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scene



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Welcome *Compagnia Artistica Gaudeamus*

In the theatre, everything is possible. Everything you can imagine, think, or desire can become real; and even when the curtain falls, everything you have witnessed continues to live inside every single spectator and actor.

Today, we want to share with you the realisation of a dream where the Theatre is both the protagonist and the goal. This is the story of the Gaudeamus Artistic Company, a small charity based in Aberdeen, entirely run by volunteers, which is courageously making its way across Scottish stages. Our story begins in a curious way... in front of a plate of sushi, when the 2 founders, driven by a shared love for theatre, art, and culture, decide to create a space where the Italian community could gather and celebrate their rich heritage.

The first small but passionate group of Italians came together in May 2023 and the Artistic Company Gaudeamus was established...in a living room! This vision quickly resonated, attracting not only Italians but also Scottish volunteers who contributed to the growing and eclectic community that Gaudeamus has become. By August 2023, the company was officially recognised as a Registered Charity. Unique in Scotland, Gaudeamus is the only theatre company that stages Italian works and performs entirely in Italian, complete with live English subtitles. This innovative approach has been instrumental in reconnecting Italians in Scotland with their roots, language, and cultural heritage.

The primary goal of Gaudeamus is to foster a sense of community among Italians in Scotland and also aims to build bridges between the Italian and British communities. Through their performances and various cultural events, they showcase aspects of Italian culture that promotes inclusivity and cultural exchange, striving to deepen mutual understanding and appreciation between the two communities.

Although the Company had just been established, it bravely debuted at the end of November 2023 with "No Shakespeare," a one-act theatrical production wrote and directed by the Founder and Artistic Director Eva D'Amico, that paid homage to the giants of Italian theatre: Goldoni, Gianni, Rodari, and many more will come to life amid the

skirmishes of a charming theatre company....And thus, 'No Shakespeare!' a bit of healthy patriotism, but with a final tribute to the beautiful land that hosts us. This production was a testament to their artistic ambition and capability, in February 2024, with the support of the Aberdeen City Council Pilot Seed Funding Award and the Italian Consulate in Aberdeen, the company hosted a series of four workshops focused on theatre and language, welcoming participants from both Italian and non-Italian backgrounds.

In March 2024 Gaudeamus performed at the Perth Theatre and this opportunity further solidified their presence in the Scottish theatre community. The success of these endeavours has not gone unnoticed. The Italian Consulate General in Edinburgh and the Committee for Italians living Abroad (Com.It.Es) have both expressed their support and offered to help promote Gaudeamus's productions throughout Scotland.

Today, Gaudeamus boasts an entourage of more than 20 members. We are noisy, we gesture a lot (after all, we are children of the Commedia dell'Arte) and we are happy to share who we are with others.

The company has become a cultural and social cornerstone for the Italian community in Aberdeen, providing a vital link to their heritage and a platform for cultural expression. We plan to extend our activities to engage the Scottish-Italian communities in Perth, Edinburgh and Glasgow, through a touring production of "Il Povero Piero (Poor Piero)" by Achille Campanile, a renowned modern Italian playwright that will be on stage starting from February 2025.

There is something magical about sharing one's culture, being able to express oneself freely in one's own language. The journey of Gaudeamus from its humble beginnings to becoming a recognised theatre company is a testament to the power of passion and community spirit. We hope to continue to grow and share our mission of inclusivity, cultural exchange, and artistic excellence, paving the way for a brighter, more connected future. And...we will promise you to plan our next project in front of a plate of Haggis!