

fringe
street
events

Street Events handbook 2026

**07 – 30
August**





Street theatre has been an integral part of the Edinburgh Festival Fringe for decades, creating a vibrant and lively atmosphere on the streets of Edinburgh.

In 1999, the City of Edinburgh Council asked the Edinburgh Festival Fringe Society to manage the street performance spaces in the interests of public safety.

The Fringe Society facilitates, supports and raises money to deliver the Fringe Street Events. We manage the events, assist audiences and nurture relationships with local businesses, residents, the City of Edinburgh Council, delivery partners and any sponsors and funders.

The Fringe Society and City of Edinburgh Council will joint manage the High Street in 2025, including artist liaison, day-to-day operations, health and safety and staffing, while overseeing the full event at the High Street and the Mound.

Need any help?

If you have any questions, you can get in touch with us by emailing streetevents@edfringe.com or calling **0131 240 1912**.

You can also visit the Street Events Office in person – from 03 August we're open 11:30 – 16:00, seven days a week.

This year, the Street Events will run 07 – 31 August:

11:00 – 19:00 High Street

11:00 – 18:00 Mound

The Street Events will take place across the High Street, West Parliament Square, Hunter Square and the Mound Precinct. We will continue to ensure that the High Street is predominantly for street performers and buskers, while the Mound will host street performers and artists as well as other activations.

Following the establishment of a Joint Charter, we continue to work with street performers to ensure there is a shared and fair approach for all who form the Fringe Street Events.

Without the support and goodwill of the street performing community, sponsors and partners, it would be impossible to host an event of this scale. **Thank you to everyone who makes this event possible.**



Street performance categories

Circle shows

Circle shows are performed by experienced street performers who perform within a large circle of people (their audience). They must be able to hold a large audience for **45 minutes**, using a combination of circus and comedy skills.

For this category you must be aged 18 years or older.

These performances last **45 minutes**, including set up and pack down.



Buskers

Buskers can perform within a small area, performing to passing crowds.

This category is for buskers collecting donations only, and not for promotion of indoor shows. Music, magic, comedy, dance, performance art, physical theatre and children's theatre are suitable for this pitch.

These performances last **30 minutes**, including set up and pack down.



Finale shows

For those that are too big and noisy for our regular busking pitches, finale shows happen towards the end of each day. **These are one-hour slots, including set up and pack down.**

Think huge choirs, loud bands, brass instruments, circus and singing.



Living statues

Our living statues are experienced street entertainers who pose as a statue, in realistic make-up and costume, typically remaining immobile for very long periods of time.

Our living statues are required to make their own original costumes. No commercial or trademarked characters are allowed.



Festival artists

This category is for artists providing fun festival experiences including portraiture, caricature, henna, tarot reading etc.

This category is charged a daily fee for a pitch and is programmed ahead of the festival.



Pitches

Circle pitches: Hunter Square, Lower Mid High, Mid High, West Parliament Square, Mound 1 and Mound 2.

Busker pitches: Lower Mid High, Mercat, Alcove 1, Alcove 2.

Living statues: various.

Scheduling and the daily draw

The first morning draw takes place on **Friday 07 August**. We will host a welcome chat at 09:30 and then **start the draw at 10:00 sharp**.

For circle acts and buskers, the daily draw begins at 10:00 (sharp!). Please note: you must have your pass in the draw bag ahead of this start time.

Location: King Charles II statue, Parliament Square, Edinburgh, EH1 1RE.

[what3words ///steps.origin.taps](https://www.what3words.com/origin/taps)



Morning draws are often a place to discuss any questions or concerns, but it is important that the draw starts on time. If there is anything to be discussed at the morning draw, this will happen from 09:30 – 09:50.

There will be time to continue any discussions during the day, but at 09:50, these will be paused so that passes can go in the bag from 09:50 to 09:59.

At 10:00, the draw will begin.

If you are late, or have not registered, received an approval email before the draw, you will not be included in the draw that day.

When your name is picked out of the hat, you pick your slot. If there are slots left over once all the names have come out of the hat, we will go back up the list, offering a second show to the person who was drawn last, continuing until all slots are taken.

If there are more performers than slots, and there are still names in the bag but no more slots, we will announce that there are no more slots, and that the rollover has begun. We will continue to draw names, giving these performers the first choice of slots the following day.

There is no pre-scheduling for circle shows – everyone must attend the draw. If for any reason this is a barrier for you to perform, please get in touch with us at streetevents@edfringe.com to discuss further.

The daily draw will be published each day of the festival on [Fringe Street Events \(edfringe.com\)](https://www.edfringe.com), and displayed on schedule boards at pitches.

