most of the gigs I have done on this tour have been solo but for this I wanted the band along with me."

■ Norrie "Tago" MacIver and his band can be seen at the OneTouch Theatre, Eden Court, Inverness, on Sunday.

## Pupils to step back in time to explore science of attraction

### Education/Film

EDEN Court Theatre will take on a role of its own when it is transformed into a 1980s high school so modern pupils can immerse themselves in classic romantic comedy Gregory's Girl.

On Tuesday, January 12, some 100 local pupils will take part in literacy lessons about the science of attraction, led by PhD candidates from top universities, before watching key scenes from the classic film re-enacted by local actors. The day will also include a screening of Bill Forsyth's enduring look at first love.

The fictional high school, Abronhill High, will be

undergoing a strange outbreak of "flirtatiousness" that the authorities are none too pleased with and the Department for the Investigation of Amorous Disorders (DIAD) is called in to help understand what has befallen its students.

During the course of the day, students (as scientists from DIAD) will step into the 1980s and the world of Abronhill High, meeting the characters from the film, observing their behaviour and taking part in a series of workshops.

Gregory, Dorothy, Susan and a whole host of other characters from Gregory's Girl will be brought to life by young actors from Edinburgh, Stirling and Inverness. These youngsters will be specially

trained for the event by Scottish theatre practitioner Mark Traynor.

The day will round off with a screening of the film itself.

Each event has 100 free tickets available for school pupils aged from 13 to 16 and their teachers. The event runs from 10.30am to 3.15pm and covers science and health and wellbeing in the Scottish Curriculum for Excellence. Anyone interested in attending should contact [education@cmi-scotland.co.uk](mailto:education@cmi-scotland.co.uk).

■ What's The Grey Matter With Gregory? is a UK-wide event created by Cinelive in partnership with BFI Education, Film Hub Scotland and The Wellcome Trust as part of the BFI's Love Season.

## Christmas Breaks!

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## Don't Get Pie On Your Face. Book for Panto Now!

# PEPER PAN

TUE 08 DEC 2015 - SUN 10 JAN 2016

Eden Court, Inverness  
Box Office: 01463 234 234  
[www.eden-court.co.uk](http://www.eden-court.co.uk)

ImagineTheatre & @edencourtheatre

Based on the original story PETER PAN written by J M Barrie.  
By arrangement with Great Ormond Street Hospital Children's Charity and Samuel French Ltd

## RNLI CHRISTMAS STALL

Eastgate Shopping Centre  
Monday 16th - Sunday 22nd  
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## Pavilion

VENUE, BAR & EATERY

### EVENTS

14 NOV Dingwall & District Choral Society 7:30pm // £10	26-29 NOV Annual Art Fair 10am-late // Free Entry	2 DEC GIVE BLOOD NHS Blood Donation Service 5pm-8pm
6 DEC Christmas Carol Big Sing 4pm-6pm // £7.50 £3.50	8 DEC Robin Hood Pantomime 10:30am + 7:30pm // £8	9 DEC Robin Hood Pantomime 10:30am // £8
11 DEC John McNicholl 8:30pm // £14	18 DEC Del Boy & Rodney Comedy Dinner 7:30pm // £35 (inc 3 course meal)	31 DEC HOOTS 'MON! HOGSMANNY CEILIDH Hogmanay Ceilidh 8pm-1am // £18

Box Office 01997 420124  
Find out more at [strathpefferpavilion.org](http://strathpefferpavilion.org)

For soc media just search: #StrathPavilion