

Fringe Community Stage

- **One stage, approximate deck measurements:** 0.6m off the ground x 6m wide x 3m deep.

- **Performance stage floor area is 18m².** Please note that there is an awning covering on this stage, and a pole in the middle centre, with back and side covers to the stage. Access to the stage is via steps on the right-hand side of the front of the stage.
 - **2m per person** gives you an approximate capacity of six people, with space for microphone stands, guitars, keyboard – not a drum kit (see music restrictions below).
 - **0.5m per person** gives you an approximate capacity of 36 people grouped together.

- The **stage floor** is made from prolite modular decking (plywood / fibre board topped).
- The stage will have **PA equipment**, with speaker at the front in each corner and a stage monitor in the middle.
- An **access lift** is at the back of the stage, suitable for wheelchairs. Accessing the lift involves crossing a cobbled area.
- A **sound engineer** will be on hand to support you on the day.
- A **compere** will introduce the acts, and a chalkboard A-frame with the running order will be in front of the stage.
- **The High Street will be busy** with other buskers, street performers, statues and festivalgoers. If you are not using a microphone, you will have to project your voice to be heard.



Community Stage audio system

To discuss your technical requirements please contact communities@edfringe.com. We have the following equipment available; anything in addition must be supplied by you.

- 1 x 12-channel mixer
- 2 x PA speakers
- 1 x onstage monitor
- 4 x mic stands
- 4 x SM 58 mics and cables
- 2 x 6m XLRs
- 2 x 5m jack-to-jack
- 1 x mini-jack-to-mini-jack
(for plugging in an mp3 player)
- 2 x DIs

The following may be available on request in advance:

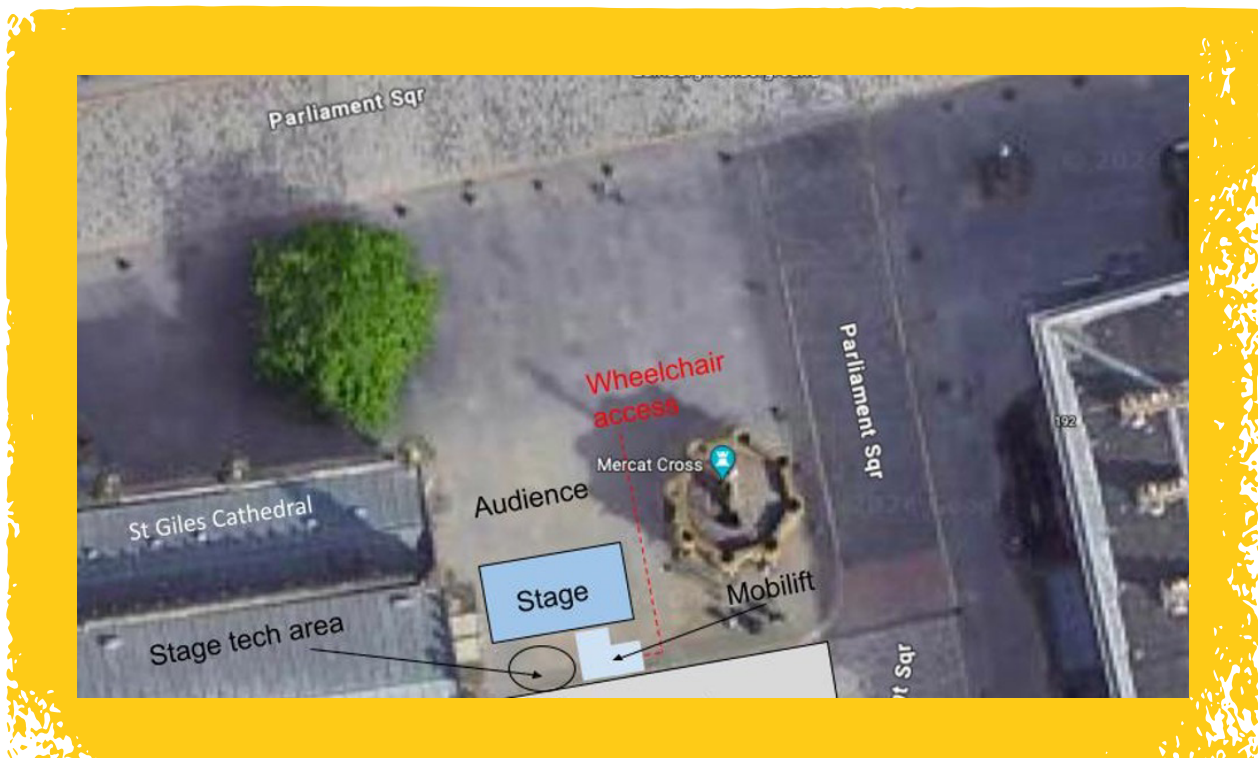
- 1 stage keyboard
- 1 Marshall guitar amp
- 1 cajon
- 1 iPhone jack adapter