Welcome and drop-in sessions

**Fringe Central, 6 Infirmary Street
Edinburgh, EH1 1LS**

Come along to Fringe Central to meet with other street performers at the Fringe. This will be an opportunity for you to connect with your street performer community and discuss new ideas over some light refreshments. You can alternatively use this time for any workshops you may want to offer to other street performers.

Thursday 13 August: 16:00 – 17:00

Wednesday 19 August: 15:00 – 16:00

Tuesday 25 August: 16:00 – 17:00





British Sign Language at the Street Events

We will be working with Deaf Action again this year to provide British Sign Language (BSL) interpretation of the street performances at West Parliament Square. This will take place on 09, 15 and 20 August. A team of interpreters will be on hand to provide interpretation to make your performances accessible to d/Deaf people.

What do they do?

BSL interpreters help with communication between deaf people who use BSL and hearing people who use English. The interpreter at West Parliament Square will relay what you say by listening and interpreting it into BSL.

The interpreters will be wearing t-shirts so they are identifiable and have a small platform to stand on so they can be seen by any d/Deaf audience members. There may be an area marked out at the front of the audience space where any d/Deaf audience members can stand so they have a clear view of the interpreters.

What can you do?

Look out for the interpreters. There will be someone from the team at the draw each morning that interpretation is being provided. If your show is being interpreted, your interpreter will make themselves known to you before your show starts.

If you will be using any unusual words or phrases, it's very helpful to let them know in advance. You can find out their name so you can introduce them and thank them, but otherwise, carry on as usual!

Rules and regulations



Your pitch times include your set up and pack down of your show. All of your possessions **MUST BE OFF THE PITCH** to allow the next performance to start. The pitch must be clean and spotless ready for the next performer.

- If you go over your time by up to two minutes, you will receive a warning. If you do this a second time, you will receive a one-day ban.
- If you go over your pitch time by two minutes or more, you will receive a one-day ban.
- If you continue to do this, we will assess and extend bans if necessary.

To fulfil your ban, the next morning draw that you attend, you will need to head to management to confirm that you are starting your ban, which means you will not be able to enter the morning draw.

Freebies

(if a circle act or busker cancels their slot or does not turn up)

Circle shows

You must turn up to your pitch **10 minutes before** your act and check in with the pitch manager. If you do not turn up to your allotted slot **five minutes** past your allocated slot it will be considered a freebie unless we have been notified otherwise. Let's keep up good communication!

If a performer lets us know in advance that they will not perform at their allotted slot, we will alert as many other performers in the compound and at other pitches as we can. An **advance freebie will have a mini draw at the relevant pitch, five minutes before the time slot.**

If there is a no-show for an allotted slot, there will be a mini draw five minutes before the allotted slot, pitch side. Again we will tell as many performers as possible. This is a very quick turnaround so if you miss the draw, you will not be able to try for the freebie. Please come to the mini draw with your kit so if you win, you are ready to go.

Buskers

At 11:00, the Busking Coordinator will be next to Mercat to create a **waiting list for spots** that open up. Those on the list need to remain nearby so they can be reached if a freebie opens up. They can go for lunch and small trips, but if away longer than 1.5 or 2 hours, they'll be removed from the list.

Performers are expected to show up **10 minutes before their show time.** If at five minutes to show time they still have not checked in with a steward, a replacement from the waiting list will be placed on standby (working from top down). As soon as the performance pitch time slot starts, the fill-in performer can start their show.



- ➔ Any person wishing to perform within the Fringe Street Events arenas needs to **register with the Fringe Street Events Office and gain a participant pass.**
- ➔ Abusive behaviour towards Street Events and Fringe staff, the public or other performers will not be tolerated and will result in a ban from participating at the Fringe Street Events.
- ➔ Performances must suit a **family audience**. If your act is deemed unsuitable you will be asked to stop.
- ➔ **Fees relating to 'festival artists' are non-refundable due to weather conditions or any other unforeseen natural circumstances.**
- ➔ By performing at the Street Events **you agree that your performance may be filmed or photographed by the press, the public or the Fringe Society, and that your image may be used (with proper credit) in the Fringe Society's marketing.**
- ➔ You must comply with Fringe staff requests to reduce the volume of your act immediately, significantly and without complaint.
- ➔ Any performer whose act involves using flame, blades or other props that could be deemed a risk to themselves or others will need to provide a full risk assessment to perform, along with the mandatory Public Liability Insurance.
- ➔ Large bands, or those with multiple brass instruments, choirs or drums can only be accommodated in the Finale category due to the sound level requirements on the street during the day.
- ➔ **Vocal amplification is only allowed at circle pitches and designated busker pitches**, apart from at West Parliament Square during specific times, which will be communicated at the draw.
- ➔ The Fringe Society retains the right to alter Street Events pitches at any time.
- ➔ The Fringe Society attempts to accommodate as many participants as possible; however, due to demand, not all artists are guaranteed a pitch.
- ➔ **You must turn up for your slot at least 10 minutes before.** If you know ahead of time that this is not possible, please inform one of the Street Events team, so they are aware. If you do not arrive at your performance time, a draw may take place.
- ➔ **Failure to adhere with any of the above may result in your pass being revoked. The Edinburgh Festival Fringe Society has the right to revoke your pass at their discretion.**



