

2026

24+7. fringe

**YOUR FREE
WEEKLY GUIDE
TO THE BEST SHOWS
AT THE EDINBURGH FRINGE**
WEEK 1 | W/C 10TH AUGUST



EDINBURGH *Deaf* FESTIVAL

7 - 16 August 2026

Featured shows at this year's festival



A Night in Sign



Pray for Me



Deaf Karaoke



The Librarians

Everyone is welcome

Experience a festival like no other, with deaf-led theatre, comedy, storytelling, workshops, tours, social events and more.

Fringe Venue 498
Deaf Action, 49 Albany St

Scan the QR code
and explore the
full programme



Welcome to 24/7 Fringe!



**Your pocket-sized passport to the wild, weird,
and wonderfully unhinged world of Fringe.**

Every year, millions of comedy fans from all over the world embark on a pilgrimage to the Scottish Lowlands. It's a bit like the comedy equivalent of Christmas. And yes, it's finally here!

There's nothing quite like the first week of Edinburgh Fringe. Sleepy backstreets become stages, cosy pubs turn into blistering punchlines and the promise of something hysterical, brilliant and/or mildly unhinged lurks in the shadows around every corner.

So, welcome to Issue 01 of Fringe 247. You probably weren't waiting for us, but we've been waiting for you! (Bit creepy...- Ed.) So read on for more opinions you never asked for, great recommendations you'll ignore and a weekly snapshot of the chaos as it unfolds.

Yours once more,
The Editors

Ps. Enjoyed this issue? Hated every word?
Great! Let us know: wedontcare@noreallywedont.co.uk

Follow us online: @outofhandprinting @outofhandoutdoor (Insta)

Read our blog: www.outofhand.co.uk/blog



If you want to get your show in our next issues, email us at
fringe@outofhand.co.uk or call us on 0117 953 6363



2026 OUT OF HAND BURSARY WINNERS

Every year, Out of Hand launches an initiative to support emerging talent at the Edinburgh Festival Fringe. Designed to give up and coming performers a vital marketing boost and provide smaller shows with the visibility they deserve, the bursary covers print, distribution and installation of outdoor posters in prime locations around the city. This year's recipients represent some of the most exciting voices at the Fringe, read on to find out more about their hopes, dreams and - obviously - where you can catch their shows...

Don Quixote (is a very big book)

King Dome @ Pleasance Dome / 5-31st Aug / 15:25



Why should everyone see your show?

Think you've seen every solo show the Fringe can throw at you? Nope. This is a classic, reimagined for the present day with astonishing invention, fearless storytelling, big belly laughs and theatrical magic.

Describe your perfect day in Edinburgh during Fringe...

Coffee in Stockbridge, meet someone in Summerhall. Mum's Comfort Food for lunch (just next to Bedlam Theatre - I love it), a sold out Don Quixote (is a very big book) to a delighted audience at 15:25 and a wonderful evening show, the likes of which I've never seen.

Basic Bald B*tch

Jelly Belly @ Underbelly, Cowgate / 05th - 30th Aug / 15:55pm



Describe your show in 5 words...

Sharp, cheeky, tender, messy, camp.

Why should everyone see your show?

If you're a fan of drag, cabaret and silliness; if you like Britney, Charli XCX and Chappell Roan mixed with a big dollop of sadness (happy tears, sad tears, all the tears); if you like new writing (the script is being published by Methuen Drama!), then this is the show for you.

One word your audience will feel afterwards?

JOY.

Socials: @basicbaldb_tch, @emilyglze

Witches Corner

Stephenson Theatre @ theSpace @ Surgeon's Hall 17th-21st Aug / 19:45



Describe your show in 5 words...

Funny, fierce, musical, unapologetically feminist.

If your show were a snack, what would it be and why?

Pick 'n' Mix - a colourful mix of comedy, music, history, and hard-hitting truths, with something surprising in every handful.

What's a surprising thing about your show?

Probably our range of props and instruments. We have a seagull squawker, a thunder-maker, a rain stick and a cow named Doris.

Pre-show ritual: yes or no?

Yes! A good sing-song and inflating Doris the cow!

¡Ay! Papi: Jilberto Soto

Just Up The Stairs @ Just The Tonic @ The Caves / 20th-30th Aug / 14:25



Describe your show in 5 words...

A telenovela of daddy issues.

If your show were a snack, what would it be and why?

