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HIGHLAND QUEST WILL MARK REOPENING OF EDEN COURT THEATRE

The Chair of Highland 2007 Partnership Board, Councillor Alison Magee, is delighted that the refurbished and extended Eden Court Theatre, Inverness, will be reopened in 2007 with a new musical for the Highlands, backed by theatre producer and impresario, Sir Cameron Mackintosh.

The Scottish Executive and the Mackintosh Foundation are funding the Highland Quest, a writing project for individuals and teams of writers to develop their ideas for a new piece of musical theatre which will be professionally produced by Eden Court Theatre to open their new 250-seat studio venue and then tour the Highlands for four weeks.

Councillor Magee, who is Convener of The Highland Council, said: "Sir Cameron is a very good friend of the Highlands and the involvement of such a prominent figure in the world of arts and entertainment is a real boost for the year that Scotland celebrates Highland culture. I can think of no more appropriate way to mark the opening of the new studio at Eden Court Theatre than with a new musical for the Highlands."

Councillor Magee is confident Highland 2007 will raise the profile of the Highlands as a dynamic and creative area in which to live.

She said: "Highland 2007 presents a wonderful opportunity for the Highlands. We intend presenting a year of events that people will not forget. But it is not simply about a year of parties. The most important achievement will be the legacy that Highland 2007 will leave behind. Both the physical legacy and a cultural legacy. And we are making a pledge to our young people that during the year of celebration they will all be able to enjoy free of charge a range of cultural or sporting experience."

Highland 2007 is a partnership project involving the Scottish Executive, The Highland Council and Highlands and Islands Enterprise.

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