



HISTORIC SCOTLAND
ALBA AOSMHOR

Our sites have seen action in your favourite action films. Added drama to your best-loved dramas. And thrilled in your all-time ultimate thrillers. Follow your favourite TV and movie characters into the world of cinematic Scotland.



Film & Shows

Locations

Films & Shows

Blackness Castle
Mary Queen of Scots

Calanais Standing Stones
Call the Midwife

Craigmillar Castle
Outlander

Doune Castle
**Monty Python
and the Holy Grail**

Edinburgh Castle
The Lost King

Holyrood Park
**One Day
Trainspotting 2
Eurovision: Fire Saga**

Fort Charlotte
Shetland

Glasgow Cathedral
The Princess Switch 2

Linlithgow Palace
Outlaw King

Ring of Brodgar
The Outrun

St Andrews Castle
& Cathedral
**The Crown
Karen Pirie**

St Clements Church
An t-Eilean (The Island)

Stirling Castle
**Mary & George
Good Omens**

Tantallon Castle
A Castle for Christmas



Locations

Fort Charlotte

Ring of Brodgar

Calanais Standing Stones

St Clement's Church

St Andrews Castle & Cathedral

Doune Castle

Stirling Castle

Glasgow Cathedral

Tantallon Castle

Craigmillar Castle

Linlithgow Palace

Blackness Castle

Edinburgh Castle & Holyrood Park



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Blackness Castle



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Mary Queen of Scots

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Blackness Castle, the ‘ship that never sailed’.

This castle was never a peaceful royal residence. A fortress and state prison, Blackness cuts a dramatic and forbidding figure. That’s why it’s been a central backdrop to high-end productions like **Outlander**, **Outlaw King**, and **Mary Queen of Scots**, where it doubles as Holyrood Palace.



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> **Mary Queen of Scots**



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Calanais Standing Stones



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Call the Midwife

The Isle of Lewis' ancient and enigmatic Calanais standing stones have long drawn curious visitors. A pivotal backdrop to **Call the Midwife's** 2019 Christmas Special, the site's gravitas means it must be seen to be believed.

©BBC



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This much-loved British series also shot at St Clement's Church, Rodel on Harris for the special episode.

©BBC



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The Calanais standing stones have also brought to life several fictional locations, like **Outlander's** Craig Na Dun, and the stone circle from Disney Pixar's **Brave** (2012).

©Sony Pictures Television



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Craigmillar Castle



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Outlander

© Sony Pictures Television



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Find yourself amidst the exhilaration and drama of the **Outlander** series. Based on Diana Gabaldon's best-selling novels, the show follows a combat nurse as she's swept back in time from 1945 to 1743. She's forced to marry chivalrous Scottish warrior Jamie, and an affair for the ages begins.



©Sony Pictures Television

Stories like these can only be told in certain special places. Our properties, like the historic Craigmillar, Aberdour, and Doune Castles, paint a vivid picture of the old world that breathes authenticity and emotion to any production.

> **Outlander**



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Doune Castle



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©Python Pictures/EMI/The Kobal Collection

Monty Python and the Holy Grail



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Walk in the footsteps of Kings from the past and the silver screen. Doune Castle, built for Scotland's 'uncrowned king' Regent Albany, was **Game of Thrones'** Winterfell in the pilot episode, as well as featuring prominently in **Monty Python and the Holy Grail** and **Outlander**.



