



Rekindling the Hearth

Scottish Storytelling by Dougie Mackay

TOUR PACKAGE MAY/JUNE 2024



Dougie Mackay

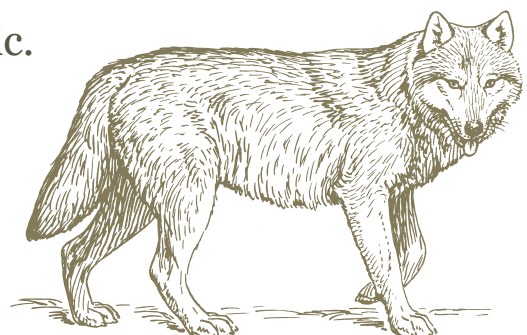


Dougie is a contemporary Scottish storyteller, steeped in the cultural traditions of Scotland and the Celtic isles. Trained by seanachies and tradition bearers, yet with his finger on the pulse of contemporary storytelling, modern complexity, and mythopoetics.

Dougie is at the forefront of a movement in Scotland tracking codes of the old culture through story that can sustain us and guide us through the turbulence of modern life.

Rooted in community development practice and nature education programs, facilitation is core to Dougie's story practice.

He has curated storytelling shows for performances at the Scottish International Storytelling Festival, Edinburgh Fringe Festival and Festival at the Edge (England's oldest storytelling festival), as well as international performances in Germany, Norway, Lithuania, Ireland and the Kingdom of Jordan. This will be his first storytelling venture across the Atlantic.



Rekindling the Hearth

Stories create a light around which we can gather.

In old Scotland, the hearth was the gathering place in the centre of the home. The place to circle around, draw nourishment and share your gifts. In Scotland, this 'hearthside' tradition of storytelling still echoes through contemporary story performance.

The purpose of this storytelling tour is to share old tales from Scotland: ancient myths of supernatural creatures and clan lore, of wild places and poetic people. The live telling of these tales offers reconnection to ancestral culture and presents story as a pathway back to indigenous thinking in the wilds of northern Europe.



Tales from Ancient Scotland



Step into the Celtic dreamtime and enjoy an evening of tales from ancient Scotland with Dougie Mackay!

You may have heard of the Loch Ness Monster, but what of the shapeshifting Kelpies or Selkie folk?

The Scottish faery are quite different from anything found in Disney, and not to be underestimated. Clan chiefs dance with the devil, wise women offer counsel, and druid poets courting the salmon of wisdom. An ancient crone goddess wades through the ocean before the land is created..

In the traditional spirit of spontaneity, each evening Dougie curates an evening of myths, legends and folktales.

Each night will differ, yet will showcase a range of the cultural, natural, and supernatural delights of Scottish story.

Cultural Q&A to follow.



Myth as Medicine

‘A wonderful way to explore the healing powers of old stories.’

In old times, story was not simply for entertainment; it was a poetic survival tool. Soul-food rich in coded knowledge of nature and culture. Story was essential for the survival and thriving of the village. It is the grandmother's (or cailleach's) wisdom wrapped in narrative, image, and character.

This **workshop** offers a deep dive into myth, storytelling, and mythopoetics from a Celtic perspective. We will bathe in old Celtic and Northern European Myth, cultivate our 'mythic literacy', tuning our ears for the natural, cultural and personal nourishment in each story.

As well as diving deep into the realm of story, we will touch upon the fundamentals of Scottish traditional storytelling culture, offering a deeper understanding of the cultural context within which these stories have evolved.

Workshops will be participatory, with opportunities to discuss and embody elements of the stories.

‘Pitch perfect from start to finish, expertly held and facilitated with a holistic understanding of the medicine behind the myth.’



Who is the show for?

One sentence copy

An entertaining evening of mythopoetic wonder, live storytelling and cultural echoes from ancient Scotland.

A few sentences

An authentic night of Scottish storytelling, brimming with wonder, humour and mythopoetics. Let your imagination journey across the wild Atlantic to the purple hills of Scotland. Meet poetic warriors, wise women, fierce creatures and mythological beasts. A rare chance to experience the living tradition of Scottish storytelling in a contemporary context.



Who is this for?

People of Scottish/Celtic descent, storytellers, performing artists and creatives. Nature connection practitioners, cultural leaders, parents, teachers, facilitators. People who cherish the old ways, value folk arts and the power of storytelling.

What people say about...

The Animate Lands Show

“Mackay is a first rate teller and charming host! [His] telling is trum and ripe with characteristic wry humour. [The show] is a well constructed, fascinating primer on the animistic side of the Celtic story-scape. As introductions to the storytelling art go, you'd be hard pushed to find anything better.”

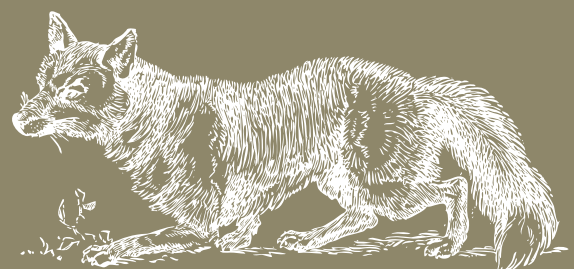
Quintessential Review Edfringe 23

“Dougie Mackay is a skilled and accomplished storyteller who quickly establishes a welcoming and relaxed atmosphere that encourages the audience to engage with the stories.”

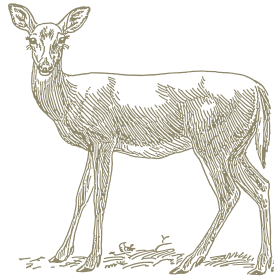
Edinburgh Theatre Edfringe 23

“A fresh and joyful take on Celtic lore and Scotland's landscape... an audience pleaser with authenticity graced by light touch and honest humour.”

Donald Smith, Director of the Scottish International Storytelling Festival



More Reviews



Myth as Medicine

“I came into class wanting to hear the old stories told by an expert storyteller, and I was not disappointed.”

“The feel of the course was like sitting in a cave round a fire, wrapped in furs, diving deeply into stories yet also like flying - we travelled to so many different places and experienced so many diverse cultures, landscapes, myths, archetypes through the stories. I feel I've come away having had a very precious experience with an amazing group of people.”

“It was a very supportive and safe space, loved the humour and that everyone's different gifts and offerings were welcomed.”

“My key takeaway was how powerful it can be to work with stories as medicine. I loved engaging in the extension activities and carrying the stories with me.”

“Myth as Medicine is truly what the title describes. The human experience is explored through deep dives into story archetypes with a new story every session.”

*“It's a deeply magical - almost shamanistic process...
An opportunity for old nourishment, your bones will recognise this experience, your Ancestors will be smiling.”*

“Warm, relaxed, supportive space for exploring the wisdom carried in myths and folktales, and for discovering how these old tales connect us all and are relevant for how we live our lives today.”

Get in Contact

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INSTAGRAM:

[@dougie.mackay.story](https://www.instagram.com/dougie.mackay.story)



PODCAST:

Tales For Our Times



YOUTUBE:

[@dougie.mackay.storyteller](https://www.youtube.com/dougie.mackay.storyteller)

TOUR DATES

May 15	Duncan	May 28	Port Townsend (WA)
17	Courtenay	31	Everson (WA)
18	Powell River	June 1	Vancouver*
21	Nanaimo	2	Vancouver (Silk Purse)
22	Cedar Song		
24	Victoria	6-9	Duncan (Scottish Mythopoetic Retreat)
25	Salt Spring Island		

