**The Rise of the Paragon Scottish Arts Movement**

The Paragon Scottish Arts Movement (PSAM) is a new creative arts platform for Scottish artists, guests and visitors which offers both online engagement and showcase events every month. The showcases are currently held at the Banshee Labyrinth in Niddry Street, Edinburgh.

Speaking about the movement, Paragon’s creator, host and driving force Jack Charlesworth said, “Through the PSAM website and monthly events I see Paragon as being a welcoming platform for Scottish artists, providing opportunities for creators of all levels of skills and experience to meet, engage and collaborate. Through our online presence Paragon will also act as a medium for all the latest creative and digital arts news, competitions and festivals.”

I attended the first meeting of the group in the Banshee Labyrinth on Wednesday 15th January covering the evening with a limited event photography shoot.

From the outset it was clear that in a short time the platform had already attracted a wide and diverse audience, particularly from the filmmaking and acting community. Also, the small cinema in the Banshee Labyrinth set in a series of 18th century vaults in Edinburgh’s Old Town seemed like the ideal location for the event.

All ages and levels of experience were represented and over the course of the evening the audience enjoyed inputs from a number of artists presenting their short films. These included internationally acclaimed dramatic and storytelling shorts, stunning works of drone photography and animation as well as an evocative arthouse feature.

The quality of work throughout the evening was consistently high and it was clear that a real sense of creative community was building as the evening progressed.

A local artist and scriptwriter herself, Jack proved herself to be an enthusiastic and insightful host, making sure that the evening ran fluently and that everyone was given ample time and opportunity to talk about their work. I was especially impressed with the positivity and supportive nature of all present, and as the evening progressed talk of collaborations began to develop.

As I packed my equipment away, I reflected on the evening's success. Not only had it been an extremely enjoyable event to cover, but I had also made a number of new friends and contacts in the Scottish arts scene.

With its engaging events and supportive community, Paragon has the full potential to become a cornerstone of the Scottish arts landscape. I am excited to see how this movement will continue to grow and inspire.

The Paragon Scottish Arts Movement website can be found at [www.paragonsam.com](http://www.paragonsam.com) and the next scheduled Paragon showcase event is at 7.30pm on 19 February 2025, submissions for presentations can be made through the contact form on the Paragon website.

Martin White, January 2025

**Paragon Featured artists:**

Charles Eades, Artist, Writer and Filmmaker - <https://charleseades.co.uk/>

Lee Ian Moffat (AKA The Heebie Jeebie Man) Actor, Artist and Writer - [https://www.youtube.com/@HeebieJeebieStoryCorner](https://www.youtube.com/%40HeebieJeebieStoryCorner)

Stephen Caldwell, Videographer and musician - <https://www.facebook.com/stevehat1>

Jean-Luc Addams “Qasarbeach”, Animator - <https://www.paragonsam.com/artist-showcase-paragonatbansheelabyrinth>

Christopher Law, Guerilla Filmmaker - <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=SqxMmtj7GjQ&t=44s>

Grant Deans, Videographer - <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=qWzJFjjBFyc>

Ben Truckell, Music Videographer - <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=10OR8omm0OI>

Paul Distefano, Film Director - <https://drive.google.com/file/d/1r3LOwIzu4vMCFOCqU9GQ-u5MnSLA8Xh3/view?ts=6780168c>

Cameron J. Laing, Filmmaker and Artist - <https://drive.google.com/file/d/1r3LOwIzu4vMCFOCqU9GQ-u5MnSLA8Xh3/view?ts=6780168c>

Łukasz Krzysztof Augustyniak - Documentary Film Maker - <https://linktr.ee/cinemachef>

Martin White, Photographer, Author and Musician - <https://www.martinwhitephotography.com/>

James Flowerdew, Experimental filmmaker - <https://www.jamesflowerdew.com/>