2026 Fringe Central programme



Hello and welcome!

This is the Fringe Central programme of free, curated events for all registered artists and accredited professionals during the Fringe.

This year we have opened the doors to a new, permanent Fringe Central at 6 Infirmary Street, in the heart of Edinburgh's Old Town. It is a welcoming and open space for Fringe participants – your home away from home!

If you require this programme in an alternative accessible format, please email artistadvice@edfringe.com.

The Fringe Central programme is made up of three key strands:

Learn:

Events focused on learning something new from one of our partners.

Develop:

Events focused on professional development, looking beyond the Fringe and making connections.

Connect:

Sessions focused on connecting with your Fringe community.

How to register your interest and attend events

All of our events are listed on Fringe Connect, our year-round digital platform for artists and industry professionals. Register your interest for events in advance. This way, we can contact you with any changes or relevant resources. Please note that events are first-come-first-served on the day.

You'll need to show your participant pass to get into the event, so remember to bring it along.

Who can attend events?

The Fringe Central programme is open to all Fringe artists, accredited professionals and Fringe project participants.

Some events will be for specific user groups, so each listing will state who this event is for and why you might want to attend.

Sign up for Fringe Connect.



Collecting your pass

Accredited industry

You can collect your pass from the Arts Industry Office, which is located on the first floor in Fringe Central, from Wednesday 05 August.
For any questions, please email artsindustry@edfringe.com.

Accredited media

You can collect your pass from the Media Office, which is located on the first floor in Fringe Central, from Wednesday 05 August.
For any questions, please email media@edfringe.com.

Artists

You can collect your pass from the welcome desk at Fringe Central from Friday 07 August. If you are collecting on behalf of your team or a large group (10+ people) please email artistadvice@edfringe.com in advance.

Project participants

You can collect your pass from the welcome desk at Fringe Central from Friday 07 August.
For any questions, please email artistadvice@edfringe.com.

Fringe Central opening hours

6 Infirmary Street, Edinburgh, EH1 1LS (view map)

Fringe Central building will be open to all users from 10:00 – 17:00.

Arts Industry desk (pass collection) will be open: 10:00 – 17:00 (Mon – Sat).

Media desk (pass collection) will be open from 10:00 – 17:00 (Mon – Sat).

Artist and project pass collection will be open from 10:00 – 17:00 daily.

Events programme overview

Friday 07 August		
10:00 – 14:30		Doors Open
Saturday 08 August		
12:00 – 13:00		Meet the Media – Relaxed Session
13:00 – 17:00		Meet the Media
Monday 10 August		
10:30 – 12:00		Artist and Industry Coffee Morning
12:30 – 13:30		Fringe to Screen 1: Ask an Agent
14:30 – 16:00		Let's Go International: Asia Focus
Tuesday 11 August		
10:30 – 12:00		Fringe to Screen 2: Screen Potential
12:30 – 13:30		The Edinburgh Fringe: An Expert's Insights
14:00 – 16:00		New Musical Theatre Meet Up
Wednesday 12 August		
10:30 – 11:30		Knowledge Share Roundtable
12:00 – 16:30		Fringe Community Day
Thursday 13 August		
10:30 – 12:00		Arts Industry: Programme Insight Session
14:00 – 15:30		Touring Smarter: Building Routes, Circuits and Sustainable Tours
Friday 14 August		
10:30 – 12:00		Next Steps Pitching: Fringe Festivals
13:00 – 16:30		Fringe Fair
Monday 17 August		
10:30 – 12:00		Artist and Industry Coffee Morning
12:30 – 13:30		Live Comedy Association: Next Steps on Stage
14:00 – 15:00		Let's Go International: Canada Focus
Tuesday 18 August		
12:00 – 14:00		Fringe Society AGM
Wednesday 19 August		
10:30 – 11:30		Knowledge Share Roundtable
10:30 – 13:00 (Greyfriars Hall)		International Society for the Performing Arts (ISPA) Series at the Fringe: Resilience in Action
12:00 – 16:30		Fringe Community Day
Thursday 20 August		
14:00 – 15:30		Let's Go International: The Art of Touring – From Pitch to Partnership
Friday 21 August		
10:30 – 12:00		Next Steps Pitching: Venue and Festival Programmers
13:00 – 16:30		Fringe Fair
Monday 24 August		
10:30 – 12:00		Artist and Industry Coffee Morning
14:00 – 15:30		Equity, Comedy and the Future of Nightlife
Tuesday 25 August		
14:00 – 15:30		Visual Theatre, Object Theatre and Puppetry: International Collaboration and Touring
Wednesday 26 August		
10:30 – 11:30		Knowledge Share Roundtable
12:00 – 16:30		Fringe Community Day
Thursday 27 August		
10:30 – 12:00		Arts Industry: Programme Insight Session
12:30 – 14:00		UK Touring: What's Next for Your Show?
Friday 28 August		
13:00 – 16:30		Fringe Fair

