



NEWS RELEASE
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GHOST FEST SHORT LISTED AGAIN AT TOURISM OSCARS!

The unique and hugely popular and paranormal festival, **Mary King's Ghost Fest**, has been short listed for a second year running in one of the most prestigious tourism industry awards – the Scottish Thistle Awards.

The 10-day Edinburgh based festival held each year in May and which focuses on the themes of the paranormal and supernatural, has been short listed in the Marketing Initiative category alongside Edinburgh's Dynamic Earth and the Glasgow Mackintosh Festival. The winner is set to be announced at a Gala Dinner on Friday 26th October.

Mary King's Ghost Fest's second nomination in Scotland's tourism 'Oscars' is a further testament to the success of this unusual festival and highlights the increasing interest in Scotland's supernatural features. Ghost Fest successfully combines a mix of history, science, ghost stories and legends, appealing to residents as well as driving UK based and overseas visitors to the Scottish capital in May.

Organised by the five-star quality attraction Mary King's Close, who work with partner organisations across the city, Ghost Fest hosts a range of events across Edinburgh to enable visitors and enthusiasts to explore and uncover more about the dark tales and strange paranormal activity for which Edinburgh is internationally renowned. In 2007 a host of new events provided a number highlights to this year's Ghost Fest including a series of groundbreaking research events into the phenomena of Infrasound at Mary King's Close; a host of literary tours, talks and readings organised by City of the Dead; a number of Electronic Voice Phenomena (EVP) experiments at previously unexplored venues by EVP specialist Ghost Hunters Scotland and macabre tours of the Royal College of Physicians with Mercat Tours.

Now into its third year, Ghost Fest is growing and developing each year by adding new events and partners to the festival line up. As well as highlight events held at Mary King's Close, event and venue support is provided by partner organisations including, Mercat Tours, Cameo Cinema, National Library for Scotland, Camera Obscura and World of Illusions, Ghost Finders Scotland, Scottish Paranormal, Rabbits Tours, City of the Dead, L.A Events, Scottish Storytelling Centre, Royal College of Physicians, Theosophical Society and Frankenstein's.

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Visitor centre manager at Mary King's Close, Stephen Spencer, said: "We are absolutely delighted to have been short listed for a second year running at the Scottish Thistle Awards. Ghost Fest has proved hugely successful and extremely popular with visitors from across Scotland and beyond, as well as with our local residents. The staff here at Mary King's Close along with our festival partners, are thrilled that Ghost Fest has been recognised in these prestigious awards."

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Notes to Editors:

Mary King's Close: Mary King's Close is an important historic site – and quite unique. It consists of a number of underground Closes which would have originally been very narrow walkways with houses on either side stretching up to 7 storeys high and dating back several centuries. In 1753 the Burgh authorities decided to develop a grand new building, the Royal Exchange (now the City Chambers). The houses at the top of the Closes were knocked down and part of the lower sections were kept and used as the foundations for the new building, leaving a number of dark and mysterious underground Closes and ancient dwellings steeped in mystery! For more information visit www.realmarykingsclose.com

Scottish Thistle Awards: The Thistle Awards are recognised as one of the top accolades a tourism business can receive, and reward Scottish tourism businesses that consistently strive for quality and innovation. Over 260 entries were received for this year's Awards and the panel of judges has been extremely impressed with the high standard of entries. For more information about the Thistle Awards visit www.visitscotland.org/thistleawards