News Release

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<u>**PHOTO CALL**</u>

11.30AM, THURSDAY 2 APRIL 2015
SCOTTISH NATIONAL PORTRAIT GALLERY
1 QUEEN STREET, EDINBURGH, EH2 1JD

Costume students' dramatic designs are pure theatre

Feathered headdresses, a ballet outfit made of fishing lures and a man-size grasshopper's suit are among the outlandish costumes created by University of Edinburgh students for a theatrical runway show.

The outfits have been designed by performance costume students for Edinburgh College of Art's SHOW 2015, which will take place from 23-25 April.

Photographers, broadcasters and journalists are invited to a preview of the costumes tomorrow (2 April), with the striking interior of the Scottish National Portrait Gallery as a backdrop.

Student Tilly Jones' design is for the lead character, Fevvers, in Angela Carter's novel, *Nights at the Circus*. Fevvers is a part-human, part-bird circus performer, whose costume comprises of an oversized headdress with plumage, bejeweled bloomers and spectacular wings made from preserved bird feathers.

Ellie Van Riel has made costumes for a ballet based on science fiction short story, *The Distance of the Moon*. The dancers' outfits are covered in more than 1,500 plastic fishing lures and printed with pictures from space, giving an other-worldly effect.

Final year student Laura Mills-Whitaker has produced a colourful costume from Roald Dahl's classic *James and the Giant Peach*. The giant grasshopper will be clad in an eye-catching green jacket, a waistcoat made from artificial grass, a monocle and a green moustache.

Mervyn Peake's fantasy novel *Gormenghast* was the inspiration for Emily Bates. She has created a sculptural costume for Steerpike, the story's lead character, which plays with notions of gothic architecture through its striking geometric tailoring.

Georgia Allen has created a costume that reflects what life is like for people who have Obsessive Compulsive Disorder. The outfit has numerous pockets and is covered in lists.

A dragonfly costume from Charles Kingsley's fairy tale *The Water Babies*, designed by Izzy Gibbs, will also go on show. The dazzling outfit includes an appliqued green satin coat and oversized sculptural headpiece.

Ranked among the top universities in the world

Holly Prescott has given a traditional tale from the Brothers Grimm a 1920s twist. Inspired by silent film stars, her costumes from *The Golden Bird* feature metallic head-dresses and art nouveau flourishes.

Other students have taken inspiration from fantastic tales such as *The Snow Child* by Eowyn Ivey and *The City Curious* by Jean de Bosschere – a children's nonsense fiction from 1920s Belgium.

Further dramatic designs on show include a futuristic vision of Romeo and Juliet and a contemporary costume for Mary Queen of Scots.

Performance Costume Director Megan Baker said: "We are incredibly excited to showcase this year's graduating students' designs. Our graduates leave to enter very exciting careers in the screen and stage industry and when you see their work it's not hard to see why. Demonstrating their versatility, creativity, dedication and passion, we are sure audiences will be delighted and mesmerised by their stunning and often playful costumes."

SHOW 2015: Fashion / Costume / Textiles takes place in Edinburgh College of Art's Sculpture Court from 23-25 April. Tickets cost £12 (plus £1.25p booking fee). They can be purchased via Hub Tickets - http://bit.ly/buyECAFS2014tix.

Anna Robbins, a graduate of the Performance Costume Course at Edinburgh College of Art and now the Costume Designer for popular ITV drama *Downton Abbey,* will deliver a talk following the 2pm show on Saturday 25 April, which guests can attend at no extra cost.

Edinburgh College of Art Performance costume graduates are now successfully working in film, TV and stage shows across the world. Graduate successes include *Downton Abbey*- ITV, *Into the Woods* – Walt Disney, *Outlander* – Sony Pictures and *Game of Thrones* – HBO.

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