Learn

Develop

Connect

Events programme

Friday 07 August
10:00 – 14:30

Fringe Central

Connect Learn

Doors Open

Touch base at our new Fringe Central building as the Fringe begins. Our (very new) doors are now open for Fringe participants to collect your festival pass, check in with the team, chat to professionals to help plan your month, and make yourself at home.

Who: All Fringe participants.

Why: To meet Fringe Society staff, connect with the Fringe community and to find out everything you need to know for this year's Fringe.

Saturday 08 August
12:00 – 13:00

Fringe Central

Develop

Meet the Media – Relaxed Session

A session for artists with access needs that would benefit from a calmer setting to come and connect with journalists and reviewers. You can pitch your show to the press and gain contacts for coverage.

Who: Fringe artists with access needs.

Why: To have the opportunity to pitch your show to media representatives.

Saturday 08 August
13:00 – 17:00

Fringe Central

Develop

Meet the Media

Artists, come to Meet the Media to connect with journalists and reviewers. You can pitch your show to the press and gain contacts for coverage.

Who: Open to all Fringe artists who are hoping to get a review.

Why: To have the opportunity to pitch your show to media representatives.

Monday 10 August
10:30 – 12:00

Fringe Central

Connect Learn

Artist and Industry Coffee Morning

Artists, come and meet with industry representatives attending the Fringe this year. This weekly coffee morning is a chance to hear from industry professionals, share your Fringe experiences and get their expert opinions.

Who: Open to all Fringe artists who are looking to take their work beyond the Fringe.

Why: To connect with industry professionals at the Fringe, who are experts in their fields.

Monday 10 August
12:30 – 13:30

Fringe Central

Develop

Fringe to Screen 1: Ask an Agent

Ready to take your work beyond the stage? This practical session is for playwrights, comedians and writer-performers who are curious about representation for TV and film. Leading agents will demystify what they do, what they look for, and how to approach them professionally. Topics include timing, materials, first contact and how to find the right fit for your work and your career. Bring questions and leave with clearer next steps.

Who: Fringe artists and industry professionals who are interested in working in the screen sector.

Why: To learn more about how work is scouted at the Fringe for screen opportunities.

Monday 10 August
14:30 – 16:00

Fringe Central

Learn Develop

Let's Go International: Asia Focus

Join this session to hear from practitioners from Taiwan, Singapore and the wider BESEA community. This exciting panel will explore how the Edinburgh Fringe can be a platform for Asian artists, cultural exchange, finding future opportunities for your work, and whether Fringe audiences still have an appetite for offerings from Asia.

Who: Fringe participants, particularly Asian artists.

Why: To find out more about onward touring opportunities.

Tuesday 11 August
10:30 – 12:00

Fringe Central

Develop

Fringe to Screen 2: Screen Potential

So your Fringe show is up and running, now what? In this candid conversation, TV and film development executives unpack what 'screen potential' really means in practice. The session explores what decision-makers look for when they come to the Fringe and how development works from early conversations to a screen-ready project. Expect practical insight and first steps for anyone interested in developing live work for TV or film.

Who: Fringe artists and industry professionals who are interested in working in the screen sector.

Why: To learn more about the development process behind making live work suitable for screen.

Tuesday 11 August
12:30 – 13:30

Fringe Central

Develop Learn

The Edinburgh Fringe: An Expert's Insights

Join Olivier, Tony, Emmy and 19-time Scotsman Fringe First award-winning producer and The Stage columnist Richard Jordan at Fringe Central. Richard has produced extensively at the Edinburgh Fringe over the last 27 years, and will be sharing his top tips and insights while answering your questions about the Fringe and working in this sector. Come along, grab a coffee and ask your questions!

Who: Open to all Fringe artists who are looking to take their work beyond the Fringe.

Why: To have the opportunity to ask an industry expert your questions.