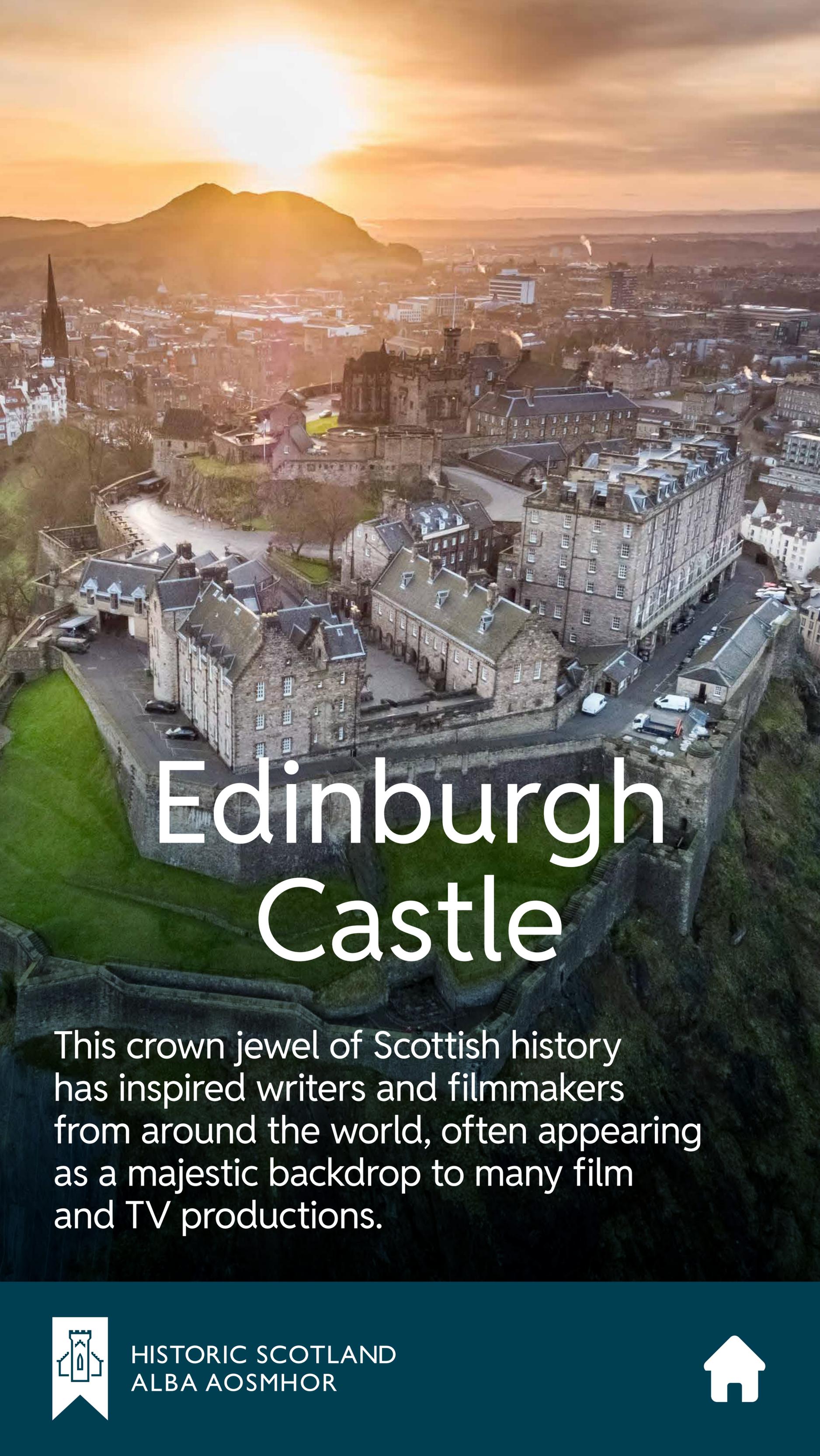
©sky

Storm the castle with Terry Jones from **Monty Python**, and learn about the filming of **Outlander** with Sam Heughan through our digital on-site audio guide.



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An aerial photograph of Edinburgh Castle, Scotland, taken during the golden hour of sunset. The sun is low on the horizon, casting a warm, orange glow over the city and the castle's stone walls. The castle is situated on a rocky outcrop, with a large green lawn in the foreground. The city of Edinburgh is visible in the background, with its characteristic red sandstone buildings and a prominent church spire on the left. The sky is filled with soft, golden light, and the overall atmosphere is serene and majestic.

Edinburgh Castle

This crown jewel of Scottish history has inspired writers and filmmakers from around the world, often appearing as a majestic backdrop to many film and TV productions.



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The Lost King

[> view blog post](#)

© Pathe UK



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©Pathe UK

As Scotland's top paid-for visitor attraction, it isn't always easy to book it out for filming. Almost 2 million people a year come to take in its elegance and grandeur.

However, the team for biographical comedy-drama **The Lost King** managed to arrange filming of the 1 o'clock gun and dialogue scenes around the Castle. The film follows the real-life story of Philippa Langley's (played by Sally Hawkins) quest to find the remains of Richard III. Her ex-husband is played by Steve Coogan, who co-wrote the film with Jeff Pope.

You can also see scenes filmed at Edinburgh Castle in **Burke and Hare** (2010) and **Filth** (2013) starring James McAvoy.



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Holyrood Park

The dramatic natural landscapes of Holyrood Park, nestled centrally within the city of Edinburgh, have captured the imaginations of some of the world's finest writers and filmmakers.

©Lee Howard



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One Day



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David Nicholls' popular novel, **One Day**, where main characters Emma and Dexter have a romantic moment at the peak of Arthur's Seat, is a prime example of Scotland's beauty on screen.



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It's been adapted twice – for a film (2011) and the hit Netflix show (2024). Both show the capital's breathtaking cityscape from Holyrood Park in all its cinematic glory.



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T2 Trainspotting

The summit of the Salisbury Crags took pride of place in **T2 Trainspotting** (2017) at a pivotal moment for main characters Renton and Spud, two of Edinburgh's most infamous fictional exports.

