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News Snippets - August 2009 to August 2010

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Book festival 2010 visitors down marginally

posted August 31st, 2010; modified September 2nd, 2010

The Bookseller [reports](#) that the ticket sales for the 2010 Edinburgh International Book festival are down by 3% on the 2009 figures. Visitor figures, at around 200,000, are on a par with 2008.

Fringe 2010 ticket sales and statistics

posted August 31st, 2010. modified September 1st, 2010.

Initial statistics have been put out by the Fringe Society for the 2010 festival. The headline figure is a new record of 1.95m tickets sold. This beats the previous record of 1.85m in 2009 by 5%. Other stats include: 40,254 performances of 2,453 shows in 259 performing spaces; comedy made up 35% of the overall programme, theatre 29% and music 16%. Articles on this topic can be found in [The Scotsman](#), [Guardian](#) and [Herald](#), although I found the one in [The Stage](#) slightly more objective.

As reported yesterday, some venue chiefs have expressed concerns about low attendances in the last week of the festival. As this coincided with the start of the school year, there are views in some quarters that this points to fewer tourists visiting the Scottish capital for the festival. There are also concerns that ticket sales have reached a natural limit, coupled with a certain degree of apprehension that 2011 will be tougher due to the recession.

Fringe venue chiefs report mixed success

posted August 30th, 2010.

While we wait for the Fringe statistics, [The Scotsman](#) fills the void by [gauging reaction among the venue chiefs](#). While some are (unsurprisingly) eternally optimistic, others express concerns about low attendances in the final week and signs of the recession having a greater effect this year.

RBS Fringe sponsorship in doubt

posted August 27th, 2010.

RBS sponsorship of free entertainment on the Royal Mile and the Mound expires next week and [according to The Scotsman](#) it is in danger of not being renewed. The backing for the Fringe, including the provision of bins, poster towers and stages, is reputedly worth £100K.

Film Festival artistic director to step down

posted August 25th, 2010.

[EdinburghGuide.com reports](#) that Hannah McGill has decided to step down from her role as artistic director of the Edinburgh International Film Festival. She has been in the role since 2006.

Fringe Society 2010 AGM

posted August 24th, 2010.

[The Stage summarises the Fringe Society's 2010 AGM](#) which was held on Saturday August 21st, 2010: a profit of £125,905 was recorded for the year ended November 30th, 2009; a final consultation meeting on proposed changes to the constitution will be held on October 14th, 2010; followed by an extraordinary general meeting on the subject on November 21st, 2010 - both meetings will be held in Edinburgh.

Half-hearted cries of "dont reduce our subsidies"

posted August 16th, 2010.

There are several articles floating around at the moment - for example [here](#) and [here](#) and [here](#) - which complain that grants and subsidies to the festivals should not be reduced. While I understand the thinking which says that the media and the punters are here in Edinburgh now and therefore we should shout our case from the rooftops, it is in fact neither the time nor the place. Everybody - administrators, the majority of the media, performers and punters - are far too concerned with the arts themselves at the moment. The cries are in fact relatively weak and lack conviction. I am not sure when would be the best time to go on the offensive, possibly after the festivals have finished but when the subject is still fresh in peoples' minds? Of course, it could be that the lack of conviction simply reflects the probable and inevitable futility of any lobbying.

Some angry performers at the Fringe Society's open meeting

posted August 11th, 2010.

Both [The Herald](#) and [The Scotsman](#) report on anger expressed by performers at the Fringe Society's open meeting yesterday to discuss potential changes to its constitution. The topic which caused the trouble is the subject of who should be allowed to become a member of the society. The Fringe's decision earlier in the year to suspend membership pending decisions on the constitution appears to have upset many people at the meeting although a Fringe spokesperson said that they only had records of 14 individuals being affected. The performers - it is estimated that around 100 were present - voted overwhelmingly against the scrapping of The Fringe's current "open door" policy. The Fringe was at pains to indicate that this is not a final vote but just part of its general consultation process. The board is currently due to decide on a date to decide the way forward later this month - it will probably be in the autumn. [The Stage](#) subsequently provided a slightly more measured account of proceedings, indicating a more constructive debate on the subject of board membership.

Edinburgh bed tax plans?

posted August 9th, 2010.

[The Herald](#) writes that Edinburgh may be planning to impose a hotel bed tax (possibly 2%) to provide funds to market the city and its festivals. This idea was first mooted in the [Thundering Hooves Report](#) (2006) and has been discussed several times since. It is not clear if any definite moves are afoot or if this is simply a newspaper filling space during festival time. See [Future Threats](#) for my thoughts on some of the issues that Edinburgh faces.

Initial roll out of one-stop festival ticket outlet delayed

posted August 6th, 2010.

[The Scotsman](#) reports that the long awaited one-stop festival ticket facility that was due to be introduced by Festivals Edinburgh, the overall umbrella organisation for marketing all the city's festivals, has been delayed. It is now hoped that it will be introduced later in the year.

Number of official festival flyposting sites to be doubled

posted August 2nd, 2010.

Illegal flyposting during the festival has always a huge problem for the city council. Last year's trial of legal sites was considered successful enough that this year [the number of sites will be doubled to 900](#). There is a fee. One deal provides space for 10 A3 posters for £50.

Fringe Society open meeting to discuss constitution issues

posted July 30th, 2010.

[The Stage](#) reports that an open meeting for Fringe participants will be held at The McEwan Hall on August 10th, 2010 at 10am in an effort to resolve the outstanding issues relating to the creation of a new constitution for the Fringe Society.

Blow for EIFF as Film Council is scrapped

posted July 27th, 2010.

[The UK Film Council](#) has been scrapped as part of the government's economy drive. The council has been a major supporter of the Edinburgh International Film Festival (EIFF), awarding it £1.9m in 2008 to help with its rebranding and move to a June festival.