A tamale, since it takes forever to make, the whole family gets involved, and by the time you unwrap it, you understand why everyone has a strong opinion about how it should taste.

What's a surprising thing about your show?

The whole thing is structured around three moments where my dad refused to be in a photo, a pageant, a wedding, my wedding and somehow that becomes the emotional spine of the entire hour. I didn't set out to make a show about photography. I set out to make a show about my dad, and it turned out the camera was the fight the whole time.

TSURU: My Crane Wife

The Vault @ Paradise in The Vault / 17th - 22nd Aug / 15:55



Describe your show in 5 words...

Tender. Poignant. Timeless. Intimate. Transformative.

If your show were a snack, what would it be and why?

A matcha mille crêpe cake. It's elegant and understated, with delicate layers that resemble the cloth woven from the crane's feathers. The gentle bitterness of the matcha, balanced by subtle sweetness, reflects the story's mix of beauty, love, and quiet sacrifice. Like the play itself, it's intricate, refined, and best savoured slowly.

One thing you always pack for Edinburgh?

My excitement!

Strange Face: Adventures With a Lost Nick Drake Recording... The Story Continues...

10 Dome @ Pleasance Dome / 5th - 31st Aug / 16:00



Why should audiences catch your show?

It is a show about one man's extraordinary adventure around the UK with a lost recording. You don't need to know anything about Nick Drake to enjoy it. But you may get to learn something about this remarkable man. Also, you will question the nature of coincidence and how the laws of the universe actually work.

What's been the biggest challenge bringing it to Fringe?

Paperwork

Pre-show ritual: yes or no - and what is it?

Yes, so many. Here is one. Before every show I put on a toy black moustache I won in a Christmas cracker. I photograph myself in the dressing room mirror wearing it, before taking it off and walking on stage. But, I am guessing, most people do that.

Gloves

Space 2 @ theSpace on the Mile / 17th - 22nd Aug / 10:55



Describe your show in 5 words...

Crazy, Stylised, Frightening, Deep and Discombobulating.

If your show were a snack, what would it be and why?

An oddly perfect but sour bunch of grapes.

One word your audience will feel after watching?

After the show, I think audiences will (hopefully) feel awfully overwhelmed :)

Pre-show ritual: yes or no - and what is it?

Our pre-show ritual is currently, screaming as loud as we can and then staying silent for 15 minutes. I think it really helps, but my cast thinks that's just because I want them to be quiet for 15 minutes.

Tom Waits War Songs

Just The Tonic @ The Subway



Describe your show in 5 words...

A visually powerful concert experience.

If your show were a snack, what would it be and why?

Deep fried roaches, bc this is war baby.

Describe your perfect day in Edinburgh during Fringe.

A full house for our 12:30 show, then a pint at a pub where another band is playing live music, then catching a unique Fringe act in the evening, and then getting a good night's sleep to wake up and do it all again.

One thing you always pack for Edinburgh?

I've heard you need good shoes! Those are in the bag for sure!

Bring Yer Bairn Comedy

The Den @ Gilded Balloon Teviot / 05th - 31st August 11:00



Describe your show in 5 words...

Hilarious, relaxed, unfiltered, fun, welcoming

If your show was a snack what would it be?

A tunnocks tea cake - Scottish, a bit messy and guaranteed to be enjoyed

Why should audiences see your show?

Because becoming a parent shouldn't mean missing out on live comedy. Bring Yer Bairn gives parents and carers the chance to enjoy stand-up comedy without the stress of organising childcare.

Crying At My Podiatrist

Snug @ Paradise in Augustines / 08th - 14th, 17th-21st, 24th-30th / 19:40



Describe your show in 5 words...

(It's not all about toes.)

Why should audiences not miss your show?

CAMP is one of those "truth is stranger than fiction" stories. It's preposterous, funny, honest, and cathartic.

What's been the biggest challenge bringing it to Fringe?

Self-producing! It's the most fun and the most work I've ever done for a show. Fringe is a beast, but we've been wrangling it!

Describe your perfect day in Edinburgh during Fringe.

Wake up late after Guinnesses the night before. "Morning" workout, get the blood pumping. Stroll to see a friend's show (and exit flyer, let's be honest). Picnic lunch break in a park. Start to flyer for our show but it's already sold out! Crush it. Late night comedy to reset. Whiskey nightcap. Repeat!

