



NARNIA

Project Report 2025



Narnia in Wester Hailes was a magical adventure through the wardrobe into the enchanted land of Narnia. With live music, creative play, aerial artistry and hot chocolate; Narnia in Wester Hailes was a free, winter trail for families with babies and young children. A journey into a snowy wonderland full of unexpected characters and magical surprises.

Working in collaboration with partners across the community, Starcatchers presented a magical Narnia Festive Trail from Thursday 11 to Saturday 13 December, designed especially for families with wee one's aged birth-5 years.

From Wester Hailes Library to WHALE Arts, the immersive trail featured aerial performances, live music from Tinderbox Collective, Oi Musica and Big Noise Wester Hailes, plus the chance to meet beloved Narnia-inspired characters along the way. The special festive experience was created especially for families in Wester Hailes, Broomhouse and Sighthill, and developed in partnership with Starcatchers' Expecting Something group for babies and their carers, and with local early years settings. Their ideas and creations were incorporated into the magical hour-long walkthrough performance.

Created by Lead Artist, Kerry Cleland, this year's celebration was bigger and more collaborative than ever, drawing in more partners and providing more opportunities for the whole community to take part. Throughout December, partners across Wester Hailes delivered a range of Narnia-inspired activities, including festive window-design workshops at Wester Hailes Library as part of Fair Saturday Scotland, Whale Arts Winter fayre, and a host of other activities delivered by The Health Agency, B Healthy Together, Prospect Community Housing, Holy Trinity Church, Community Wellbeing Collective and The Why Project.

Film



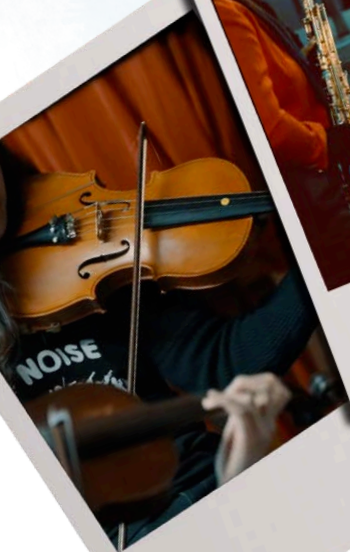
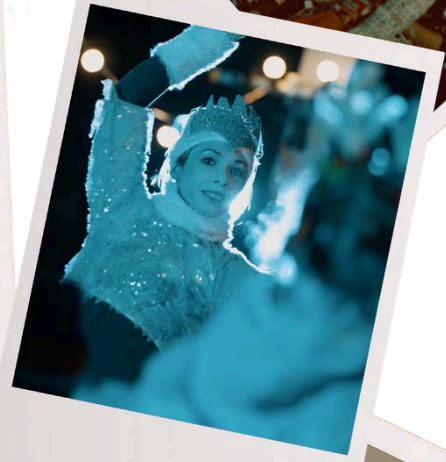
Narnia 2025

Starcatchers

NARNIA

IN WESTER HAILES

Performance Trail:

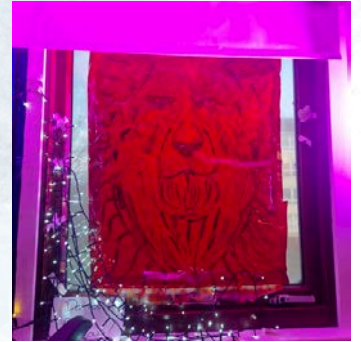




Window Wanderland

We delivered a free, drop-in window decorating day and other crafts. 200 free creative window packs were distributed to families across Wester Hailes.

Window Wanderland took place over 12th & 13th December - here are some examples of the lovely windows that lit up Wester Hailes:



Community Bunting

The community also contributed our community bunting, by decorating calico triangles which were sewn into bunting by Stitch'n'Time at WHALE Arts and displayed in December. Participants included members of Calder's Residents Association and the Community Wellbeing Collective.



What our audience said...

"I come last night super last minute with my little Boy you let us join in as he was mesmerised with the singing and he's been super excited to come back along today with his brothers. I wanted to thank you guys for such an amazing time last night"
Audience member

"I would firstly like to congratulate all involved with yesterday's wonderful Narnia experience. From start to finish we felt the magic and it was a thoroughly successful morning for us, our children and their families. We were delighted at the turnout and that there was absolutely something for everyone, you guys thought of every detail and it showed with so much attention to each and every magical experience. We feel very lucky to have been part of this."
Sighthill Early Years

"We had the best time!
Thank you so much for the experience. It was honestly amazing and unforgettable. Please pass on our thanks to the team, so impressed. So much better than a panto! It was extremely inclusive for our pupils."
Sighthill Nursery

"I didn't know what to expect, so the whole event was a surprise to us. The children loved the snow ball fight best, I loved listening to the Christmas music outside by the fire."
Audience member

"It was a very nice and well organised event. All the people were lovely, with a big smile on their faces."
Audience member

"The event was fantastic from start to finish, incredibly well organised, attention to detail was brilliant."
Audience member

What our audience said...



