TILLEY TALES
NA CLEASAICHEAN | THE ACTORS

Fearghas Rothach

My name is Fearghas Rothach (Fergus Munro) and I'm a musician and actor working all over Scotland. Most of my work is through the medium of Gaelic. I have been interested in Gaelic since I was young, when I began singing at the Fèis and at Mòds. But it wasn't until I was in high school that I began learning Gaelic properly!

In terms of drama, I have been involved in videos, plays, short films and voiceovers all across the country. I also still play, sing and teach music. The church is an important part of my daily life too, and I often enjoy listening to church services in Gaelic. From them, I get a sense of the beliefs or the world view my ancestors had.

I was once told a sad story from Lochaber – when I was young, and walking under the Glenfinnan Viaduct, my father would tell me about how a horse and cart fell into a hole in one of the columns whilst they were building the viaduct. There was a small hole in the side of one of the columns, and he said people claimed to still hear the horse through that hole. When I grew older, I found out that my father actually had the wrong place, but the story was true. The accident took place at the Arnabol Viaduct, next to Loch nan Uamh in West Lochaber. They looked inside with a radar and, sure enough, they found the bones of the horse and cart still in there! You can read the story here.

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Pàdraig Mac a' Phearsain

My name is Pàdraig Mac a' Phearsain (Peter MacPherson) and I am from Inverness. My family are originally from Skye and my grandparents are native Gaelic speakers, so I grew up listening to them speak to each other in the language. I first studied Gaelic at school and went on to study a degree in music at the University of Aberdeen before returning to my Gaelic studies for a year at Sabhal Mòr Ostaig.

I work as a singer and pianist, and I also teach music through lessons and tutoring at Fèis events and as part of the YMI programme. Gaelic has enabled me to speak to my grandparents in their native language, take part in local and National Mòd competitions and learn a lot of Gaelic songs that I now perform regularly. I am continuing to develop my Gaelic language skills in the hopes of becoming more fluent!

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