TURKISH COMEDY NIGHTS

EDINBURGH FRINGE '06!

13-22 AGUSTOS



Just Tonic

A Cat In A Box

One childhood.
A lifetime of unpacking.

"vivid, expert storytelling."
—ArtsIndependent.com



Tommy-1980

Written & performed by Tom Nemec
Directed by Jim Mendrinos

theSPACE

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0131 510 2384

BETH LINDSEY & HELEN ILEY PRESENT

SEE YOU TOMORROW

A DARK COMEDY



**“IT COULD BE WORSE!
I COULD BE DEAD.”**

Explore the wacky world of viking legends in...

Who Stole My Hammer?

★★★★★
"...one of the best kid's shows we've seen all Fringe."
—The Scotsman

★★★
"...a delightful show... sure to light up little minds."
—The List

Edinburgh fringe

07 - 18, 22 - 23 AUG
10.45am

The Rutunda Theatre, SQUEAK
George Heriot's School, Lauriston Place

twospoke plays & laurie goulding present

GOOD GIRL



written & performed by mimi collins
directed by elie pyle
featuring the voice of david neri

GILDED BALLOON

22:20 ELEVEN
5 - 31 AUG

BOX OFFICE
0131 622 6532
www.edinburghfringe.co.uk

| See You Tomorrow

At first glance, See You Tomorrow doesn't sound like your average barrel of laughs.

Inspired by true events, Beth Lindsey's debut one-woman show follows Harrie, whose life is upended after a traumatic incident she cannot remember. As police investigations, forensic examinations and legal proceedings unfold, she is expected to provide answers that her own memory refuses to provide.

Rather than dwelling on the crime itself, See You Tomorrow focuses on everything that comes after. The show finds humour in the strange bureaucracy of survival: endless forms, waiting rooms, bewildering courtroom language and the surreal reality of carrying your life around in an ASDA Bag for Life with an evidence label. It's dark and blisteringly funny, but never loses sight of the emotional weight beneath the jokes.

Harrie is no conventional protagonist. She's irreverent, messy, warm, inappropriate and fiercely funny, meeting impossible situations with a wit that feels less like deflection and more like determination. The result is

a character who resists becoming defined by trauma, allowing audiences to see the whole person, warts and all, rather than just the event that changed her life.

Written and performed by Lindsey, a Drama Centre London graduate making her Fringe debut, the production is directed by award-winning theatre and film director Helen Iley and produced by BAFTA Cymru-winning producer Katy Mendo. Together, they deliver a piece that balances emotional honesty with razor-sharp comic timing.

Part courtroom drama, part survival story and part dark comedy, See You Tomorrow explores memory, justice and the often absurd mechanics of moving forward. It's a show that asks you to laugh - not at trauma itself, but at the absurdly human moments that come with it. Expect this to be one of Fringe's most cutting and rewarding emotional balancing acts.

7th-29th August

Sprout Studio, Greenside @ George St

2 for 1 tickets on 10th & 11th August

INANNA'S CHILDREN
PRESENTS

THE WITCHES OF MACBETH

THE RITUAL BEGINS... AGAIN.

theSPACE

45 Wilby St. GLASGOW

theSpace @ Venue 45
Aug 14-22 19:40 (18+)

BOOK NOW
www.thespaceuk.com
0131 510 2384

ENRICO TOUCHÉ

Hot Knees

"...why classic slapstick still @slaps."
Fringe Biscuit

★★★★★
"...entirely joyous."
Reviews Hub

16:30
Aug 7-31
THE BIG YURT HOOTS @ POTTERROW

fringe

HOOTS FRINGE

SCAN TO BOOK

Rob and Rose Productions presents

Quentin Blake's
Dad of Treasures

MRS ARMITAGE ON WHEELS

11:00 06 - 31 AUG
ASSEMBLY GEORGE SQUARE, GORDON AIRMAN THEATRE

assembly
www.assemblyfestival.com

BOOK YOUR TICKETS HERE

PICK OF THE FRINGE

A HAND-PICKED SELECTION OF OUR FAVOURITE ACTS FROM ACROSS THE FRINGE WE PRESENT AN EVER-CHANGING LINEUP OF SOME OF THE BEST COMICS THE FRINGE HAS TO OFFER.

