

HAMISH HENDERSON

AN ARTIST'S INSPIRATION



Scottish Storytelling Centre

Netherbow Theatre
EDINBURGH

15 November 2026
1400

Presented by:
Charles Nasmyth
Produced and Directed by:
Michael Lloyd

**Carrying Stream Festival
2026**

How iconic folklorist and poet, Hamish Henderson, inspired artist, Charles Nasmyth ...

In a new take, on this leading light in the folk revival, Nasmyth asks who he really was? Why was he inspired by Hamish's personality and achievements, to paint his portrait? Henderson is sometimes seen as a mildly eccentric figure, hefted to the convivial atmosphere of Sandy Bells bar in Edinburgh, holding court amongst musicians and scholars. But a key element in Hamish's development, was his war-time experience in the Libyan desert. He expressed this movingly in his

Somerset Maugham award-winning poems, 'Elegies for the Dead in Cyrenaica.'

Growing up under influences from all shades of society left Hamish free to navigate Britain's class-based culture, without feeling out of place in any company.

Paradoxically, he didn't let his socialist internationalism stand in the way of a passionate belief in self-determination for Scotland. He didn't raise Scotland above its merits - but valued the country for what it really is. Charles admires Hamish's integrity. Henderson never sold out or compromised his beliefs, even when they caused personal conflict.