Tuesday 11 August
14:00 – 16:00

Fringe Central

Connect Learn Develop

New Musical Theatre Meet Up

All writers, directors, producers and other creators of new musical theatre are invited to an informal meet-up event, jointly hosted by **Mercury Musical Developments**, **Musical Theatre Network**, **Birmingham Hippodrome**, **Capital Theatres** and **Lowry**. Come and meet other musical theatre creatives, make connections, share experiences and find out about the work that our host organisations are doing to support new musicals.

Who: Fringe artists and industry professionals working in the new musical sector.

Why: To connect with other new musical industry professionals.

Wednesday 12 August
10:30 – 11:30

Fringe Central

Connect Learn

Knowledge Share Roundtable

We all feel it – the landscape of the performing arts is shifting faster than our seasonal calendars. From the rise of AI to the complexities of funding, the old guidelines are no longer enough. But you don't have to solve it alone. Pull up a chair for an intimate, off-the-record knowledge share at our new conversational, open access roundtables. No formal panels, no experts on a stage – just peers, fresh coffee and a raw look at how we're all actually navigating the arts on the ground.

Who: All Fringe participants.

Why: To connect with the Fringe community and share your thoughts.

Wednesday 12 August
12:00 – 16:30

Fringe Central

Connect

Fringe Community Day

Everyone is welcome to join us today at Fringe Central and be a part of our diverse Fringe community. Our event space is open for various groups to meet and connect, providing a welcoming environment for all. Whether you are here alone or with a group of friends, this is a great opportunity to make new connections. Check Fringe Connect for a list of the groups scheduled to gather at this session.

Who: Open to all Fringe participants.

Why: To meet and connect with others at the Fringe.

Thursday 13 August
10:30 – 12:00

Fringe Central

Connect Learn

Arts Industry: Programme Insight Session

Start your day at the Fringe by joining fellow programmers and presenters from across the festival to discuss show highlights and get some recommendations for the rest of your trip. If you're new to the festival, this is a great opportunity to meet with other professionals and our Arts Industry team, and to pick up some top tips on how to make the most of your visit.

Who: Open to accredited arts industry and presenters only, particularly programmers and those new to the Fringe.

Why: To gain insights into the wider Fringe programme and to network with other arts professionals.

Thursday 13 August
14:00 – 15:30

Fringe Central

Learn Develop

Touring Smarter: Building Routes, Circuits and Sustainable Tours

Touring? Thinking about taking your work beyond Edinburgh? What does it really take to build a tour? Join artists, venues, festivals and industry specialists to explore the realities of small-scale touring. From planning routes and working across fringe, rural and community venues, to managing costs, logistics and risk (including insurance), we'll share practical advice and real experiences to help you tour smarter and more sustainably.

Who: Artists who have ambitions to tour beyond the Fringe.

Why: To learn more about what is involved with touring a show.

Friday 14 August
10:30 – 12:00

Fringe Central

Learn Develop Connect

Next Steps Pitching: Fringe Festivals

Don't miss our Next Steps Pitching session. It's a chance for Fringe festivals from across the world to pitch their festivals to artists. Artists, this is your opportunity to discover other exciting opportunities to platform your work beyond the Edinburgh Fringe, and to network with others.

Who: Artists, festivals and venues interested in taking work beyond the Fringe.

Why: To learn more about where artists can tour their work.

Friday 14 August
13:00 – 16:30

Fringe Central

Learn Connect

Fringe Fair

Come to Fringe Central to meet key organisations such as funders, membership organisations, training providers and agencies. Taking the format of a careers fair, you can browse from table to table gathering the knowledge and advice you need to help you with your next steps.

Who: Open to all Fringe participants.

Why: To find out about different organisations and services in the sector.

Monday 17 August
10:30 – 12:00

Fringe Central

Learn Connect

Artist and Industry Coffee Morning

Artists, come and meet with industry representatives attending the Fringe this year. This weekly coffee morning is a chance to hear from industry professionals, share your Fringe experiences and get their expert opinions.

Who: Open to all Fringe artists who are looking to take their work beyond the Fringe.

Why: To connect with industry professionals at the Fringe, who are experts in their fields.

Monday 17 August
12:30 – 13:30

Fringe Central

Learn Develop

Live Comedy Association: Next Steps on Stage

Join the **Live Comedy Association** (LCA) and their curated panel to gain practical advice on working in the live comedy sector and learn more about the work of the LCA. Soak up discussions on career development and how to build on the stage time you've had this August. This event is to get you thinking about what's next and how to achieve it – with a nod to returning to Edinburgh Fringe in 2027 or attending other comedy festivals across the UK.