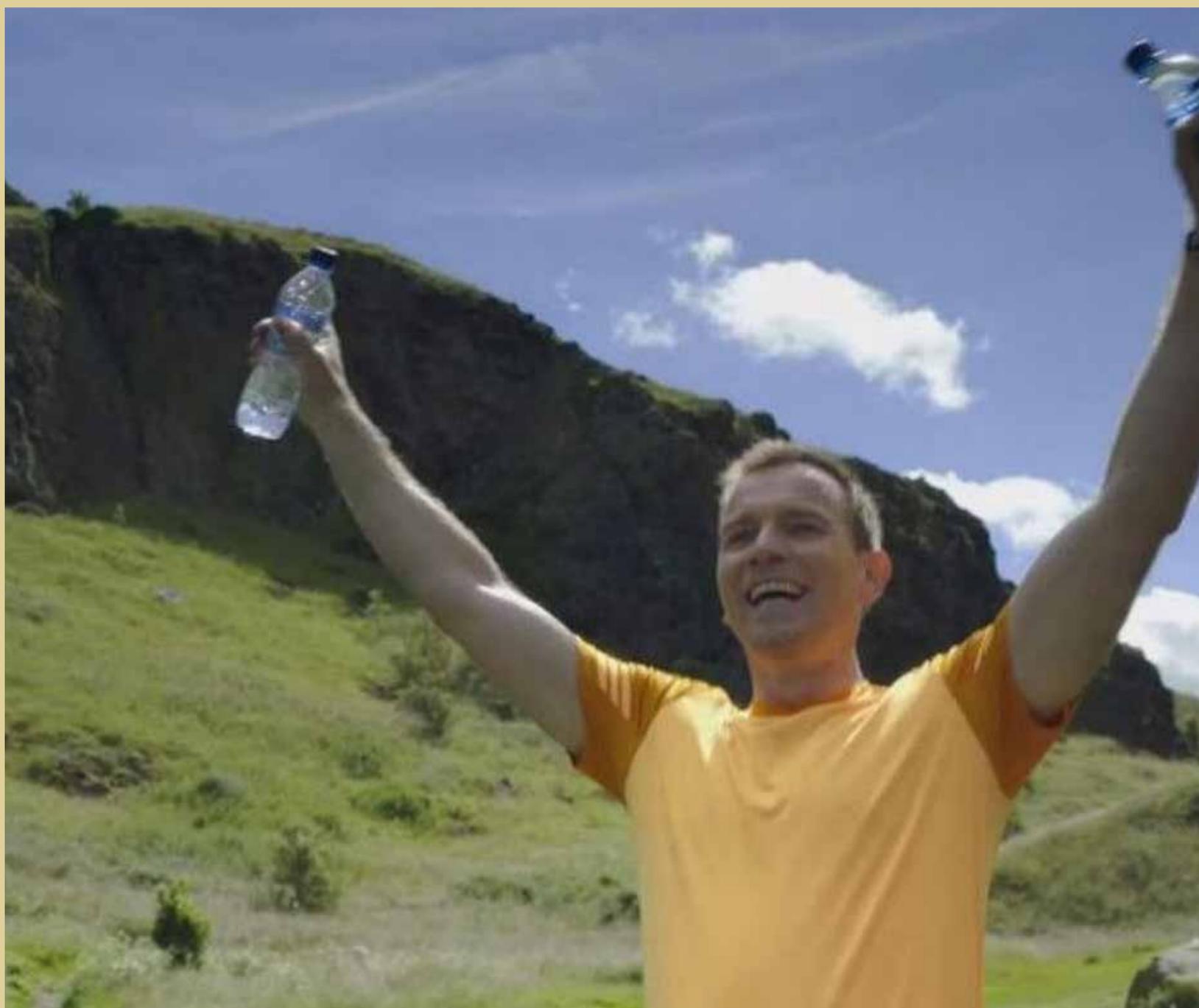
©Tristar Productions



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While there can be some logistical challenges in filming Edinburgh's magnificent Holyrood Park, we work closely with professional crews to ensure the protection of the public, landscape, flora, and fauna.



©Tristar Productions

[> view clip](#)



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Eurovision: Fire Saga



©Netflix

> view clip



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Starring Hollywood big hitters Will Ferrell and Rachel McAdams, **Eurovision Song Contest: The Story of Fire Saga** (2020) was a huge comedy blockbuster.

Interestingly, some of the Iceland scenes were actually filmed in and around our own fair Edinburgh. Intricate sets were built and some key scenes were shot in Holyrood Park.

This is just another example of how we can help you live your film star fantasy by visiting some of your favourite movie backdrops.

