

Andy Cannon, Wendy Weatherby & Red Bridge



# *Tales of a Grandson*

## *2016 Tour Report*

*1 master storyteller & 1 exuberant cellist*

*x performances for schools*

*2038 people attended*

*1 dementia friendly performance*

*9 performances in care homes  
and community centres*

*1 reported sighting of the Loch Ness Monster*



Image: Brian Hartley

## *Where do you begin to tell the story of Scotland?*

With the myths, the legends and the battles? Or by building a castle in your granny's back green?

Tales of a Grandson is one man's re-telling of Scotland's history – but this is no straight and dusty history lesson; this story is told by Andy Cannon, formerly of Wee Stories and one of Scotland's finest storytellers, accompanied by composer and musician Wendy Weatherby.

Andy takes us on a time travelling adventure with his grandparents through Scotland's past to piece together the myriad of Kings, Queens, friends and foes that make up our nation's story (and unearths just why our mountains are so small on the way!).

A great family show for all generations.

A photograph of a man, Andy Cannon, wearing a grey vest over a white shirt, a dark kilt, and glasses. He is pointing towards the camera with a smile. In the foreground, a white dog is out of focus. The background shows a brick wall and some stage equipment.

### *Artists*

Writer, Director, Performer  
Andy Cannon

Composer and musician  
Wendy Weatherby

Tour Stage Manager      Set design Brian Hartley  
Tamlin Wiltshire

Producer Alice McGrath

Lighting Designer & Production Manager  
Gerron Stewart

Annabel Cooper  
Assistant Producer & Outreach Coordinator



*"It all began..."*

...with a trip to Drumnadrochit with my grandpa. Until then, I hadn't really thought about being Scottish. But on that trip, driving through the mountains and glens, listening to tapes of Andy Stewart and the pibrochs and hearing my grandpa's stories, not just about Scotland's ancient history but about his life as a boy, I looked at the country where I lived a-new.

When I turned 50 - old enough to be a grandpa myself - and I wanted to mark this time in my life by embarking on a quest. I wanted to take that trip again, to revisit the land and reconnect with the stories. On my quest to tell Scotland's story I found the title Tales of a Grandson - inspired by Sir Walter Scott's Tales of a grandfather, a series of books about Scottish history that he wrote for his grandson. I share with Scott a longing to share these stories with generations and to encourage families to keep looking and finding their own tales. In 2014 I created the first outing for Tales of a Grandson - an epic tale told across three chapters and with a large community cast. This new condensed edition contains the essential elements of the original; most importantly engaging storytelling, live music and not forgetting a teacake or two! In telling my tales it's been difficult to decide what stories to keep, there are some stories that I'd love to tell that I can only give a nod to at the moment - perhaps they will have their own telling another day.

My granddad said 'It's good to put the past in a simple order so you know where to put the things you discover on your future trips into the past.' I encourage you to find out more for yourself, find your own starting point - a close relative or a personality from history - and go and explore."

***Andy Cannon, May 2016***

# May 2016 Scottish Tour Including Imagine Festival

## Presented at

The Howgate Centre Falkirk  
Eden Court Theatre  
National Museum of Scotland, Imagine  
Traverse Theatre, Imagine  
Birnam Arts Centre

## Outreach

Venues in Johnshaven, Kemnay,  
Lumsden & New Deer  
with North East Arts Touring  
Communities in Glasgow  
with Platform outreach

## The Times

"...an engrossing, entertaining introduction  
to Scottish history's greatest hits"

"...a warm, engaging performance, backed up by  
Wendy Weatherby's exuberant cello soundtrack."

## The Herald

"...fizzing with the joys of discovering the past"  
"story-telling at its most effective"

## The Guardian

"...crackles with the unifying love of a good story."

## The Scotsman

'Cannon's magnificent storytelling energy is unfailing'

## Broadway Baby

"...stories are at the heart of this enchanting hour"

## Children's Theatre Reviews

"funny and warm...part bedtime story,  
part stand-up routine"

"I went to see *Tales of a grandson* with my class.  
I liked Andrew smashing the tea cake.  
Thank you Andrew for being a great actor."  
Zoe, Craigentiny Primary School

"The delightful Andy Cannon once again proves  
the art of storytelling is alive and thriving and  
continues to engage young audiences. "Tales of  
a grandson" was the universal favourite with  
local audiences and international delegates  
alike. Who doesn't like a good story?!"

**Noel Jordan**  
**Imagine**  
**Festival Director**



**October 2016**

*Touring nine care homes in the Edinburgh area*

*Supported by Festival & King's Theatres Edinburgh*

*As part of Luminate: Scotland's creative ageing festival*

***"it's so nice to be able to offer something a bit different to our residents who can't easily get out and about. It makes such a difference and is much appreciated!"***

*Activities Coordinator, Glencairn Care Home*



***"After the performance our residents were happy and in good humour."***

*Nurse, Laverock House Care Home*



**Also presented at  
Eastgate Theatre  
Edinburgh Festival & Kings Theatres  
(Dementia friendly performance)  
Beacon Arts Centre**

***"It took me back to the weekends our grandchildren spent with us. Thanks for transporting me to happy times."***

*Audience Member  
Portobello Library Outreach*



## Tales of a grandson

Presented by Andy Cannon, Wendy Weatherby & Red Bridge

Find out more and watch the trailer:

<https://redbridgearts.co.uk/about/projects-and-artists/tales-of-a-grandson/>



Red Bridge Arts is an ideas-led organisation that aims to provide a supportive structure to stimulate and sustain artists' development and practice. [redbridgearts.co.uk](https://redbridgearts.co.uk)

### With thanks to

Festival & King's Theatres. Edinburgh

Forget Me Not

Luminate: Scotland's creative ageing festival

Creative Scotland



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