# Thunderstruck to bring Gordon Duncan’s revolutionary piping legacy to Glassford



An internationally acclaimed play that has captivated audiences at the Edinburgh Festival Fringe is set to showcase its vibrant exploration of Scottish culture in the small village of Glassford. "Thunderstruck," which revolves around the life and music of the legendary piper Gordon Duncan, is particularly noteworthy for its engagement with themes of cultural confidence and the tension between tradition and innovation within the realm of piping.

Gordon Duncan, who hailed from Pitlochry, Scotland, revolutionised traditional bagpipe music with his innovative compositions and performances. Known for crafting pieces such as "Andy Renwick’s Ferret" and "The Famous Baravan," Duncan's work has not only become integral to the piping repertoire but has also sparked discussions on the evolution of Scottish music. His approach was often met with both acclaim and resistance from traditionalists, making him a pivotal figure in the ongoing dialogue about cultural heritage and adaptation.

Directed by Tom Freeman, "Thunderstruck" first premiered at the Edinburgh Festival Fringe in 2019 and returned in 2022 to critical acclaim, earning a five-star rating for its dynamic storytelling and seamless integration of humour and poignant moments. Reviewer highlights have commended David Colvin's compelling performance, labelling it as “elucidating, charming and rip-roaringly inspirational.” The play explores Gordon Duncan’s dual legacy—showcasing how his music was embraced by some and rejected by others within the piping community.

The Glassford performance will take place on May 23, at 7:15 PM, at the Village Hall on Alston Street, and is an over-18s event. Tickets are available for £10 through Eventbrite, presenting a unique opportunity for local audiences to engage with a production that celebrates a significant figure in Scottish cultural history.

Aspects of Duncan's influence continue to shape the piping world today, inviting inside perspectives on how cultural expressions can evolve while maintaining respect for tradition. This resonance is particularly relevant in contemporary discussions surrounding cultural confidence and identity, both of which are thoughtfully examined in “Thunderstruck.” By bringing this play to Glassford, the creators aim to foster a deeper understanding of the complexities that define not only the individual legacy of Gordon Duncan but also the broader narrative of Scottish music itself.

With the confluence of artistic innovation and historical significance, "Thunderstruck" offers much more than a night of entertainment; it serves as a poignant reminder of the power of music to transcend boundaries and connect communities across generations.

### Reference Map

1. Paragraph 1: [[1]](https://www.dailyrecord.co.uk/in-your-area/lanarkshire/award-winning-edinburgh-fringe-play-35216425), [[2]](https://tickets.edfringe.com/whats-on/thunderstruck)
2. Paragraph 2: [[3]](https://www.alledinburghtheatre.com/thunderstruck-edfringe-2022-review/), [[6]](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Gordon_Duncan), [[7]](https://www.heraldscotland.com/news/12447722.gordon-duncan-renowned-musician-and-composer/)
3. Paragraph 3: [[3]](https://www.alledinburghtheatre.com/thunderstruck-edfringe-2022-review/), [[4]](https://theqr.co.uk/2022/08/28/thunderstruck-edinburgh-fringe-2022-review/)
4. Paragraph 4: [[1]](https://www.dailyrecord.co.uk/in-your-area/lanarkshire/award-winning-edinburgh-fringe-play-35216425), [[2]](https://tickets.edfringe.com/whats-on/thunderstruck), [[5]](https://www.therockfieldcentre.org.uk/thunderstruck)
5. Paragraph 5: [[1]](https://www.dailyrecord.co.uk/in-your-area/lanarkshire/award-winning-edinburgh-fringe-play-35216425), [[4]](https://theqr.co.uk/2022/08/28/thunderstruck-edinburgh-fringe-2022-review/)

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## Bibliography

1. <https://www.dailyrecord.co.uk/in-your-area/lanarkshire/award-winning-edinburgh-fringe-play-35216425> - Please view link - unable to able to access data
2. <https://tickets.edfringe.com/whats-on/thunderstruck> - 'Thunderstruck' is an award-winning play that premiered at the Edinburgh Festival Fringe in 2019. The production delves into the life of Gordon Duncan, a renowned piper from Pitlochry, Scotland, who revolutionized traditional bagpipe music. The play is directed by Tom Freeman and has been praised for its compelling storytelling and musical performances. It has been featured in the Scottish Storytelling Centre's Netherbow Theatre during the Fringe. ([tickets.edfringe.com](https://tickets.edfringe.com/whats-on/thunderstruck?utm_source=openai))
3. <https://www.alledinburghtheatre.com/thunderstruck-edfringe-2022-review/> - In 2022, 'Thunderstruck' returned to the Edinburgh Fringe at the Scottish Storytelling Centre. The play, written and performed by David Colvin, explores the impact of Gordon Duncan's music on the piping world. The review highlights Colvin's dynamic performance and the play's ability to blend humor with poignant moments. The production received a five-star rating for its engaging narrative and musical integration. ([alledinburghtheatre.com](https://www.alledinburghtheatre.com/thunderstruck-edfringe-2022-review/?utm_source=openai))
4. <https://theqr.co.uk/2022/08/28/thunderstruck-edinburgh-fringe-2022-review/> - The Quinntessential Review provides an in-depth look at 'Thunderstruck' during the 2022 Edinburgh Fringe. The play is described as 'elucidating, charming and rip-roaringly inspirational,' focusing on the life and influence of Gordon Duncan. The review praises the play's storytelling and musical elements, noting its ability to captivate audiences with its unique narrative. ([theqr.co.uk](https://theqr.co.uk/2022/08/28/thunderstruck-edinburgh-fringe-2022-review/?utm_source=openai))
5. <https://www.therockfieldcentre.org.uk/thunderstruck> - 'Thunderstruck' was showcased at The Rockfield Centre in Oban, Scotland, on May 28, 2022. The event page details the performance, highlighting its exploration of Gordon Duncan's legacy and the impact of his music on Scottish culture. The play is noted for its dynamic storytelling and musical performances, offering a fresh perspective on traditional Scottish music. ([therockfieldcentre.org.uk](https://www.therockfieldcentre.org.uk/thunderstruck?utm_source=openai))
6. <https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Gordon_Duncan> - Gordon Duncan was a Scottish piper and composer known for his innovative approach to traditional bagpipe music. He was a member of the Vale of Atholl Pipe Band and performed with the Atholl Highlanders. Duncan's compositions, such as 'Andy Renwick’s Ferret' and 'The Famous Baravan,' have become staples in the piping repertoire. He passed away in 2005, but his influence on Scottish music remains significant. ([en.wikipedia.org](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Gordon_Duncan?utm_source=openai))
7. <https://www.heraldscotland.com/news/12447722.gordon-duncan-renowned-musician-and-composer/> - An article from The Herald highlights Gordon Duncan's contributions to Scottish music, emphasizing his innovative approach to the bagpipes and his ability to transcend traditional boundaries. The piece reflects on his legacy and the impact of his compositions on the music community. ([heraldscotland.com](https://www.heraldscotland.com/news/12447722.gordon-duncan-renowned-musician-and-composer/?utm_source=openai))