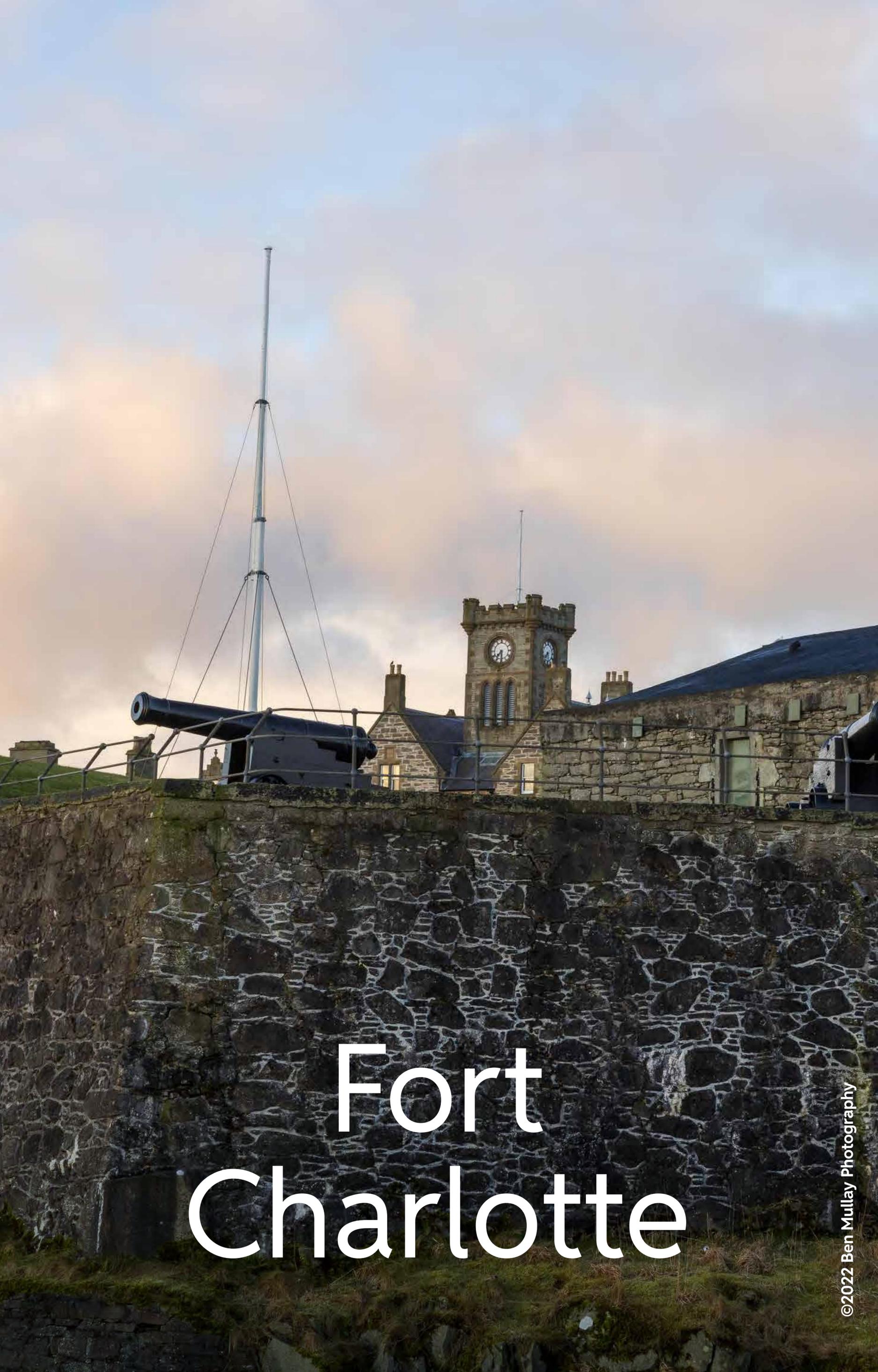


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Fort Charlotte

©2022 Ben Mullay Photography



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Shetland



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Based on the novels by Ann Cleeves, prime-time crime drama **Shetland** showcases the rugged, majestic beauty of the Shetland Islands.

If you decide to visit for yourself, don't miss the remarkable prehistoric settlement of Jarlshof. However, it was Fort Charlotte, the artillery for in Lerwick that featured in series 3, episode 4.

Newark Castle in Port Glasgow was an inspired filming location, too. In series 7 episode 4, it featured as a stand in for an abandoned Shetland church where grizzly evidence of tortured hostages was found.



[> view blog post](#)



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Here, fiction didn't stray too far from reality, unfortunately for the wife of Newark's most infamous resident, Sir Patrick Maxwell. She was beaten and locked in her chambers for six months with only bread and water.



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Glasgow Cathedral



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The Princess Switch 2

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The opulent interiors of Glasgow Cathedral have long been committed to film. They've stood in as L'Hopital des Anges in season 2 of **Outlander** (2016) and the scene of the murder of John Comyn in the Netflix hit **Outlaw King** (2018).



