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For Immediate Release

STAR PLEDGES SUPPORT FOR SCOTLAND'S NATIONAL YOUTH THEATRE

Scottish Youth Theatre is delighted to announce actor **Bill Paterson** as its new patron. Best known for his work on stage and screen, Bill has been in the industry for over four decades. He is currently starring in the British version of the popular US drama *Law and Order*, set in London.

Bill has supported Scottish Youth Theatre for several years, recently donating monies earned from his book signing at the Aye Write book festival. Bill posed for some photographs with Scottish Youth Theatre participants - Rosie Cosgrove, 17 from Dunoon, Nathan Byrne, 17 from Glasgow, Jayne Austin, 16 from Bridge of Weir and Oliver Cunningham, 5, from Cardross.

Paterson joins current patrons Brian Cox, Alan Cumming, Billy Boyd and Emma Thompson, who have all pledged their support for Scottish Youth Theatre.

Scottish Youth Theatre is Scotland's national theatre 'for and by' young people. As the national youth theatre for Scotland for more than 30 years, it provides a wide variety of opportunities for 3-25 yr olds to participate in high quality youth theatre arts activities all around Scotland all year round. The company aims to provide a platform for young people to explore experiment and develop skills through the theatre process. Thus, leading to more confident, creative and self reliant citizens for Scotland.

Although focused on the creative, personal and social development of its participants, many of the youth theatre's alumni have gone to enjoy extremely successful careers in the performance industries, these include; Tony Curran, KT Tunstall, Colin McCredie, Blythe Duff, Gerard Butler, and James Anthony Pearson.

Commenting on the announcement, Bill Paterson said:

'Scottish Youth Theatre has a long and distinguished reputation for providing the young people of Scotland with the experience and a pathway into the performing arts industries in Scotland. I am constantly astounded and impressed by the breadth and variety of their programme of activities for children and young people. As an avid supporter of Scottish Youth Theatre, I have watched the company's progress and development with great interest for many years and am now delighted to be joining them as a Patron.'

Commenting on the announcement, Mary McCluskey, Artistic Director and Chief Executive said:

‘Scottish Youth Theatre is pleased and privileged to welcome Bill Paterson as a new Patron of the company. Having an actor with such a prestigious career on stage and screen as an ambassador for the youth theatre and its work is an honour. Bill’s canon of work is an inspiration to both participants and staff.’

Ends

For further information please contact **Maureen Ladyman**, Marketing Officer, Scottish Youth Theatre on (0141) 552 3988, 07707286406 or maureen@scottishyouththeatre.org.

Notes to Editors

1. Scottish Youth Theatre is Scotland’s national theatre ‘for & by’ young people.
2. It aims to develop creative and self-reliant citizens for a flourishing Scotland
3. Scottish Youth Theatre was founded by Gareth Wardell in Edinburgh in 1976.
4. The first Summer Festival took place in July 1977.
5. Ex-participants include Alana Hood, John Paul McGilvray, Carmen Pieraccini, Gerard Butler, Laura Fraser, broadcaster Kirsty Young, Michelle Gomez (Green Wing) Dougie Henshall (Primeval).
6. Scottish Youth Theatre Patrons include: Billy Boyd, Alan Cumming, Blythe Duff, Brian Cox, Colin McCredie, Paul Riley, Elaine C Smith, Emma Thompson and Richard Wilson.
7. Scottish Youth Theatre is based in the Old Sheriff Court building Glasgow.
8. Weekly classes take place in Aberdeen, Edinburgh & Glasgow.
9. For more information please visit www.scottishyouththeatre.org