

Embargoed until 12noon (GMT) Tuesday 20 July

Edinburgh International Festival Begins Search for Next Festival Director

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20 July, 2021, Edinburgh – Today Edinburgh International Festival begins the search for its next Festival Director, who will launch their programming and curatorial vision at the 2023 Festival. Current Festival Director, Fergus Linehan, completes his tenure in September 2022 after an exceptional eight-year period, during which time he has reaffirmed the Festival's position as the world's leading performing arts festival.

The new Festival Director will take the International Festival to its next stage, bringing the finest music, dance, opera and theatre performers to Edinburgh's renowned performance venues alongside a digital programme that gives global audiences access to the Festival from their own homes. The International Festival is seeking an outstanding artistic leader with the creativity, vision and dynamism to shape the future of the Festival.

The worldwide search for the role is being led by AEM International and further information on the role, including a full information pack, can be found at <http://aeminternational.co.uk/festival-director-edinburgh-international-festival/>

Created in 1947 to celebrate the enduring human spirit, the International Festival serves as an annual cultural exchange, every August, for an international gathering of artists and an audience of over 400,000. This year the Festival is pioneering the return to live performance in Scotland from 7 – 29 August 2021, with over 170 performances across three bespoke outdoor venues, as well as the Festival Theatre, Traverse Theatre, The Royal Lyceum Theatre and Dance Base.

Said **Keith Skeoch**, Chair of Edinburgh International Festival Board, *'As Fergus Linehan completes his exceptional eight-year tenure as Festival Director in September 2022, we now commence our worldwide search for his successor.*

"The successful applicant will join at a historic moment as the broader arts sector rebuilds after COVID-19. In a recruitment process led by Heather Newill at AEM International, we seek applicants with experience working across genres and around the world, with the skill and ambition to grow the Festival's global reach and influence."

– ENDS –

NOTES TO EDITORS

Candidate Information Pack:

<http://aeminternational.co.uk/festival-director-edinburgh-international-festival/>

Closing date for applications: Friday, 1st October at 5pm.



MEDIA RELEASE

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