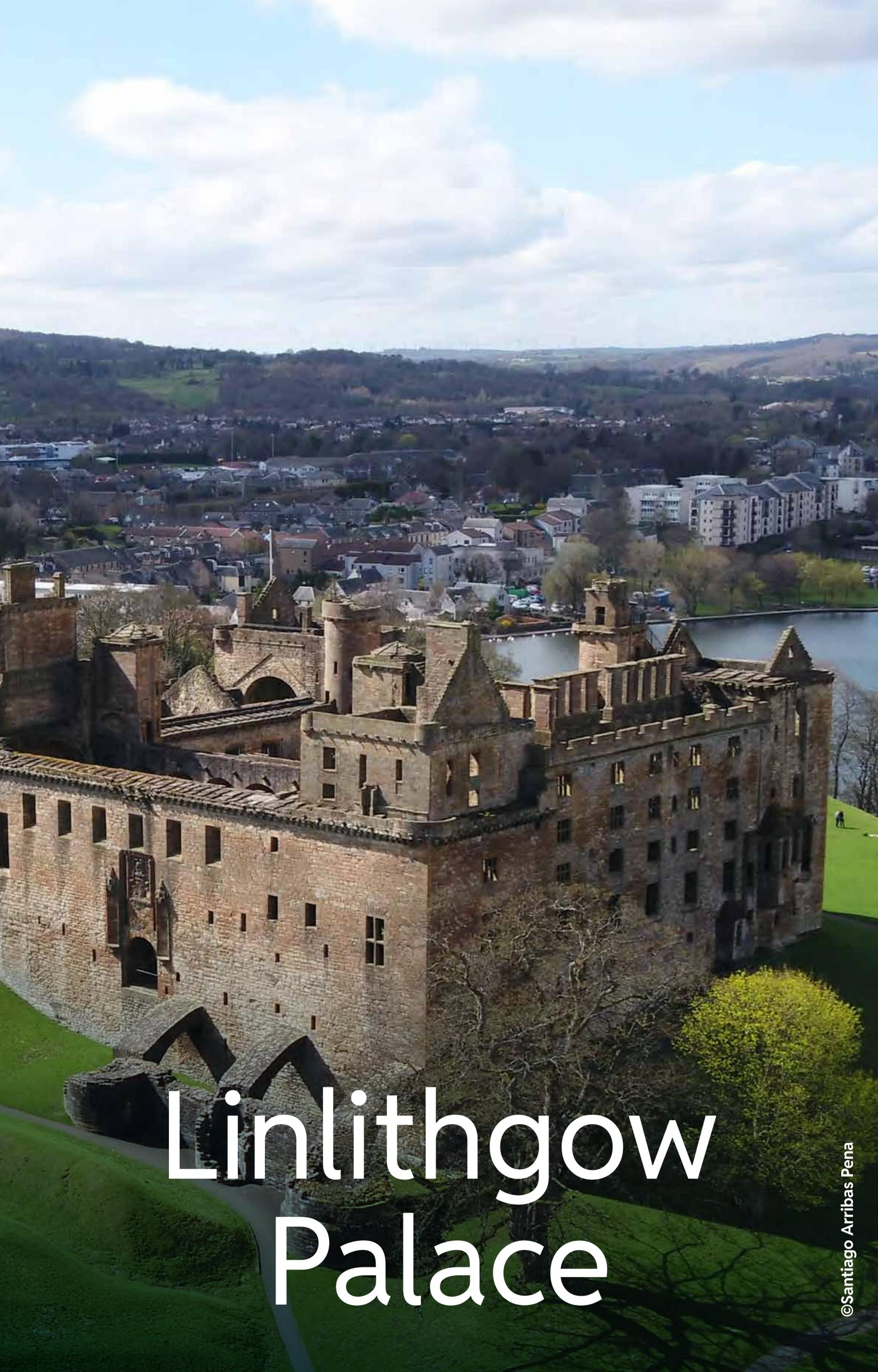
©Netflix

High School Musical star Vanessa Hudgens filmed **The Princess Switch: Switched Again** here in 2020, too. The ornate choir area provided the perfect location for a coronation scene and would make for an ideal selfie spot!



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Linlithgow Palace

© Santiago Arribas Pena



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Outlaw King

©Netflix



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In **Outlaw King**, the scene where Robert the Bruce was crowned is filmed at the remarkable Linlithgow Palace, which stood in for the true historic location of Scone Palace.