7-31 AUG | 14:00
NIC 2, HOOTS @ NICOLSON SQ

BOOK NOW

KOSMOPOLIS FESTIVAL
"A mesmerising fusion of Korean traditional music and contemporary electronic sound"

KEROKEN FESTIVAL
"Hypnotic ritual music of elegance, intensity and ancestral beauty"

PLASTIC

MINYOUNG KIM

RITUAL MUSIC PERFORMANCE FOR GEOMUNGO, VOICE AND ELECTRONIC SOUND

OFFICIAL SHORTCIRCUIT SELECTION
GYEONGGI PERFORMING ARTS FESTIVAL

SUPPORTED AND SPONSORED BY

SUMMERHALLARTS.CO.UK | 0131 226 0000

6-31 AUG (ex. 12.24)
8.45PM

26 SUMMERHALL ARTS

HESS

a voice from the past
with a warning for today

Gilded Balloon
TEVOT

"Best performance by an actor"
Prague Fringe Festival 2017

"Burrell's play is a fascinating insight into the mind of the last remaining relic of the Reich"
Daily Express

"Brilliantly conceived and written"
London Evening News

Gilded Balloon
TEVOT

13:00 RELEASED ROOM
5-31 AUG

BOX OFFICE
0131 432 6552
www.gildedballoon.co.uk

THE AUDIENCE DECIDES WHAT'S WORTH SEEING

SHOWS REVIEWED AND RANKED BY THE ONLY PEOPLE THAT MATTER

FRINGEAUDIENCE.COM

ADVERTISE YOUR SHOW IN ISSUE 3

To advertise or get your show featured in this weekly guide, contact us at
fringe@outofhand.co.uk
or 0117 953 6363

247 fringe

"AMAZING!" "PROFOUND!" "FUN!"
THE HISTORY AND MYSTERY OF SEATTLE'S MOST
NOTORIOUS FOUNDER
AUGUST 17-30 AT 8:15 PM (NO SHOW AUGUST 23)

FRINGE PREMIERE!

OPTIONED FOR A TV ADAPTATION!

MADAM(E) LOU

written and performed by
bestselling author
KATE DANLEY

learn more: lougraham.com

20:15
(45 mins)
Aug 17-22, 24-30

PARADISE
in the vault
Venue 29

paradise-green.co.uk | @paradisegreenuk | edfringe.com

ALICE KEYS



ROCKET FAN

A Love Story
THE ONE WOMAN ELTON JOHN
SINGALONG ROMCOM

GILDED BALLOON
PATTER HOUSE

19:40 COORIE
5 - 17 AUG

BOX OFFICE
0131 622 4652
www.theboxoffice.co.uk

Reaching the C



Written and Performed
by Ursula Leveaux

HIGHLIGHT 2026
selection

theSPACE

BOOK NOW
www.thespaceuk.com
0131 510 2384

43 Hill Square EH8 9DR
theSpace @ Symposium Hall
Aug 17-22 16:10 (45m)

COMEDIAN
SUSAN POPADOPOLAS
AND HER
BONKERS BINGO



theSPACE

BOOK NOW
www.thespaceuk.com
0131 510 2384

53 Milestone St EH5 9DW
theSpace @ Surgeons' Hall
Aug 10-15 22:50 (90m)



★★★★★
"A COMPLEX MASTERPIECE"

GLOVES

"CAN YOU READ
BETWEEN THE LINES?"

theSPACE UK

BOOK NOW
www.thespaceuk.com
0131 510 2384

39 Radisson Blu EH1 1TH
theSpace on the Mile
Aug 17-22 10:55 (60m)

WIDE EYE PRODUCTIONS PRESENTS:

A&E

**A NEW COMEDY
BY ORLA WYATT**

*"An exceptionally-crafted
piece of theatre"*
The Oxford Blue



*"A dizzying cascade of wit, pain
and razor-blade social satire"*
Daily News

Everybody's waiting. Nobody's innocent.

theSPACE UK

BOOK NOW
www.thespaceuk.com
0131 510 2384

43 Hill Square EH8 9DR
theSpace @ Symposium Hall
Aug 10-15 23:05 (60m)

39 Radisson Blu EH1 1TH
theSpace on the Mile
Aug 17-22 23:20 (60m)

OUR RECOMMENDED TOP 10 SHOWS THIS WEEK

**LINUS KARP
WAS HIT WITH
AN UMBRELLA**
Awkward Prods, Eric Kuhn
Productions and Side
Hustle Productions
Venue 302 - Friesian at
Underbelly, Bristo Square



Just before Fringe 2024, Linus Karp (Diana: The Untold and Untrue Story, Gwyneth Goes Skiing, The Fit Prince) was the victim of a homophobic attack. The case never went to trial... until now. Linus Karp was hit with an umbrella. The attacker shouted that he would've killed him. The show retells the events and the aftermath – the police investigation, the public response, performing at Edinburgh Fringe days after and the heroic acts of Joseph Martin, and then dramatises the trial that never came to be...it's also funny.

