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- Lauren Ellis Steel, Jo Freer, Laurence Boothman and Eva Beattie will star in the
- charming festive production in Cumbernauld this winter
- Written by Gary McNair, Directed by Jo Rush, with Music by Brian James O'Sullivan
- At Lanternhouse from Saturday 25 November to Saturday 30 December

Today Cumbernauld Theatre announces the cast for its upcoming festive production *Ugly: A Cinderella Story*, an unforgettable new spin on the classic Cinderella story from writer **Gary McNair**.

Stuck on the sidelines of someone else's story, the Ugly Sister is hackit, crabbit, and desperate for a change.

Across the ballroom, fresh from her success in glowing up Cinderella with a princess-worthy frock and fancy glass slippers, the Fairy Godmother is ready to kick back and enjoy another happy-ever-after. But finding herself stuck at the Wondernauld Christmas Ball, her fairy senses start a-tingling that there's a wish still to be granted...

In this magical makeover journey, the Fairy Godmother and Ugly Sister must work together to achieve a transformation really worth doing and discover that true worth is on the inside, not the outside. But will the Ugly Sister accept the help she needs or has she been wearing this 'ugly' label too long to change?

Audiences young and old are invited to step into the magical world of Wondernauld for a festive treat that will have them laughing, singing, and dancing in the aisles.

The show will be brought to life by a glittering cast of theatre talent including **Lauren Ellis Steele** as Chantelle, **Jo Freer** as Maw, **Laurence Boothman** as the Prince and Fairy Godmother, and **Eva Beattie** making her professional stage debut as Cinderella. Directed by **Jo Rush**, the production will also feature music by **Brian James O'Sullivan**.

Director Jo rush said: *"We are so excited to bring this brand new twist on the Cinderella story to Cumbernauld this Christmas. We are incredibly lucky to have Lauren, Jo, Lawrence, and Eva – a totally hilarious and talented ensemble of actors, on board to help us bring to life Gary and Brian's silly yet heartfelt story and songs for all of our brilliant audiences."*

Writer Gary McNair said: *"I've always enjoyed performing in Cumbernauld, they always have excellent audiences and I can't wait to bring this show to them. It's a brilliant cast that I feel lucky to get to write for and a wonderful creative team to be a part of. I'm really looking forward to the fun to start in rehearsals."*

Producer Fraser Morrison said: *"It's a thrill to see 'Ugly: A Cinderella Story' come to life on our stage. Working with this exceptional cast and the dedicated creative team has been an inspiring journey so far. We are excited to share this story's unconventional tale and transformative magic with the audiences of Cumbernauld and beyond this December."*

Ugly: A Cinderella Story will run at Lanternhouse Main Auditorium from Sat 25 November to Sat 30 December, with an opening press performance on **Fri 01 December at 7pm**.

Meanwhile the Studio Theatre hosts a special production for younger audiences from Saturday 2 December to Saturday 30 December – ***A Ladder to the Stars***, a heartfelt, humorous story of what can happen when the universe hears your dreams, produced by Visible Fictions.