

For Immediate Release
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New Royal BC Museum exhibition celebrates Scottish silver

VICTORIA, BC – A new exhibition opening next week at the Royal BC Museum (RBCM) promises to dazzle celebrity-followers and silver enthusiasts alike.

Silver of the Stars, which makes its Canadian premiere at the RBCM, Oct. 23, 2009 - Jan. 10, 2010, is a stunning collection of contemporary silver created for some of the biggest names in film, music, fashion, theatre and literature.

Based on the theme “a drink with a close friend,” 10 celebrities, including Sir Sean Connery, Robbie Coltrane and Ewan McGregor, paired up with Scottish silversmiths to create elaborate drinking vessels. The finished silverworks – and accompanying stories – range from the stylish to the amusing: fashion designer Alexander McQueen’s dream is to share a goblet of absinthe with Cate Blanchett, while comedian Billy Connolly pictures himself drinking tea with God.

“It’s a privilege to host the Canadian premiere of *Silver of the Stars* at the Royal BC Museum,” says RBCM CEO Pauline Rafferty. “Not only does this collection feature the work of Scotland’s finest silversmiths, but it’ll surely bring a smile to your face. Once you see Ewan McGregor’s motorcycle-inspired coffee pot or Sir Sean Connery’s gilded drinking bowl, you’ll soon realize that this isn’t a typical silver exhibition.”

Also on display is a companion exhibition, *The Millennium Collection for Bute House* – a selection of tableware designed for use at the Scottish First Minister’s official residence. Created between 1999 and 2000, the 14-piece set celebrates the re-establishment of Scotland’s Parliament after an absence of nearly 300 years. Both collections in the *Silver of the Stars* exhibition were commissioned by the Incorporation of Goldsmiths of the City of Edinburgh (IGCE).

“Scotland is home to a unique community of artists working in silver,” says IGCE deacon Michael Laing. “The demand from galleries to show this collection has been overwhelming. It combines ancient techniques and craftsmanship with superb artistry and new engineering solutions. In many ways, it stands as a metaphor for Scottish talent and innovation.”

Admission to the Royal BC Museum is as follows: Adults, \$15; senior/youth/student, \$9.50; free for children five and younger. For more information about *Silver of the Stars* or to book your tickets, call 1-888-447-7977 or visit www.royalbcmuseum.bc.ca.

As the provincial museum and archives, the Royal BC Museum preserves and shares the stories of British Columbia – on-site, off-site and online – through its research, collections, exhibitions and educational programs. Its two-hectare cultural precinct also includes a number of historically significant buildings and First Nations sites.

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