**Connor Burns:
FLOW**
AYD and MZA present
Venue 393 - Just The
Atomic Room at Just The
Tonic Nucleus



Don't miss this Scottish stand-up star's hilarious new show! His 2025 show sold out 12,000 tickets in Edinburgh alone, toured the UK, Australia and packed Glasgow's King's Theatre five times! 'Hilarious... he's fearless and it's wonderful!' ***** (Scotsman). 2024 and 2025 saw Connor touring two separate smash-hit shows worldwide (50+ UK shows, 35+ Australia-wide), with Off-Broadway runs in the Fringe Encore Series during New York's prestigious Comedy Festival. He's supported Daniel Sloss on three continents and released a comedy special on prestigious comedy label 800lb Gorilla. 'Brilliant... gags coming at you at a terrifying rate... Superb!' ***** (List).

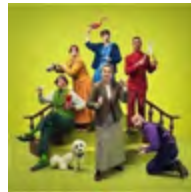
**Baby Wants
Candy**
Baby Wants Candy
Venue 17 - Studio One at
Assembly George Square
Studios



Fringe fave Baby Wants Candy is back! Total

Edinburgh Fringe sell-out eight years running. One of the world's most popular comedy ensembles. You shout out the title, Baby Wants Candy makes up the musical. Some favourite recent titles: Sweeney Toddler, Tinder in the Animal Kingdom and who could forget the instant classic HotUncles.com... the Musical? Buy early – show sells out! 'An entertainment phenomenon. I have one word for them: Go!' ***** (Scotsman). ***** (Time Out). ***** (ThreeWeeks). 'Critics Choice. Truly amazing!' (New York Times).

**Murder, She Didn't
Write**
Wildpark Entertainment
presents Degrees of Error's
Venue 8 - Gordon Aikman
Theatre at Assembly George
Square



Don your deerstalker and grab your magnifying glass as this talented company uses audience suggestions to create a hilarious improvised murder mystery. All you have to do is...solve it! Ms Gold poisoned at a synchronised swimming gala? Dr Blue exploded by cannon during a hot air balloon race? Professor Violet crushed to death at a Love Island recoupling? You decide! But will you guess whodunnit before the killer is revealed? 'A rip-roaring, side-splitting whodunnit' ***** (WhatsGoodToDo.co.uk) 'Outstanding performances delivered by a seriously talented cast!' ***** (ThreeWeeks).

Stamptown
Stamptown Proudly
Presents
Venue 3 - Palais du Variété
at Assembly George Square
Gardens



New York Times Top Comedy Pick (2021-2025), Edinburgh Fringe Sold Out Run (2017-2025). A raunchy and chaotic full-on fever dream, Stamptown is 80 minutes of pure spectacle featuring the most anarchic and wildly entertaining performance from around the world. Hosted by the bad boy of clown, Zach Zucker, this show has packed out rooms at Netflix Is A Joke, Just For Laughs, Glastonbury, SXSW, Lincoln Center, Edinburgh Fringe, Soho Theatre, Melbourne International Comedy Festival, and Off-Broadway in New York City. Watch our Netflix special <3 ***** (Chortle.co.uk). ***** (Guardian). * (Scottish Film).

**Tom Skelton:
VIP (Visually
Impaired Papa)**
Tom Skelton
Venue 300 - Buttercup at
Underbelly, George Square



After losing most of his sight, Tom thought he might never become a dad. But now he is. And he's a bit scared. From nappy changing, choking hazards, losing your toddler in the park, to not being able to read to him, see his changing face, or his first goal on the football pitch, this is a hilarious, heartfelt scamper through dadhood and disability. 'Deliciously talented' (Guardian). 'Sends you back out into the world with a spring in your step' (Chortle). 'Insightful, hilarious... expertly crafted' ***** (TulpaMagazine.wordpress.com). Perth FringeWorld Weekly Comedy Award Winner 2020.