Who: Fringe artists working in the live comedy sector.

Why: To gain practical advice on how to develop your career as a comedian.

Monday 17 August
14:00 – 15:00

Fringe Central

Learn Develop

Let's Go International: Canada Focus

Join top Canadian performing arts experts as they unpack the touring landscape: what does it look like today, how does touring in Canada work and how can you connect with the right networks? Learn about regional and national venues, and what support there is for international artists. Bring your questions – this is your chance to join the conversation!

Who: Fringe artists, independent companies and arts organisations interested in touring to or working in Canada.

Why: To gain practical advice for engaging and working within the Canadian market.

Tuesday 18 August
12:00 – 14:00

Fringe Central

Learn Connect

Fringe Society AGM

The Edinburgh Festival Fringe Society's Annual General Meeting (AGM) is held to receive minutes, accounts and reports from the Board of Directors and executive staff, and serves as an opportunity for members to raise questions. The AGM is open to Fringe Society members and the public.

Who: Fringe Society members and the public.

Why: To hear from the Board of Directors and executive staff of the Fringe Society.

Wednesday 19 August
10:30 – 11:30

Fringe Central

Learn Connect

Knowledge Share Roundtable

We all feel it – the landscape of the performing arts is shifting faster than our seasonal calendars. From the rise of AI to the complexities of funding, the old guidelines are no longer enough. But you don't have to solve it alone. Pull up a chair for an intimate, off-the-record knowledge share at our new conversational, open access roundtables. No formal panels, no experts on a stage – just peers, fresh coffee and a raw look at how we're all actually navigating the arts on the ground.

Who: All Fringe participants.

Why: To connect with the Fringe community and share your thoughts.

Wednesday 19 August
10:30 – 13:00

Greyfriars Hall

Learn Develop Connect

International Society for the Performing Arts (ISPA) Series at the Fringe: Resilience in Action

Building upon **ISPA**'s 2026 Congress theme, Resilience: A Global Dialogue, this interactive forum highlights creative strategies emerging across regions, from new partnership models and touring approaches to resource-sharing frameworks and artist-led initiatives. Together with global peers, participants will exchange real-world examples and explore how resilience is essential to sustaining and strengthening international exchange in an unpredictable world.

Who: Artists and industry professionals.

Why: To connect with peers and explore creative strategies from across the world.

Please note that this event is at Greyfriars Hall, 2 Cowgate, EH1 1JR.

Wednesday 19 August
12:00 – 16:30

Fringe Central

Connect

Fringe Community Day

Everyone is welcome to join us today at Fringe Central and be a part of our diverse Fringe community. Our event space is open for various groups to meet and connect, providing a welcoming environment for all. Whether you are here alone or with a group of friends, this is a great opportunity to make new connections. Check Fringe Connect for a list of the groups scheduled to gather at this session.

Who: Open to all Fringe participants.

Why: To meet and connect with others at the Fringe.

Thursday 20 August
14:00 – 15:30

Fringe Central

Learn Develop

Let's Go International: The Art of Touring – From Pitch to Partnership

How does work travel beyond its local context and what does it really take to build an international life for your work? Join **Caravan** for this session which will explore the journey from pitching a show to building lasting international partnerships.

Who: All Fringe participants interested in touring their work internationally.

Why: To gain practical advice on pitching and building partnerships across the world.

Friday 21 August
10:30 – 12:00

Fringe Central

Learn Develop Connect

Next Steps Pitching: Venue and Festival Programmers

Don't miss our Next Steps Pitching session. It's a chance for venues, festivals and programmers from across the world to pitch their opportunities to artists. Artists, this is your opportunity to discover more exciting opportunities to platform your work beyond the Fringe and network with others.

Who: Artists, festivals and venues interested in taking work beyond the Fringe.

Why: To learn more about where artists can tour their work.

Friday 21 August
13:00 – 16:30

Fringe Central

Learn Connect

Fringe Fair

Come to Fringe Central to meet organisations such as funders, membership organisations, training providers and agencies. Taking the format of a careers fair, you can browse from table to table gathering the knowledge and advice you need to help you with your next steps.

Who: Open to all Fringe participants.

Why: To find out about different organisations and services in the sector.

