

TRON THEATRE



TRON THEATRE COMPANY PRESENTS

MAN'S BEST FRIEND

BY DOUGLAS MAXWELL
DIRECTED BY JEMIMA LEVICK

19 JUN – 12 JUL '25
TOURING 3 – 27 SEP '25

PROGRAMME

WRITER'S NOTE

**My sense of time has gone to the dogs.
I blame lockdown.**

I was going to say: “The first play I ever saw was a one man show – *Mistero Buffo* with Robbie Coltrane.” But I Googled it. It was 1990. Which means I was sixteen. I’m pretty sure I’d fidgeted through a couple of awful school-trip Shakespeares by that point.

But it felt like the first. There was a line (I think!) where Coltrane described a beggar as being “half-man, half-bogie”. “Bogie” was a word from my world, but here it was in a mystical story, not a panto. Funny, yeah, but there was something else going on in that show. Depth.

It’s quite a thing to encounter your own world up on a stage – framed with meaning and complexity. It’s addictive. It’s the playwright’s job to put the people and places of their own life in a dramatic world which demands the same respect as Shakespeare’s Kings and Queens. Even if your people and places might seem, at first glance, humdrum and insignificant.

Dog walkers, for instance.

My first attempt at that happened right here in this room, exactly twenty five years ago. (There’s that shoogly sense of time again – if asked, I would’ve said ten, eleven...).

Our Bad Magnet was my professional debut and had a set of characters whose voices, sensibilities, losses and desires are still what I write about to this very day. The characters were in their teens and twenties then, they’re in their forties and fifties now.

Thank you, with all of my heart, to anyone who has come to see any of my shows over those years and to everyone who has given their time and talent to put them on to the stage. And thank you for coming to *Man’s Best Friend*.

Douglas Maxwell

Writer

CAST LIST

Ronnie.....**Jordan Young**

CREATIVE TEAM

Writer.....**Douglas Maxwell**

Director.....**Jemima Levick**

Design.....**Becky Minto**

Lighting Design.....**Grant Anderson**

Sound Design & Composer.....**Patricia Panther**

Illustrations.....**Ross Collins**

Assistant Director.....**Anna Whealing***

Production Manager.....**Laura Skinner**

Technical Manager.....**Alex Hatfield**

Stage Manager.....**Suzanne Goldberg**

Deputy Stage Manager.....**Bryan Gallagher**

Venue Technician.....**Fi Elliott**

Venue Technician.....**Adi Currie**

BSL Interpreter.....**Yvonne Waddell**

Audio Describer.....**Lynn Mulvenna**

Captioner.....**Glenda Carson**

Image Credit.....**Tommy Ga-Ken Wan**

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Production Photography.....**Mihaela Bodlovic**

Videography.....**81 Films**

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Assistant Director Placement Bursary.

This play was first presented as A Play, A Pie and A Pint
production at Òran Mór, Glasgow.

Special thanks to Jonathan Watson.





WITH THANKS TO:

Megan Ellis and Soup, Anna Conway and Bailey #1, Bailey #2,
Sunny, Cooper and Baxter and Richard Poet.

GIVE FEEDBACK

Let us know what you thought of *Man's Best Friend* by
emailing **feedback@tron.co.uk** or write to Tron Theatre,
63 Trongate, Glasgow G1 5HB.

You can also join us online for behind-the-scenes
footage, photos, news, gossip and updates from all
Tron Theatre shows on our social media pages:

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by any means whatsoever is strictly prohibited.

BIOGRAPHIES

GRANT ANDERSON - LIGHTING DESIGN

Grant Anderson is a Designer for Woodroffe Bassett Design, one of the best-known and most prolific lighting design brands operating in the world of entertainment and architecture today.

In 2024 Grant joined WBD as a full time Designer working on a range of projects, in particular theatre, events and immersive experiences. Prior to joining WBD, Grant worked as a freelance Lighting Designer on various projects across a broad spectrum of genres from theatre and music, to events, fashion and architecture.

His comprehensive work in large, immersive lighting experiences provides a deep understanding not only of the intricacies of lighting design, but the technical and practical logistics of delivering projects in all environments. Grant's diverse skillset is put to great use at WBD as he works across their wide range of projects.

During his career, Grant has built an enviable portfolio of high profile design projects, highlights include *Vanity Fair Oscar Party*, *Saturday Night Live 50th Anniversary*, *GlasGLOW*, *Edinburgh's Hogmanay Torchlight Procession*, Alan Cumming's *Club Cumming* and *Enchanted Forest*.

ROSS COLLINS – ILLUSTRATOR

On graduating from Glasgow School of Art, Ross won the MacMillan Prize for his first picture book. Since then he's illustrated over 140 books for children and written a fair few too. Children in over 25 countries seem to enjoy them.

Some of the glittering awards Ross has won are the UKLA Award, the CILIP Amnesty Honour, The Royal Mail Book Award and several Scottish Children's Book Awards. He has been twice shortlisted for the CILIP Kate Greenaway Medal.

The Elephantom was adapted into a critically acclaimed play by the clever National Theatre people who made that *War Horse* thing.

