

Journal Freetime

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Sienna Miller and Bradley Cooper at the European Premiere of *Burnt* in London.
Picture: Joel Ryan/Invision/AP/PA Photos.

Cooper could move behind the camera

By Susan Griffin

BURNT star Bradley Cooper could soon be in charge of his own movies — he's rumoured to be directing and starring in *Honeymoon With Harry*, reuniting him with Robert De Niro.

His *Burnt* co-star Sienna Miller, who's sitting next to him, is being asked whether she'd like to be directed by him in the future.

The 33-year-old actress today insists she'd "love that". But the actor is quick to remind her she's reportedly quoted saying "It would be a nightmare".

"No, it's not what I said!" laughs Miller, nominated for a Golden Globe and TV BAFTA in 2013 for the one-off drama *The Girl*.

The two are clearly good friends and enjoy ribbing one another, so it's no surprise after their success in 2014's *American Sniper* that they reunited on screen for culinary-based *Burnt*.

In the film, Cooper — nominated for two Oscars for *American Sniper* and one each for *American Hustle* and *Silver Linings Playbook* — plays Adam Jones, a reformed chef who's attempting to earn a third Michelin star.

To achieve it, he calls on some of his old brigade — including sous chef Helene (Miller).

The film was made in London, and to get the kitchen scenes right, the city's Michelin-starred chefs Gordon Ramsey and Marcus Wareing chipped in.

Philadelphia-born Cooper, who's dating Russian supermodel Irina Shayk, said: "Being able to attend a service at Gordon Ramsay's Hospital Road or watch Marcus Wareing's brigade is incredible."

The actor himself worked in a kitchen between high school and college and adds: "Luckily, I love to cook, but at this level, going for your third star and under this type of pressure? It's a rare breed that can withstand it. I couldn't do it for any length of time."

So the screaming, swearing, plate smashing and general diva antics, as portrayed in the film, can be forgiven?

Sienna said: "I don't know whether it's diva moments. These guys have such passion and the environment is so intense and boiling hot. Everything has to be timed perfectly. If one person slips up, the entire thing is ruined."

Cooper stresses: "We're actually doing the cooking in the movie for better and for worse, and cutting ourselves quite a bit. It was a wonderful experience we will never forget. It bonded us."

Might Miller wish to direct, too? Though her three-year-old daughter Marlowe can come with her on location, the actress says: "At the moment, between working and a child, I kind of have my plate full."

■ *Burnt* is out now.



Shooglenifty will end their 25th anniversary year with a tour that takes them to Ross-shire and a performance at Edinburgh Hogmanay.

Ross-shire dates for Shooglenifty

SHOOGLENIFTY return from gigs in India to embark on The Untied Knot Tour which takes in Applecross and Resolis along the way.

Formed 25 years ago in Edinburgh, the band have retained four of their original line-up, which has been invigorated in the past year by fiery young mandolinist Ewan MacPherson and Gaelic vocalist, Kaela Rowan.

Attempts to describe their sound have ranged from "dub-diddly" to "acid croft".

They will be playing at Edinburgh's Hogmanay — but before then pay a visit to Applecross Community Hall on Friday, December 4 (tickets £8 by calling 01520 744488) and the Memorial Hall in Resolis on Saturday, December 19.

One Nils – Lofgren back for more magic moments



Nils Lofgren Picture: Jo Lopez

By MARGARET CHRYSTALL
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FORTY-SEVEN years on the road for guitarist and musician Nils Lofgren may have seen off the signature backlips 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 adds some improv in his shows, is just as strong as it was for the teenager who went on the road with his band in the '60s.

Talking on the eve of a UK tour which brings him back to the Highlands, Lofgren laughs: "I've been 47 years on the road and I'm quite astonished and grateful that I have this trip to the UK and the chance to play for people who keep showing up."

In all that time, music has been what Lofgren 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's *E Street Band* on tour and pursuing the solo career he took up after his teenage band Grin disbanded after four albums in 1974.

With Italian and Swedish heritage, Lofgren was drawn to the accordion: "My parents danced as a hobby, so when I asked to take accordion lessons, they were happy to finance me. 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, he met and told Neil Young he was headed cross country with his band 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."

Lofgren played on Young's legendary *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 the full Nils interview, go online

Cancer survivors take to the catwalk



Pupils from Fortrose Academy present the ladies of the Black Isle branch of Cancer Research UK with the £600 they raised through a number of events at the school. From left are Oscar Beonelt, Hamish Mallows, Anne Maciver, Edith McKnight, Caitlin MacKenzie, Abi Ross and Ron Loggins.
Pictures: Gordon Bain

A FASHION show featuring models from Ross-shire who have all survived cancer has raised more than £3,000.

Organised by the Black Isle branch of Cancer Research UK, the event at the Thistle Hotel in Inverness last month was attended by 150 guests.

Local branch secretary Anne Maciver, who was one of the organisers, was delighted the show had been such a success.

She said: "All the 12 models have survived cancer and were amazing strutting their stuff on the catwalk."

The amount raised in aid of the charity has been further boosted by £600 the pupils at Fortrose Academy made through several events they held in the school.

A dozen local women who have survived cancer took to the catwalk to raise more than £3,000 for charity



Lynda Campbell from Dingwall struts her stuff at the fashion show.



Sandstone Press's Robert Davidson collecting the Saltire Society Publisher of the Year Award at last year's Saltire Awards.

Sandstone on shortlist for second year on the bounce

DINGWALL publisher Sandstone Press has again been shortlisted as the Saltire Society Publisher of the Year — having won the accolade last year.

Also shortlisted are 2013 winner Saraband from Glasgow, Edinburgh's Black and White Publishing and children's book and adult non-fiction specialists Floris Books, Luath Press, which has also recently relocated to the capital, and a second Glasgow company, Freight books.

Established in 2013 and supported by Creative Scotland, the Saltire Society Publisher of the Year Award is dedicated to encouraging and supporting the Scottish publishing industry. This year's winner will be announced as part of the Saltire Literary Awards ceremony on Thursday, November 26 and will receive £4000 to assist their business in its further development.

The panel recognised the ongoing commitment of Sandstone Press to expanding diversity in Scottish literature through the publication of translated titles and its use of new marketing methods.

Sandstone Press managing director Robert Davidson said: "It has been a particularly difficult year in the book trade generally, but we have managed to stay ahead of the curve with such brilliant books as Keith Partridge's *The Adventure Game* and Ronnie Browne's autobiography, *That Guy Fae the Corries*. We have Clifton Bain's *The Rainforests of Britain and Ireland* going out of the warehouse, to be immediately followed by Jennifer Morag Henderson's biography of Josephine Tey."

He added: "The Saltire Society has been doing great work for the country with these awards for many decades. For us to be listed in consecutive years is a signal honour for us and serves to increase our enthusiasm and energy in the service of readers everywhere."