Monday 24 August
10:30 – 12:00

Fringe Central

Learn Connect

Artist and Industry Coffee Morning

Artists, come and meet with industry representatives attending the Fringe this year. This weekly coffee morning is a chance to hear from industry professionals, share your Fringe experiences and get their expert opinions.

Who: Open to all Fringe artists who are looking to take their work beyond the Fringe.

Why: To connect with industry professionals at the Fringe, who are experts in their fields.

Monday 24 August
14:00 – 15:30

Fringe Central

Learn

Equity, Comedy and the Future of Nightlife

Whether you have decades of experience or you're preparing your very first act, the industry is changing – and you should be the one driving it. Join us as we outline the inner workings of **Equity**, discuss our latest wins and ongoing battles, and get you up to speed on union campaigns for gigging nightlife performers.

Who: Artists working in the comedy sector.

Why: To learn more about the work that Equity is doing to support comedians.

Tuesday 25 August
14:00 – 15:30

Fringe Central

Learn Develop Connect

Visual Theatre, Object Theatre and Puppetry: International Collaboration and Touring

Join **Manipulate Arts** for a Q&A and networking session exploring visual, object and puppet theatre. Led by Artistic Director Dawn Taylor and featuring artists from across Edinburgh's festivals, we explore cross-border collaboration and touring, offering insight, inspiration and space to connect with leading artists and producers in visual theatre.

Who: Artists who are interested in visual theatre, object theatre and puppetry.

Why: To learn more about this genre of work and professional opportunities.

Wednesday 26 August
10:30 – 11:30

Fringe Central

Learn Connect

Knowledge Share Roundtable

We all feel it – the landscape of the performing arts is shifting faster than our seasonal calendars. From the rise of AI to the complexities of funding, the old guidelines are no longer enough. But you don't have to solve it alone. Pull up a chair for an intimate, off-the-record knowledge share at our new conversational, open access roundtables. No formal panels, no experts on a stage – just peers, fresh coffee and a raw look at how we're all actually navigating the arts on the ground.

Who: All Fringe participants.

Why: To connect with the Fringe community and share your thoughts.

Wednesday 26 August
12:00 – 16:30

Fringe Central

Connect

Fringe Community Day

Everyone is welcome to join us today at Fringe Central and be a part of our diverse Fringe community. Our event space is open for various groups to meet and connect, providing a welcoming environment for all. Whether you are here alone or with a group of friends, this is a great opportunity to make new connections. Check Fringe Connect for a list of the groups scheduled to gather at this session.

Who: Open to all Fringe participants.

Why: To meet and connect with others at the Fringe.

Thursday 27 August
10:30 – 12:00

Fringe Central

Learn Connect

Arts Industry: Programme Insight Session

Start your day at the Fringe by joining fellow programmers and presenters from across the festival to discuss show highlights and get a final round-up of recommendations from this year's festival. If you're new to the festival, this is a great opportunity to meet with other professionals and our Arts Industry team to understand how we can support you to discover shows and connect with talent, even after the dust has settled.

Who: Open to accredited arts industry and presenters only, particularly programmers and those new to the Fringe.

Why: To gain insights into the wider Fringe programme and to network with other arts professionals.

Thursday 27 August
12:30 – 14:00

Fringe Central

Learn Develop

UK Touring: What's Next For Your Show?

With so much to juggle when bringing a show to the Edinburgh Fringe, it can be hard to focus on 'what next?'. Hear from industry leaders in small-scale touring on how to set yourself up for success when taking your show on the road. Hosted by **house southeast theatre network**, this session will help you to feel prepared for future touring of your work, with plenty of time to answer your big questions on how to tour well.

Who: Artists looking to tour their work.

Why: To find out what is involved with touring a show beyond the Fringe.

Friday 28 August
13:00 – 16:30

Fringe Central

Learn Connect

Fringe Fair

Come to Fringe Central to meet organisations such as funders, membership organisations, training providers and agencies. Taking the format of a careers fair, you can browse from table to table gathering the knowledge and advice you need to help you with your next steps.

Who: Open to all Fringe participants.

Why: To find out about different organisations and services in the sector.

Thank you!

Thanks to all the exciting partners and panelists involved in this year's programme. We hope that you find this resource useful and are as excited about these events as we are.

We are looking forward to welcoming you along to Fringe Central in August – your home away from home.



Sign up to events online through Fringe Connect:

Follow us on social media for more updates @edfringe.