> **Outlaw King**

©Netflix



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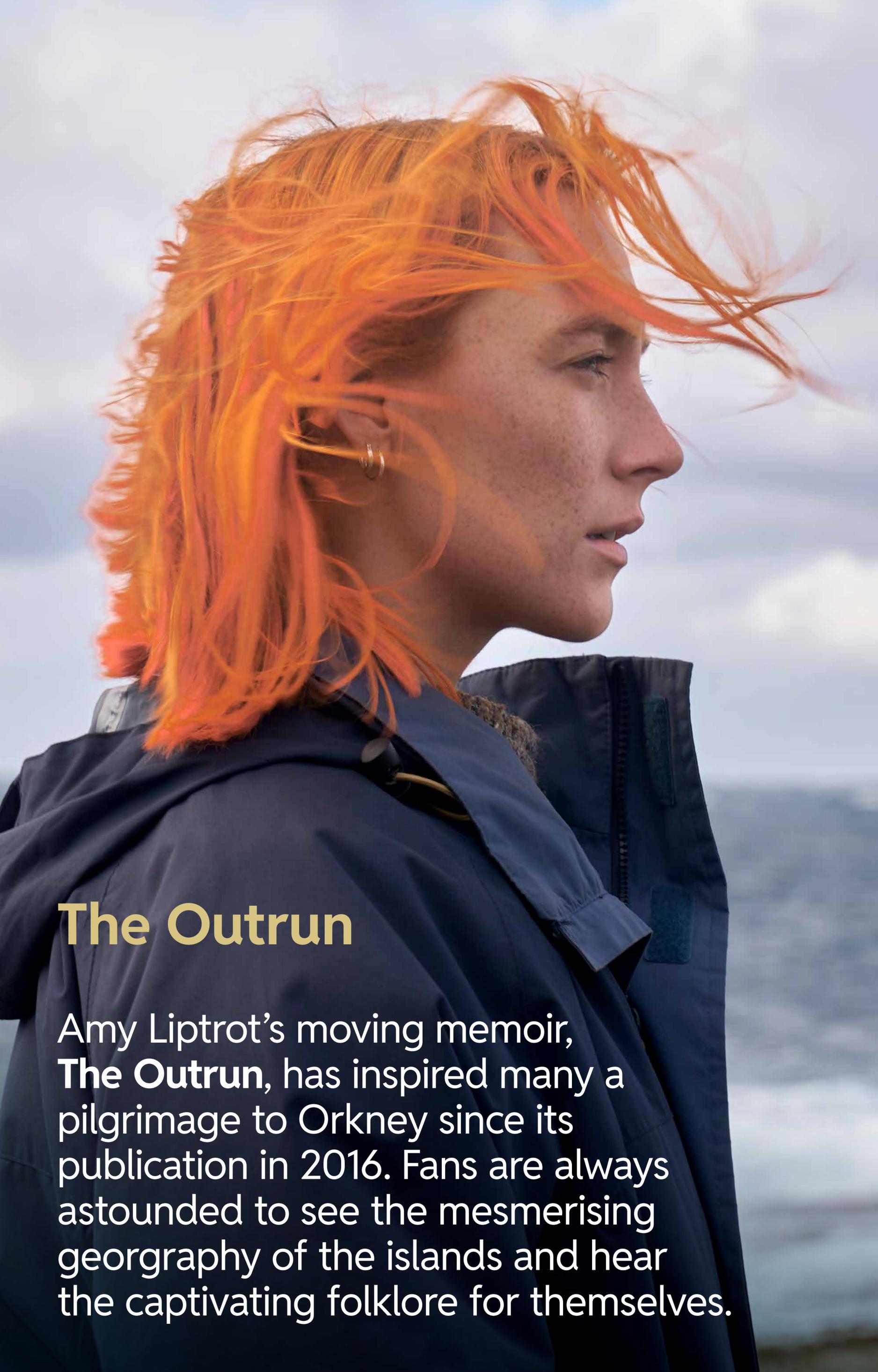
Ring of Brodgar

©Rob McDougall



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The Outrun

Amy Liptrot's moving memoir, **The Outrun**, has inspired many a pilgrimage to Orkney since its publication in 2016. Fans are always astounded to see the mesmerising geography of the islands and hear the captivating folklore for themselves.



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In 2022 a film crew travelled to Orkney to capture scenes for the film adaptation of the same name (2024). The film starred Saoirse Ronan and shot at nighttime at the atmospheric Ring of Brodgar and Stones of Stenness on Orkney Mainland.

They also filmed a dialogue scene between Amy and her mother at Knap of Howar on the remote island of Papa Westray. The two neolithic 'houses' are the oldest standing stone buildings in north-west Europe and were occupied more than 5000 years ago.

Amy's time on Papa Westray is a key feature in the book and despite logistical challenges the production headed to the real-life location to capture authentic scenes for the film.

If you're a fan of the book or film – or just love to see where historic shots were filmed! – a trip to Orkney should be top of your to-do list.





St Andrews Castle & Cathedral



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Quaint and picturesque, the town of St Andrews has been featured on screen many times. Film fans would have so much to see, with the Castle and Cathedral as particular highlights.



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The Crown

Series 6 of hit TV series **The Crown** (2023) filmed here for several scenes covering Prince William's time at university in St Andrews and used the Castle grounds to obtain key shots.



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Karen Pirie

The Castle and Cathedral also had a starring role in ITV's adaptation of the Val McDermid detective novels, **Karen Pirie** (2022), where crews worked through the night to get their shots.

We won't spoil any of the action, but several key events take place on the grounds of our sites, in this critically acclaimed tartan noir starring Lauren Lyle.

©ITV



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St Clements Church



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An t-Eilean (The Island)



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An t-Eilean (The Island) is a groundbreaking Gaelic thriller where a dysfunctional family's world is shattered in a tense, twisting story of lies and loss.