There's a Bear on My Chair is an international bestseller. The theatrical production has run to packed houses in London's South Bank Centre and is due to tour in 2026.

When he's not creating children's books he enjoys working on character development for animation studios like Laika and Disney, creating theatre campaigns and making a fool of himself in front of children at festivals, schools and libraries.

Ross lives in Glasgow with a strange woman, a hairy boy and a greedy dog.

JEMIMA LEVICK – DIRECTOR

Jemima trained at Queen Margaret University College in Edinburgh and on a Scottish Arts Council Directors Bursary with the Royal Lyceum Theatre and Stellar Quines Theatre Company.

In April 2024 she took up post as Artistic Director of the Tron Theatre. She has also served as Artistic Director and Chief Executive of A Play, A Pie and A Pint, Artistic Director and Chief Executive of Stellar Quines Theatre Company, and Artistic Director of Dundee Rep.

She has won and been nominated for a number of awards and has directed over 50 professional productions. Her recent credits include: *A View from the Bridge*, *Fruitcake* (Tron Theatre); *SCOTS* (A Play, A Pie and A Pint/Edinburgh Fringe/54 Below NYC); *The Sheriff of Kalamaki*, *The Great Replacement*, *Man's Best Friend*, *The Joke* (A Play, A Pie and A Pint); *Cinderella*, *All My Sons* (Dundee Rep); *Maggie May* (Leeds Playhouse/Leicester Curve/Queens Hornchurch); and numerous episodes of *River City* for BBC Studios. She has also directed work for the Citizens Theatre, the National Theatre of Scotland, the Royal Lyceum Theatre Edinburgh, Dundee Rep, Stellar Quines Theatre Company, Imagine, Borderline Theatre Company, Grid Iron Theatre Company, Traverse Theatre and Paines Plough.

DOUGLAS MAXWELL - WRITER

Douglas Maxwell has been one of Scotland's top playwrights since his debut in 2000.

His recent work includes *So Young* (Traverse Theatre/Citizens Theatre/Raw Material) which premiered at the 2024 Edinburgh Fringe Festival, winning a Fringe First and nominations for the Popcorn Award for Best Play and Best Show of The Festival from The List Magazine; and *The Sheriff of Kalamaki* (A Play, A Pie and A Pint) which won Best Play at the 2024 Critics' Awards for Theatre in Scotland.

Other plays in the last few years include *Man's Best Friend* (A Play, A Pie and A Pint), *First I Was Afraid...I Was Petrified!* (Wonder Fools), *Orphans* (National Theatre of Scotland) and *Fatbaws* (National Theatre of Scotland/BBC). *Fatbaws* was screened on BBC Scotland, watched by over a million people and nominated for a Scottish BAFTA.

Previous plays include *I Can Go Anywhere* (Traverse Theatre), *Charlie Sonata* (Royal Lyceum Theatre Edinburgh), *The Whip Hand* (Traverse Theatre/Birmingham Rep), *Yer Granny* (National Theatre of Scotland), *Fever Dream: Southside* (Citizens Theatre), *Decky Does a Bronco* (Grid Iron), *Mancub* (Vanishing Point), *Promises Promises* (Random Accomplice) and *A Respectable Widow Takes to Vulgarly* (Traverse Theatre/A Play, A Pie and A Pint).

Translations of his work have been professionally produced in Germany, Norway, Hong Kong, New York, Chicago, Holland, Canada, Sweden, New Zealand, Wales, Japan, France, Belgium and South Korea, where his debut play *Our Bad Magnet* ran for over ten years.

His work for teenage audiences includes *Too Fast* (National Theatre Connections), *The Mother Ship* (Birmingham Rep), and *Helmet* (Traverse Theatre/Paines Plough).

Douglas lives on the Southside of Glasgow with his wife and two daughters.

For more information please go to www.douglasmxwell.co.uk

BECKY MINTO - DESIGN

2025 will mark Becky's 30th year as a designer for performance, and she is delighted to be collaborating again with Jemima Levick in her first season here at the Tron Theatre. Becky's work covers main house productions, large-scale touring, for companies including the Tron Theatre, National Theatre of Scotland, Traverse Theatre, Perth Theatre, Raw Material, Royal Lyceum Theatre Edinburgh, Vanishing Point, Dundee Rep, Pitlochry Festival Theatre, Visible Fictions, Grid Iron; aerial, circus, indoor and outdoor productions for multiple site-specific designs and large outdoor ceremonies, including the Glasgow 2014 Commonwealth Games, European and UK City of Culture outdoor events.

She was recently awarded Best Set Design at the UK Pantomime Awards 2025 for *Mother Goose* (Perth Theatre). She won the Silver Medal at the 2017 World Stage Design for *The 306:Dawn* (National Theatre of Scotland). Other design award nominations include Best Set & Costume Design, 2023 UK Pantomime Awards for *Jack and the Beanstalk* (Perth Theatre); Best Design, CATS Awards 2022 for *Love Beyond* (Raw Material/Vanishing Point); Best Design, CATS Awards 2021 for *The Wonderful Story of Henry Sugar* (Perth Theatre); and Best Design, CATS Awards 2016 for *Great Expectations* (Dundee Rep). Her designs have been selected as part of the UK exhibition Society of British Theatre Designers at the Prague Quadrennial PQ19, PQ15, PQ11 and PQ07.

