

13-12-12 1y News 12

# Exploring two women's love for King James IV

## Vivien Jones' historcial hit production gets set for a second outing at Lochmaben

Following the successful first showing of *Red Rose White Rose* at the CatStrand in New Galloway, the cast is looking forward to the next performance at Lochmaben on Sunday.

The story explores how the two women in the life of King James IV - wife, Queen Margaret and Janet, the sometime mistress - share the experience of loving a powerful man.

The script is written by Powfoot-based Vivien Jones, based on a short story in her latest collection, "White Poppies".

Vivien and husband Richard, who are musicians with The Galloway Consort, play the 16th century music interwoven through the story featuring an assortment of renaissance instruments including viols, recorders, renaissance guitar, harp and percussion.

Writers Mary Smith (the mistress) and JoAnne McKay (the Queen) join Richard and Vivien to tell the women's tale.

Vivien said: "Margaret's currency is her fertility, Janet's her undemanding demeanour - both stand to lose much as men all over Scotland go to battle on the bare moor of Flodden with their king.

"In the meantime, the women are comforted by music that expresses their fleeting joys and sorrows.

"The venue at Elshieshields, at Lochmaben, is wonderfully atmospheric and we are really looking forward to being there on the 16th. Ticket sales are going well."

The CatStrand performance was well received.

Vivien added: "Red Rose White Rose is definitely far more than the sum of its parts. We were delighted by the response of the audience. So many said how much they'd enjoyed this method of story-telling and one said it should be toured round every sixth form music and history department."

'Red Rose White Rose' has already been taking bookings for future performances including the Big Burns Supper Festival in Dumfries. The show at Elshieshields starts at 3pm.



Cast Performers in *Red Rose White Rose* being performed at Lochmaben



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