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FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

TRON THEATRE ANNOUNCE INNOVATIVE NEW PROGRAMME WITH SCOTTISH GOVERNMENT GRANT AID

The Scottish Government today announced the list of venues receiving support through their Performing Arts Venues Relief Fund and the Tron Theatre is delighted to be one of the recipients sharing a specifically designated funding pot worth a total of £7.5m created to help stave off the threat of insolvency, bring staff out of furlough and provide work for freelancers within the sector. For the Tron, this financial lifeline is welcome news, with the majority of staff furloughed and income streams from our live performance programme arrested indefinitely, the venue's ability to deliver any creative activity over the next few months would have been severely compromised and it faced an uncertain future.

Now an exciting programme of new work can be delivered alongside regular Tron CREATIVE and PARTICIPATION strands of activity, bringing sixteen of the core staff team out of furlough, allowing us to reinstate regular freelance tutors who deliver initiatives like Write Tron and our Community Choir, and significantly, providing opportunities to engage a substantial number of new freelancers, including lead artists and directors, writers, performers, stage managers, designers, technicians, access staff, digital artists and sound designers.

Scottish-based writer Joe McCann who specializes in telling black and working class stories will be commissioned to create the performance and participation project *Things My White Friends Say* and we'll also be offering three new commissions to non-regularly funded Scotland-based artists or companies to make performance for non-theatre settings. Existing community engagement projects for children and families will be enhanced with *Walking Tall Tales* and *Suitcase Stories*, and links with primary and secondary schools will be extended through these and the virtual performance *Petrichor*, delivered in partnership with ThickSkin Theatre Company.

Freelancers within the sector have been amongst the hardest hit during lockdown so the Tron's commitment to building an innovative programme of activity over the forthcoming months that will see over 125 new opportunities created, as well as the expansion of the existing BUILD programme to see the number of freelance engagements increase to 100 will hopefully be welcomed by those whose scheduled work has been negatively impacted by the pandemic.

As Artistic Director Andy Arnold said:

'It's difficult to convey just how excited we are to be able to get back to developing and creating work – it's our raison d'être and these last few months have been tremendously challenging for everyone at the Tron and in the sector. Being able to kick-start and expand our regular Tron Creative and Tron Participation programmes over the next few months, and significantly, to have the opportunity to engage a substantial number of freelance creatives on innovative new projects that seek to connect with audiences old and new alike, gives us hope for a more positive and stable future for the Tron and for the arts across Scotland.'

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NOTES TO EDITORS

PAVRF stands for Performing Arts Venue Relief Fund.

The grant award will support the creation of 128 new freelance opportunities and over 100 additional freelance engagements related to existing programmes of work.

New projects:

Things My White Friends Say by Joe McCann

A performance and participation project

New work commissions (x3)

For non-performance settings and open to non regularly funded Scottish-based artists/companies/collectives

Walking Tall Tales

Outdoor workshop adventure for babies, pre-school children and families

Petrichor

Virtual performance project for secondary schools and community youth groups in collaboration with ThickSkin Theatre Company

Suitcase Stories

Socially distanced mini-productions for local community groups, families and primary schools

Existing projects:

Tron CREATIVE Build programme

Enhanced season of Build workshops and professional development activity, Tron Labs and Table Read

TrONLINE

Online delivery of core Tron PARTICIPATION programme including Tall and Tiny Tales, Skillsshops Juniors and Seniors, YT Juniors and Seniors, Young Company, Tron Studio, Ambassadors, Community Choir and Write Tron.

ABOUT TRON THEATRE

Tron Theatre is a unique and flagship organisation as the West of Scotland's only mid-scale producing venue which delivers challenging new and contemporary performance for the people of Glasgow, Scotland, and worldwide while at the same time playing a vital role at the heart of the Scottish theatre community and facilitating participation in the arts amongst people of all ages, race, ability, and gender.

Tron Theatre Company is under the artistic leadership of Andy Arnold, who took up the position of Artistic Director and Chief Executive in 2008. Recent Tron Theatre Company productions include Gary McNair's adaptation of the Ben Jonson farce, *The Alchemist*, *The Ugly One* by Marius von Mayenberg, Jo Clifford's adaptation of *The Taming of the Shrew*, Enda Walsh's *Ballyturk, Ma, Pa and the Little Mouths* by Martin McCormick, Peter Arnott's *Shall Roger Casement Hang?*, Martin McDonagh's *The Lonesome West* and Isobel McArthur's *Pride and Prejudice** (*sort of) which had its premiere at the venue in 2018 and then toured nationally.

www.tron.co.uk

ABOUT THE SCOTTISH GOVERNMENT'S PERFORMING ARTS VENUE RELIEF FUND

The Performing Arts Venue Relief Fund recognised that performing arts venues which programme professional theatre and/or dance and/or music will likely only be able to re-open to the public in the final phase of the Scottish Government's Covid-19 plans and that their ability to receive audiences and participants to full capacity is likely to be significantly constrained by remaining social distancing requirements and audience confidence. This in turn has an impact on their financial viability and capacity to commission or employ freelance artists and creative practitioners in the immediate term.

The purpose of the Performing Arts Venue Relief Fund is to support immediate and critical financial need in order for venues which programme theatre and/or dance and/or music to remain solvent during the period of closure to the public and to plan for a sustainable return. This funding is to bridge the financial gap until opening plans and income projections are clearer. Applicants were asked to demonstrate how the fund would support them to:

- Remove the threat of insolvency prior to the end of March 2021 to enable the development and delivery of activity as soon as practicable
- Allow for specialist / core staff to return from furlough or avoid redundancy to work on future sustainable activity plans
- Increase commissioning and employment opportunities for freelance artists and creative practitioners to support continued public engagement while closed (activity delivery must take place between now and the end of March 2021).