**Where Do You
Come From?**
Glen Peters
Venue 138 - Main Room
at Ukrainian Community
Centre



What does 'where do you come from?' really mean? Anglo-Indian singer-songwriter Glen Peters answers through powerful folk songs and stories of heritage, migration and belonging. After 50 years in Britain, Peters uses the folk idiom to shine a light on immigrants' often-unrecognised contribution to British life – from Noor Inayat Khan, the Sufi spy who died for Britain in WWII, to the Patels behind the corner shops. By turns funny and profound, these acclaimed songs come from an album hailed as the most significant folk release of 2025.

**The Vampire of
Rio**
Haysam Ali
Venue 65 - Squeak at
Rotunda Theatre



A psychological solo performance inspired by a true-crime case that examines violence, trauma, and the social conditions that can contribute to extreme human behaviour. Directed by Jenn O'Brien and written by award-winning novelist Tiago Santiago, the production avoids sensationalism in favour of a deeply human and reflective approach. In the

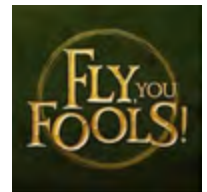
play, Haysam Ali delivers a powerful dual performance as Brazilian serial killer Marcelo Costa de Andrade and the psychiatrist assigned to analyse him – two opposing voices guiding the audience through a disturbing and thought-provoking narrative about cycles of violence, trauma, morality, and society itself.

**GAIL PORTER:
PORTERGEIST**
Gail Porter
Venue 20 - Drawing Room at
Assembly Rooms



She's been famous, she's been homeless, she's been hit-on by the randy ghost of Jim Morrison. After a successful Edinburgh Fringe in 2023, Scotland's favourite ghosthunter is back with a new show, sharing her infectious lust for life. And this time she is going Gail Force! When you've been sectioned with two blokes who both claim to be Jesus, it's easy to be cynical – but Gail reminds us why life is worth living (even when you're dead).

FLY, YOU FOOLS
Recent Cutbacks
Venue 33 - Beyond at
Pleasance Courtyard



The Fringe 2025 smash hit returns! Three actors and a Foley artist band together – in fellowship – to perform a live, shot-for-shot parody of the most epic fantasy film of all time. A jaw-dropping blend of comedy, physical theatre and live Foley. From Recent Cutbacks (Hold On To Your Butts, KEVIN!!!!!!). 'If I had a sixth star at my disposal, I'd gladly add it to the rating... Genius, sheer genius' ***** (Times). 'Glorious theatrical inventiveness' ***** (Scotsman). 'Superb... the nostalgic Lord of the Rings parody to rule them all' ***** (theQR.co.uk).



To advertise or get your show featured in this weekly guide, contact us at fringe@outofhand.co.uk or 0117 953 6363

**MOLLOY UNIVERSITY
PRESENTS**

A chaotic wedding day romp performed in the style of the commedia dell'arte.

THE BETROTHED

A new comedy by Chris O'Connor



ARTWORK BY CHRIS MÜLLER

WorldStrides

7-AUG-21:30
8-AUG-17:30
10-AUG-11:30
12-AUG-21:30
RUN TIME: 60 MINUTES

Nicolson Square Venues
The Great Hall
Venue 209b
25 Nicolson Square EH8 9BX
Box Office:
edfringe.com | 0131 226 0000

A PRODUCTION BY **Good Egg Comedy**

THREE TOP COMEDIANS • NO BABYSITTER REQUIRED

BRING YER BAIRN



COMEDY

★★★★
One4Review

"Relaxed atmosphere
and good comedy"
Alice & Baby

**A STAND-UP COMEDY SHOW FOR THE GROWN-UPS WHERE YOU CAN BRING YER BAIRN
RECOMMENDED FOR BABIES 15 MONTHS AND UNDER DUE TO ADULT CONTENT**



11:00 THE DEN
5 - 31 AUG (NOT 19)

BOX OFFICE
0131 622 6552
GILDEDBALLOON.CO.UK



Is There Audience Interaction?

Fringe season is all about discovery, but for some audiences, the unpredictability of live performance can come with a side of anxiety. That's exactly what inspired Edinburgh-based software developer Tao to create a simple but effective solution. As a regular Fringe-goer, he recognised how nerve-racking it can feel when audience members are unexpectedly singled out or invited on stage - so he decided to build something that takes the guesswork out of it.