Recent and future productions include *Restless Natives* (Perth Theatre), *Blinded by the Light* (Sylvian Productions), *Hug* (Levantes Dance Theatre), *Bloom* (Upswing/Bradford City of Culture 2025) and *The Snow Queen* (Perth Theatre).

She lectures at Edinburgh College of Art in Performance Costume/Set Design.

PATRICIA PANTHER - SOUND DESIGN & COMPOSER

Patricia Panther is a composer, actress and singer/songwriter based in Glasgow, using a combination of found sounds, electronic and acoustic instruments to create a fusion of varying musical styles, for live performance, film and theatre sound design.

Composer credits include composition and sound design for: *Ghost Light* (Edinburgh International Festival/BBC Scotland); *Silkworm* (Pearlfisher/The Byre Theatre); *Fibres* (Stellar Quines/Citizens Theatre); *Black Scots* (BBC Scotland/National Theatre of Scotland); *Glasgow Girls* (National Theatre of Scotland/Raw Material); *The Last Queen of Scotland* (Dundee Rep/Stellar Quines/National Theatre of Scotland); *Rites* (Contact Theatre/National Theatre of Scotland); *Once You See The Smoke* (Scottish Youth Theatre); *Future of Theatre* (Traverse Theatre); *Sonic Séance* (Project X/Tramway/CCA).

Acting credits include: Tracey's mum in *Gifted* (Black Camel Pictures for CBBC); Justine Dunn in *Annika*, directed by Philip John (Black Camel Pictures); Kathleen McLean in *A Group Portrait in a Summer Landscape* (Royal Lyceum Theatre Edinburgh/Pitlochry Festival Theatre); Tinkerbelle in *Peter Pan and Wendy* (Pitlochry Festival Theatre); Tracy in *The Last Bus* (Hurricane Films/Head Gear Films); *Trust Me, Logan High* (BBC); *Glasgow Girls*, *Orphans*, *Lament To Sheku Bayoh* (National Theatre of Scotland); *Scot Squad* (BBC Scotland); *Dark Sense* (Encaptivate Films); *Arabian Nights* (Royal Lyceum Theatre Edinburgh).

Patricia also leads youth group workshops, introducing young creatives to theatre, music production and performance.

ANNA WHEALING - ASSISTANT DIRECTOR

Anna has recently moved back to Glasgow after completing the MA Drama Directing at Bristol Old Vic Theatre School, directing *Black Mountain* by Brad Birch at the Wardrobe Theatre. Previous Assisting credits include *Tiger Country* (Tobacco Factory Theatre), *Love The Sinner* (Vanishing Point), *And... And... And...* (Strange Town Touring Company), *BABS* and *The Silver Superheroes* (A Play, A Pie and A Pint). She has directed work at the Edinburgh Fringe, the Tobacco Factory and the Alma Theatre in Bristol. Anna is also a writer currently developing work with Dogstar Theatre Company. She is supported by an FST Bursary to assist on this production and tour.

JORDAN YOUNG - RONNIE

Jordan trained at QMU. He is well-known on our screens as series lead Alex Murdoch in *River City*; as well as series regular PC Jack McLaren in BAFTA-winning comedy *Scot Squad*.

Further television credits include: *Vigil*, *The Daily Grind*, *Doctors*, *Shetland*, *Garrow's Law*, *Legit*, *Rebus*, *Rab C. Nesbitt*, *Still Game*, *Purves and Pekkala* (BBC); *Armchairs* (Tiger Aspect); *Bob Servant*, *Mongrels* (BBC3); *Doors Open* (ITV/Sprout Pictures); *Law & Order* (Kudos/ITV); and *The Increasingly Poor Decisions of Todd Margaret* (RDF).

Film credits include: *Grow* (SKY Originals); *A Scottish Love Scheme* (Hallmark); *Filth* (Logie Pictures); *For Those in Peril* (Warp Films); *Driving Lessons* (Rubber Tree Plant Productions) and *Wild Country* (Gabriel Films).

Jordan performs in one of the main top line Christmas productions for Crossroads Pantomimes each year.

His theatre credits include: *Chemo Savvy* (Gilded Balloon); *News Just In* (Random Accomplice); *Black Watch* (National Theatre of Scotland); *The Real Thing* (The Old Vic); *The Pirate Marco Pantani*, *What the Animals Say*, *Rolls in his Pockets*, *Rain* (A Play, A Pie and A Pint); *A Midsummer Night's Dream*, *The Comedy of Errors*, *The Taming of the Shrew*, *Curse of the Starving Class*, *Beauty and the Beast* (Royal Lyceum Theatre Edinburgh); *Gagarin Way* (Rapture Theatre); *Slick* (Vox Motus); *Midsummer Night's Dream*, *Lachlan's Choice* (Brunton Theatre); *Sins of the Father* (Rowan Tree); *The Chooky Brae* (Borderline Theatre) and *Family Business* (BBC Scotland).



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