The UK's first ever high-end Gaelic drama series, the show sees PC Kat Crichton confront her past when assigned to a murder case on the isle of Harris.

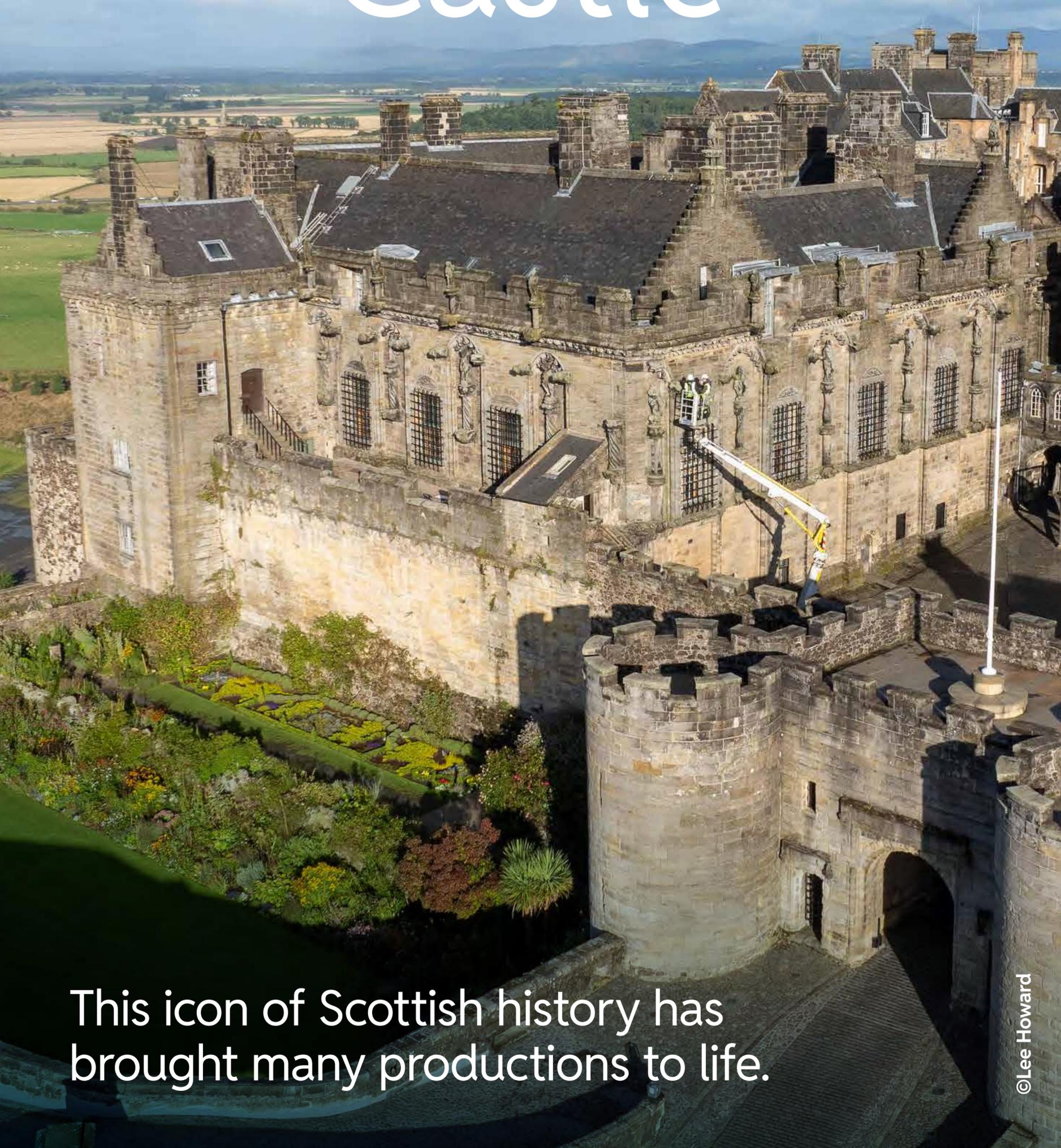
St Clement's Church features in the opening credits and in episode 3 – so, if you like the allure of a good, dark mystery, you should see it with your own eyes.



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Stirling Castle



This icon of Scottish history has brought many productions to life.

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Mary & George

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The sumptuous drama **Mary & George** (2024) stars Julianne Moore and Nicholas Galitzine as social climbers in the court of King James VI, who was baptised and spent his childhood at the castle.

Episode 4 depicts James' return to Scotland in 1617 and Stirling Castle doubles for the streets of Edinburgh as the King's party arrive in a horseback procession.

For the banquet scene later in the episode, filming took place in the Queen's Inner Chamber. Even without the lavish props and actors, this is a place where history can be felt first hand.