His free website, isthereaudienceinteraction.com, allows festivalgoers and performers to share whether a show involves audience participation and what kind.

"I love going to Fringe shows, but I can get anxious when people in the audience get singled out," Tao explains. "So I made something to help others feel more comfortable."



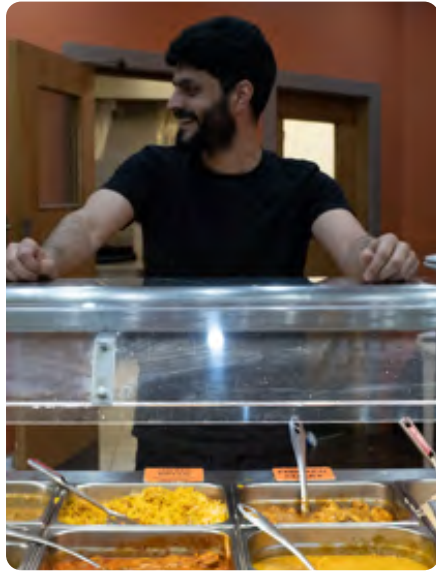
With no ads, no login and a clear community focus, we think it's a genuinely helpful idea that could make the Fringe more accessible — and enjoyable — for everyone. Why not check it out and add your own experiences for the next shy audience member?

**“SO I MADE SOMETHING TO
HELP OTHERS FEEL MORE
COMFORTABLE.”**

SCRAN ON A SHOESTRING

Ahhh, the Fringe...the days are long, our bank balances seem to decline at a rather alarming pace and for some reason we're always hungry...

After years of trial and error and more emergency snacks than you can count (no offence), our Fringe team have come up with a shortlist of six spots to eat on a budget (yes, that's a weird number but it was tough ok). These are the places we look forward to getting fat from over the next few weeks. Consider this your survival guide to eating well at the Edinburgh Fringe without blowing the budget.



BEST VALUE: THE ORIGINAL MOSQUE KITCHEN

Every year our hungry outdoor team raves about this fantastic community kitchen, so we're declaring it our overall winner. Unbeatable value, portion size, atmosphere and accessibility!

Recommended by Gayle

Location: 50 Potterrow, Edinburgh EH8 9BT



BEST SCOTTISH: THE HAGGIS BOX

We love sending first-time visitors here just to see their reaction. The Haggis Box takes a Scottish classic and makes it approachable, delicious and genuinely craveable. It's quick, affordable and proudly local - an essential stop for an authentic Scottish Fringe food experience.

Recommended by Jim

Location: Scottish Storytelling Centre, 43-45 High St, Edinburgh EH1 1SR



BEST TRICK YOURSELF THAT IT'S HEALTHY: NILE VALLEY CAFE

Nile Valley's wraps absolutely slap - we're obsessed with the falafel and babaganoush combo. Big mediterranean

flavours and great value make it an easy, feel-good Fringe favourite.

Recommended by Rosie

Location: 6 Chapel St, Edinburgh EH8 9AY



BEST FRY UP: SNAX CAFE

Snax is our "no questions asked" recommendation. Cheap, cheerful and consistently good, it does exactly what you need it to. Whether it's breakfast, burgers or something in between, it's quick, filling and reliably satisfying. Fringe veterans swear by it - and we do too.

Recommended by Ren

Location: 118 Buccleuch St, Edinburgh EH8 9NQ



BEST HANDHELD HAPPINESS: OINK HOG ROAST

If you see one of us clutching a roll and smiling, it's probably from Oink. Juicy slow roasted pork, crispy crackling and a decent amount of stuffing. It's quick, affordable and ideal when you've got five minutes between shows and zero patience.

Recommended by Megan

Location: 34 Victoria St, Edinburgh EH1 2JW



BEST VEGGIE/VEGAN: UNION OF GENIUS

This place is perfect whatever the Edinburgh weather decides to do - soup and chilli when it's a bit nippy, fresh salads when the sun's shining. Dishes are mostly vegan, quick and it's right in the heart of the action - proper Fringe fuel.

Recommended by Elsa

Location: 8 Forrest Rd, Edinburgh EH1 2QN

DAVID SAFFERT & JILLIAN SNOW

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SO, IT'S YOUR FIRST FRINGE? OR ARE YOU A FRINGE PRO?