Dr Scott Arthur MP
13 December at 16:15 · 🌐

🌨️ Today I stepped through the wardrobe into Narnia! 🌨️

Huge thanks to the amazing team at Starcatchers for creating the Narnia Theatrical Experience, a magical, free winter trail for families with little ones (birth–5).

Co-created with the children of Wester Hailes, this adventure took us by train (imagination required) from the library to Whale Arts, where imagination turned into reality. After some play and chatter, a child discovered a mysterious key... and suddenly, the wardrobe opened!

On the other side? A snowy wonderland filled with:

- ✅ Snowball fights
- ✅ Unexpected characters & magical surprises
- ✅ Live music, aerial artistry, creative play
- ✅ And of course... hot chocolate!

👏 Huge shout-out to Starcatchers, Whale Arts, Wester Hailes Library, Big Noise, Oi Musica, Tinderbox, and All or Nothing for making this unforgettable experience for local families.

👉 Learn more: starcatchers.org.uk



Press coverage;

<https://theedinburghreporter.co.uk/2025/12/starcatchers-present-a-trail-featuring-narnia-inspired-characters/>

theedinburghreporter.co.uk/2025/12/starcatchers-present-a-trail-featuring-narnia-inspired-characters/# 67%

the Edinburgh Reporter

Tap-On Tap-Off Kick-Off

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Home - Culture - Starcatchers present a trail featuring Narnia inspired characters

Starcatchers present a trail featuring Narnia inspired characters

By Phyllis Stephen - December 18, 2025 4:17 pm 65 0

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There was festive cheer last week in Wester Hailes as a series of Narnia-themed events took place.



Audience Numbers

Narnia performance trail (11th, 12th & 13th December)

141

UNDER 5S

18

OVER 5S

115

ADULTS

Other Narnia events:

Including:

- Baby Narnia at Wester Hailes Baptist Church
- Bookbug Baby Narnia at Wester Hailes Library
- Baby Narnia at Holy Trinity
- Window Wanderland workshops at Wester Hailes Library
- Whale Arts Winter Fayre

123

UNDER 5S

15

OVER 5S

119

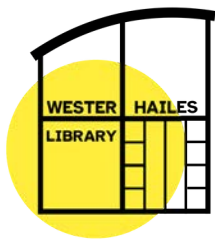
ADULTS

Plus other Narnia themed partner events:

- Bethany Christian Trust and B Healthy together - free Narnia themed lunch
- Peep by Homelink Narnia Takeover
- The Healthy Agency Narnia inspired community meal.
- Prospect Community Housing Window Wanderland competition
- Whale Arts Smarties group Narnia themed crafting session.
- Holy Trinity Church Christingle Family event



Partner organisations



and Bethany Christian Trust & Wester Hailes Baptist Church

With many thanks to our main funder, City of Edinburgh Council Events Fund





Cast & Creatives:

Aslan - Rue Cooper
Edmund / Reindeer - Kerry Cleland
Emily - Katy Wilson
Lucy/Mrs Beaver - Amie Burns-Walker
Miss Squirrel/Conductor - Laura McKay
Mr Tumnus/performer - Ronan McMahan
Mr Wolf - Jose Rojas
Snow Queen - Danuta Ramos
Susan - Lauren McGill

Big Noise Musicians;

Lighting Design and Technical Lead - Laura Hawkins
Technician - Michael Watt
Stage Manager - Gemma Smith

The special festive experience was created especially for families in Wester Hailes, Broomhouse and Sighthill, and developed in partnership with Starcatchers' Expecting Something group for babies and their carers, based at WHALE Arts. Since November the group worked with lead artists Katy Wilson, Kerry Cleland and a range of visiting artists on playful, creative activities inspired by C.S. Lewis', The Lion, the Witch and the Wardrobe. The families' ideas and creations were incorporated into the magical hour-long walkthrough performance.

Thanks to Starcatchers and Whale staff, partner organisations and everyone who contributed to the event.



@starcatchersuk

Principal Funders



ALBA | CHRUTHACHAIL



Scottish Government
Riaghaltas na h-Alba
gov.scot

Members of



Registered and mailing address: Whale Arts Agency, 30 Westburn Grove, Edinburgh EH14 2SA
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