

WHAT'S ON GLASGOW

Comic set to turn sad moments into laughs

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A SCOTS comedian is sharing his experiences on Glasgow's gay scene as part of his upcoming Glasgow International Comedy Festival show.

Traumedy: A Guide To Being A Fabulous Homeless Addict, draws on Iain Anderson's journey through homelessness, cocaine and alcohol addiction and includes funny stories of the 40-year-old's time On Glasgow's queer party scene.

Having lived in Glasgow from the age of 17 to 24, Iain said he even moved from the West End to Merchant City to be closer to the Polo Lounge nightclub.

Speaking to the Glasgow Times from his home in Barcelona, The Port Glasgow-born star said: "I was out all the time on Glasgow's gay scene.

"Glasgow is good at partying; we know how to have fun, but I didn't know how to turn it off.

"I moved around countries a lot and when I came to Barcelona, I ended up living on the streets but eventually got clean here."

Now, seven years clean and sober, Iain is using his memories



Iain Anderson is performing in the city in March at the Glasgow International Comedy Festival

– which may be dark and sad – and turning them into something light.

He added: "In Glasgow and Scotland, you are raised to laugh at the dark stuff.

"So, that's why the show is a mix of the sad and humorous. I didn't want to make the sad stuff too dark; I wanted to turn it into a laugh."

After debuting the show at The Edinburgh Fringe Festival last year, Iain quickly saw the life-changing impact it was having on attendees.

He explained that people queued after the Fringe show to share their own experiences of addiction, with one person even saying that the

show forced him to admit he had a problem.

Iain added: "When people queued at the end of the Edinburgh show to tell me their addiction stories, I saw that this show was so much bigger than me.

"The show has got a lot of people talking and someone queuing told me they think they need help.

"It is really cool and just insane."

Traumedy: A Guide To Being A Fabulous Homeless Addict will play at The Griffin on March 22 at 8pm, as well as on March 23 at The Griffin at 4.15pm.

This will be Iain's first time performing comedy in Glasgow.

He said: "I've never brought my comedy to Glasgow, so I'm very excited.

"It feels like I'm bringing the show home."

The March 22 show is nearly sold out – much to Iain's surprise, having only started comedy in July 2023.

He said: "I was really surprised to see it is almost sold out.

"I almost booked a much smaller venue when I entered into the festival, but some little voice in me said not to.

"My auntie is coming to see the show too which I am really excited about as I've never had family come along before."

"I'm worried she'll start heckling me, though," he added with a laugh.

For more information about Traumedy: A Guide To Being A Fabulous Homeless Addict, visit shorturl.at/bcZ7K

The GICF will run from March 12 until March 30 at various venues across the city.

Having revealed the lineup at the start of the month, the festival will see sets from the likes of Glasgow's Susie McCabe, Ashley Storrie and Paul Black, as well as UK superstars like Josie Long.

For the full lineup, visit www.glasgowcomedyfestival.com

Bookshop earns prize

A SMALL, independent bookshop outside Glasgow has been named by National Book Tokens as its annual 'Newcomer of the Year' for 2025.

With the Booksellers Association (BA) reporting 45 independent bookshop openings in 2024, competition for the award was strong, and a reminder of the continued resilience and innovation of independent booksellers in the face of ongoing economic challenges.

Daydreams Bookshop based in Milngavie town centre took home the award, which is given to new bookshops based, among other things, on their first full year of National Book Tokens sales and redemptions, both of which are a measure of how well they are engaging with local booklovers.

Despite opening only in September 2024, Daydream Bookshop's delighting of adults and children alike with their beautiful range of books – and curated additional items from predominantly local suppliers – saw them storm ahead to take the award after only four months of trading.

Owner Elaine Sinclair and her team have won a trophy, a luxury champagne, wine, and food hamper and promotion to National Book Tokens' large consumer database and social followers.

They also join an esteemed list of previous winners, including Suddenly on Sheaf Street in Daventry, The Book Stop in St Helen's, The Ivybridge Bookshop in Devon and The Portobello Bookshop in Edinburgh.

Elaine Sinclair, owner of Daydreams Bookshop, said: "We are absolutely over the moon that our wee shop has won this national award – what a dream! We only opened our doors in September, so this award is testament to our hard-working team and amazing local community who have been overwhelmingly supportive.

"Our first Christmas was hectic but joyous in equal measures! We would like to thank our customers for choosing the gift of books and National Book Tokens for Christmas and we look forward to matching them with lots of lovely new books throughout 2025."

Lisa Bywater, Head of Marketing at National Book Tokens said: "In our fifth year of this award, which recognises the contributions that bookshops make to their local communities as well as the wider book industry – in this instance, even within just a few months of opening – we're thrilled to celebrate a local bookshop that demonstrates all the benefits these vital businesses offer to the high street and beyond.

"Since they opened, Daydreams Bookshop have hit the ground running with the perfect offering for their community."