Read this before you accidentally book seven shows in one day.

Welcome to the Edinburgh Festival Fringe.

For the next three-and-a-bit weeks, Edinburgh transforms into a city where every church hall, pub basement, lecture theatre, shipping container and suspicious-looking room above a café somehow becomes a venue. Over 4,000 shows arrive from all over the world, along with thousands of artists, millions of flyers and at least one person dressed as a giant vegetable before breakfast.

If you're coming for the first time, it can feel like beautiful, creative chaos. Which, to be fair, it is. If you've done this before, here is a reminder so you don't burn out within the first few days...

Here's how to survive it.

1. Accept that you'll never "do the Fringe"

The first rule of the Fringe is this: nobody sees everything.

Not the reviewers.

Not the performers.

Not even the people who've been coming for thirty years.

So forget trying to build the perfect schedule. Instead, build your schedule.

Browse the programme online, lose an hour in the EdFringe app, circle things in the printed programme like it's the 1990s, or simply start with one show that looks interesting and see where the day takes you.

You're not trying to complete the Fringe. It's not Pokémon.

2. Trust your curiosity more than the algorithms

Five-star reviews are great.

So are shows with no stars yet because they've only just opened.

Some of the biggest Fringe success stories began with tiny audiences and almost no buzz, while some of the most memorable experiences are the shows you wander into because someone handed you a flyer and said, "Honestly...just trust me."

Sometimes that works.

Sometimes you spend an hour watching interpretive mime about medieval accounting.

Both are valid Fringe experiences.

3. Your phone battery has its own Fringe

You'll be checking maps, buying tickets, finding venues, messaging friends and taking photos every five minutes.

Download the EdFringe app, save your favourites and, if you can, download an offline map too. Edinburgh gets busy, and mobile signal occasionally decides to take in a matinee.

A portable charger isn't glamorous, but neither is standing outside a venue on 2% trying to remember where your next show is.

4. Walking five minutes can take twenty-five

On paper, two venues might look practically next door.

In August, those five minutes can include:

- one street performer,
- three flyer teams,
- four thousand other people,
- an ice cream stop,
- and someone asking if you'd like to see "an absurdist musical about fungi."

Leave yourself breathing room between shows.

Future You will appreciate Present You's optimism.

5. Cheap tickets exist. Happiness follows.

You don't need an unlimited budget to have an excellent Fringe.

Look out for previews, 2for1 offers, Half Price Hut deals, and Fringe Friends discounts. Or join Love the Fringe and get free tickets and discounts in local shops / bars and places you actually want to visit. They even offer Bar discounts depending on your membership level.

The money you save can immediately be reinvested into seeing another show.

This is known as Fringe Economics.

6. Stop looking at your schedule occasionally

Some of the best Fringe moments aren't on your itinerary.

They're the street performer you accidentally watch for forty minutes.

The comedian you discover because it started raining.

The conversation in a café that ends with someone insisting you absolutely must see a Bulgarian sci-fi puppet opera at 9.45.

They might be right.

7. Feed yourself

This sounds obvious.

It isn't.

Many first-time visitors discover around 4pm that they've consumed nothing except coffee and adrenaline.

Edinburgh has fantastic cafés, pubs and restaurants throughout the city, so schedule actual food into your day.

Your concentration—and everyone sitting near you in the theatre—will benefit.

8. Scotland likes weather plot twists

You may leave your accommodation in sunglasses and return wearing every layer you own.

Pack for sunshine.

Pack for rain.

Pack for wind.

If none of those happen, congratulations—you've experienced Scotland's rarest weather event.

9. Say hello to strangers

For one month every year, Edinburgh becomes one of the easiest places in the world to start conversations.

Ask someone what's been good.

Compare recommendations in a queue.

Chat to people after a show.

Everyone has discovered something brilliant that nobody else has heard of yet, and Fringe recommendations travel faster than official reviews.

10. There is no wrong way to Fringe

Maybe you'll see twenty shows.

Maybe you'll see four.

Maybe your favourite memory won't even happen inside a theatre.

The Fringe isn't about squeezing every minute out of the programme. It's about stumbling across moments you'd never find anywhere else.

So make a plan.

Ignore part of it.

Take a chance on something you've never heard of.

And if someone hands you a flyer for a show about competitive beekeeping, Icelandic synth-pop and emotional resilience...

Well...

...at least read the flyer.



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