Tips and hints from street performers



Fringe Street Events audiences have short attention spans so try to make your performance fun, fast and accessible.

Dress to impress or at least catch the eye.

Connect with your audience. Look them in the eyes, smile, tell them your name and where you are from.

Put your collection hat 1 – 2m in front of you to help own the space and encourage people to tip.

Market yourself. Have a sign with your name, website, social media handles.

Watch as many other similar acts as you can.

Give every performance your all. Audiences are more likely to respond if they know that you are working hard.

Have fun! Do it for the love of it and not the money.

Check the weather forecast and bring suitable clothing.

Fringe services for artists

Street Events Office

The Street Events Office is located down **Old Assembly Close (Old Box Office entrance)**.

The office is open from 11:30 – 16:00, seven days a week, from Monday 3 August.

This is where you can collect your lanyard and ask any questions.



Storage

We provide storage for our street performers, but it is limited so please be sure to store only what you need to and be respectful of other items. The Fringe Society takes no responsibility for any items left in storage.

Storage will be accessible from 10:00 – 21:00.

If you would like to use the storage to store your gear on the High Street overnight, the cost will be £30 per week or £70 for the full festival. You can pay for this at the Street Events Office on Old Assembly Close (Old Box Office entrance).

We are still in planning stages and will update this section accordingly.

Fringe Connect

Fringe Connect is our digital platform for Fringe artists and arts industry professionals to find opportunities, share information and link up with other members of the Fringe community.

Street performers are encouraged to set up a profile, explore the opportunities section (which lists performance opportunities, discounts and more), and attend discussion and networking events as part of the Fringe Connect events programme. For more information, head to connect.edfringe.com.

All events and resources on Fringe Connect are open and completely free to all artists.



Fringe services for artists

Accommodation

The Edinburgh Festival Fringe Society doesn't organise accommodation for performers but we do try to help by providing resources that can help you find somewhere suitable to stay while you are in Edinburgh.

[Check out the accommodation page on the website.](#)

Artist development

The Edinburgh Festival Fringe attracts producers, agents, promoters and bookers from all over the world. Performing at the Fringe is a great opportunity to get your work seen and to make professional contacts.

The Artist Development team can offer a number of services to help you make the most of your time at the Fringe, as well as one-to-one advice on targeting the right people to come and see your act, and on how to develop your show further after the Fringe.

During the festival, we offer a number of workshops and events which are designed to give you all the information you might need to enhance your career and create more opportunities for your show.

These events are also an ideal opportunity to network with industry professionals. **All events are free**; head to the [Fringe Connect events page](#) to find more details of the Fringe Central programme, as well as livestream links for past event recordings.

Below are some **sessions which may be of interest:**

- [Next Steps Pitching: Fringe Festivals](#), Friday 14 August
- [Visual Theatre, Object Theatre and Puppetry: International Collaboration and Touring](#), Tuesday 25 August



Fringe services for artists

Discounts

There are a number of businesses giving discounts to participants – food, drink, music equipment, hairdressers, masseurs and more. You will be required to show your Street Events participant pass to obtain these discounts. Ongoing discounts will also be listed on the Fringe Connect platform during the festival.

Medical / first aid

We have designated medics on hand, so if you need assistance, please talk to the nearest security or Street Events team member to radio for medical assistance. We can also help if you need to see a doctor or dentist. Please ask at the Street Events Office for further details.

Quiet Space

We understand that participating in the Fringe can be an overstimulating experience at times, that's why we have a dedicated quiet space available for Street Events participants. You can find this space at Fringe Central, it's available until **4pm every day**.



Contact

Email: streetevents@edfringe.com

Street Events Office: Old Assembly Close, first door on the right down the close (old Box Office entrance).

what3words:///crab.grant.will



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Photography featuring:

Malachi Frost

Maple Staplegun

Kwabana Lindsay

Juggling Dom

Super Scott

Rugg Tom Cat