Email us any additional requests and we will do our best to accommodate you.

The location

The stage is located by the **Mercat Cross** next to St Giles Cathedral, on the corner of the High Street and Parliament Square.

There are road closures in place on the High Street, so active travel, public transport or taxis are advised.



Access requirements

A lift will allow wheelchair access onto the stage. Please let us know of any access requirements you may have to enable you to attend.

On the day

- **Arrive in plenty of time.** We recommend active travel or public transport where possible – parking is difficult in town, traffic is busy and the High Street is closed to cars.
- **When you arrive, find Julie (Fringe Community Engagement Officer).** Please arrive at least 20 minutes before your slot, with all the equipment you will need.
- **Prepare for unpredictable Scottish weather** – the stage is outside, and there is no covered backstage area for waiting between acts (though we do have covered storage for instruments).
- **There is no sound check prior to the performance.** Your time slot must include all of your set-up, performance and takedown, so that the stage is clear and ready for the next participant at the end of your allocated slot.

Restrictions for the stage

- **The stage is in a public area and all performances must be family friendly,** eg with no explicit references to sex or violence. It is also not a place for religious or political events such as protests or protest performances.
- **It is free to take part and performances are unpaid.** Performers cannot take donations or bucket collections, or carry out merch sales.
- **Slots will be prioritised for non-profit groups** (ie the group's members or service users do not pay any fees for it). The Community Stage is not intended for paid-for stage schools or professional companies.
- Participants on the stage must be **signed up by a school or community group and supported by a staff member or responsible volunteer at the event.**
- We will prioritise shows from people, groups and schools who **do not** already have a Fringe show registered this year, including street performers and buskers.
- Groups interested in performing must submit **a description of their performance, including the number of performers,** for us to review. You can strengthen your submission by including a link to a video for us to get an idea of the nature of your act and noise levels.

Music restrictions

Performances cannot include loud instruments (eg bagpipes, trumpets, most drums and percussion instruments) or very large or professional choirs. The sound travels far on the High Street and disrupts locals and other performances.

Here are some examples of music performances we are likely to accept:

- **Adult community choirs of up to 12 adults** (no professional choirs).
- **Children's choir of up to 30 children.**
- **String instruments** with a maximum of five on stage (a quintet).
- **Drums / percussion:** we generally do not allow drums or percussion on the stage, with the exception of one cajon per performance. We will consider your application if you can submit a video of how your drum or percussion instrument will be used.
- **No loud instruments like bagpipes.**

If your act falls outside the above guidelines, we are happy to review on a case-by-case basis – get in touch with us by emailing communities@edfringe.com.



Finale shows

If you have something too big and noisy for the Community Stage, we encourage you to register as a finale show at the Fringe Street Events instead. Finale shows happen at the end of each day – in the past we've had marching bands, huge choirs, drumming groups, brass bands and more.

These do not take place on the Community Stage and the slots are one hour long, with an allowance of 15 minutes for set-up.

The Fringe Community Stage 2026 is delivered in partnership with Totally Sound.