©sky



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Good Omens

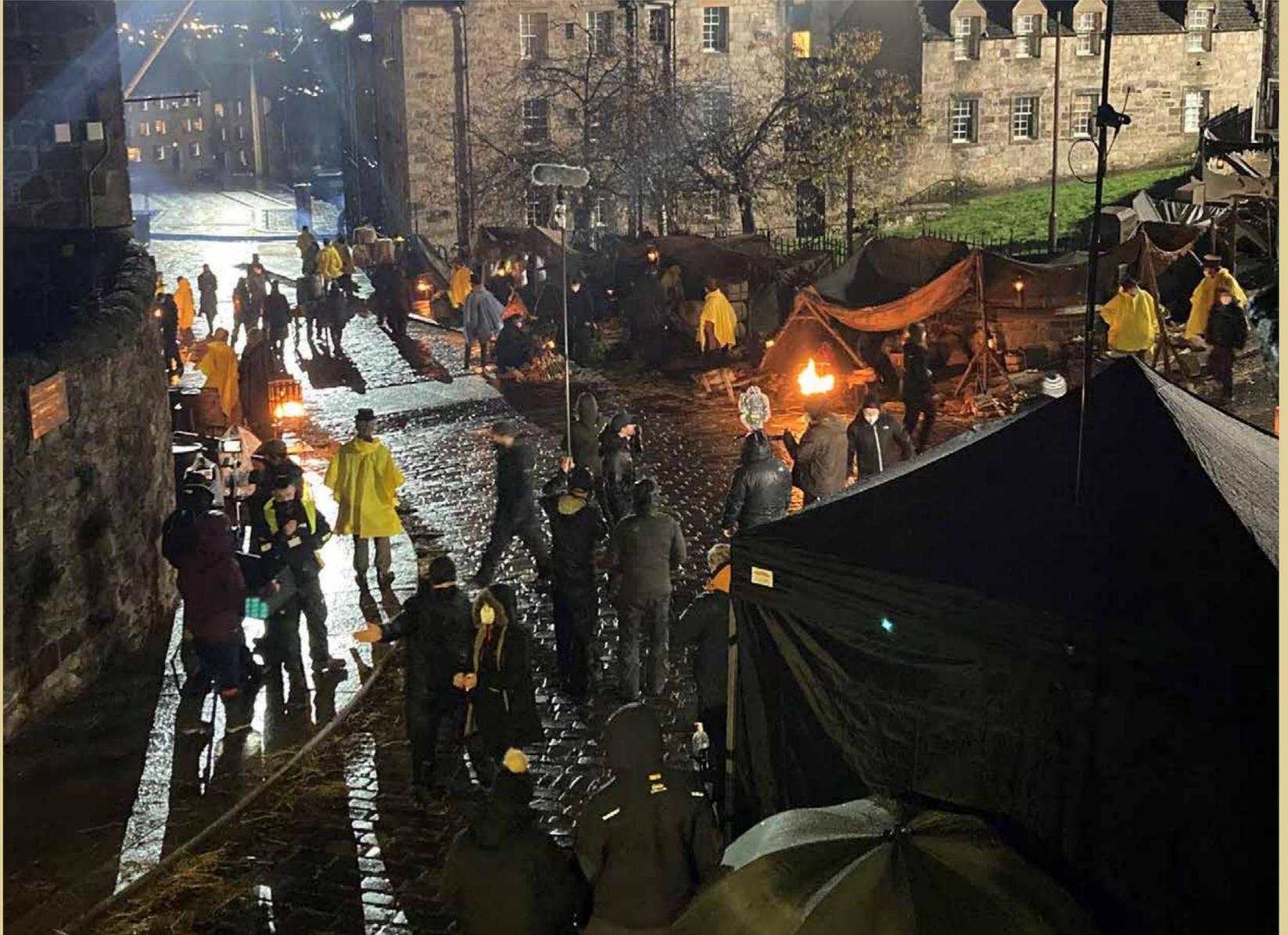


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In series 2 of **Good Omens** (2023), Stirling's old town doubled for 1800s Edinburgh. Locations included the Mar's Wark ruin, which belonged to the Earl of Mar, keeper of Stirling Castle.

Stirling Castle was depicted as herself in **Outlaw King** (2017), **Mary Queen of Scots** (2018), and has hosted filming for **Burke and Hare** (2010), and the **Adventures of Greyfriars Bobby** (2005). So, if you've ever wondered what it feels like to relive scenes from your favourite films, you should start here.



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Tantallon Castle



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A Castle for Christmas

Tantallon Castle appears in the Netflix film **A Castle for Christmas** as a scenic location during Sophie's drive into Dunbar.



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If you are a **Strictly Come Dancing** fan, you may have noticed that series 21 (2023) opened with a fabulous dance sequence from the professionals set among the beguiling ruins of Tantallon Castle in East Lothian.



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Further Information

Any true fan of the small or silver screen has hundreds of things to see.

Our sites aren't just historic or pretty – they're a chance to step inside your favourite on-camera moments and live your imagination in real life.

For a full list of productions that have filmed at our sites click [here](#)

To plan your visit to any of our sites click [here](#)



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