Hints of arts funding cuts to come

posted July 24th, 2010.

[The Guardian reports](#) on hints from Creative Scotland, the newly formed Scottish Arts body, of a 10% cut in subsidies over three years. [Joyce McMillan acts as defender of arts subsidies](#) in The Scotsman. These likely cuts come on top of reductions that have been proposed by Edinburgh city council.

Heritage watchdog attempts to block Festival Theatre extension plans

posted July 21st, 2010.

The Cockburn Association (The Edinburgh Civic Trust) is [trying to block the Festival Theatre's development plans](#) for a rehearsal area and student accommodation, saying that it is "mediocre, misguided ... lacking in ambition".

Comedy awards online poll upsets Stewart Lee

posted July 20th, 2010.

Comedian [Stewart Lee has attacked the Fosters' Comedy Awards](#) for introducing an online public poll to vote for your "comedy god". The list of possibles contains all the Perrier and if.comedy nominees over the 30 years of the comedy awards' existence.

Scott Monument becomes a fringe venue for the first time

posted July 18th, 2010.

[The Scott Monument will become venue 283](#) for this year's festival, hosting a photography exhibition.

Bank of Scotland to cease sponsorship of EIF fireworks concert

posted July 17th, 2010.

The Herald [reports](#) that the Bank of Scotland will cease to sponsor the very popular fireworks concert which is held at the end of the EIF festival after this year's event. Lloyds, its parent company, is in the process of closing 265 Halifax agencies and getting rid of 650 jobs.

Requests for reductions in temporary theatre licensing fees turned down

posted July 15th, 2010.

The Stage [reports](#) that the Fringe Society had asked for reductions in the temporary theatre licensing fees for three venues which it considered worthy of financial assistance. The requests were turned down by the City Council, as was a similar request from Vittoria's Restaurant on Leith Walk.

Festivals Edinburgh awarded £300K for digital initiative

posted July 14th, 2010.

Festivals Edinburgh, the body which promotes all Edinburgh's festivals, [has been awarded £300K by Creative Scotland](#) to help it set up an Innovation Lab. The stated aim will be "to develop ideas to improve and inspire audience experience, while tackling themes such as helping festival attendees create the best possible experience while also creating new ways to distribute festival content and heighten the environmental credentials of the festivals" ... whatever that quite means?!

Unbound evenings at the Book Festival

posted June 30th, 2010.

At this year's Book Festival there will be a mini-festival, called Unbound, which will start each evening at 9pm in the Highland Park Spiegel tent where authors can try out new ideas and different approaches to discussing their writing. The programme can be [downloaded from The Skinny](#). Entry is free.

Changes to Fringe constitution delayed

posted June 30th, 2010. [previous post January 7th, 2010](#).

[The Stage reports](#) that the implementation of a revised Fringe constitution has been delayed. It is now unlikely to happen before November at the earliest. The reason for the delay is a current lack of

consensus on key questions such as: the eligibility criteria for membership of the Fringe Society; who can be a director of the Fringe Society; and how a director should be appointed.

Amnesty International announces 2010 festival events

posted June 28th, 2010.

Amnesty International [has announced details of its 2010 festival events](#), including: the Stand Up for Freedom comedy event at the EICC on Thursday 19th August, 2010; the Imprisoned Writer Series at the Book Festival when each day a well-known writer reads from the writings of a person who has been locked up, threatened, *et cetera*; and an exhibition by six Scottish graffiti artists at the C Venues SoCo Urban Garden, on Edinburgh's Cowgate.

Laughing Horse loses main sponsor

posted June 23rd, 2010.

Laughing Horse, one of the two major promoters who put on free shows at the Fringe, [has lost its major sponsor](#). Known as The Edinburgh Free Festival, it plans to hold an auction in early July in an attempt to find another sponsor. The other major promoter of free shows is Peter Buckley Hill's The Free Fringe.

More on Book Festival desires to expand

posted June 19th, 2010.

The Book Festival 's need for more physical space [was mentioned in the late autumn](#). Now an article in [The Herald](#) highlights a desire to expand in Charlotte Square itself. The idea is to close off the north and west sides of the square during the festival.

2010 Book Festival programme launched

posted June 17th, 2010.

The programme for the 2010 Edinburgh International Book Festival [was announced](#) today. There will be 750 authors from 50 countries.

Concerns of a venue

posted June 17th, 2010.

There is an interesting short article in [The Scotsman](#) by Karen Koren, founder of the Gilded Balloon, on the concerns of venues during the recession.

Traverse shows to be screened in cinemas via the Internet

posted June 12th, 2010.

The Stage [reports](#) that Hibrow Productions are to record all the [Impossible Things before Breakfast](#) rehearsed readings and then transmit them simultaneously via the Internet to participating Picturehouse and other cinemas across the UK on the evening of August 23rd, 2010.

2010 Edinburgh Jazz & Blues Festival announced

posted June 11th, 2010.

The Scotsman [reports on the unveiling of the 2010 Edinburgh Jazz and Blues Festival](#). The festival's [website](#) now contains full details of the programme.

2010 Fringe programme launched

posted June 10th, 2010. modified June 11th, 2010.

The 2010 Fringe programme was launched this morning. The stats, which the Fringe loves to trot out to demonstrate just how big it is, include: 40,254 performances of 2,453 shows involving 21,148 performers. Background info on the launch and links to early media feedback can be found [here](#). [The official unveiling of the programme](#) eventually appeared in [the revamped Fringe website](#) when it went live the following day.

Fringe unveils official 2010 poster

posted June 5th, 2010. modified June 10th, 2010.

The winning entry in this year's competition [has been announced](#). The winner was 13-year-old Morven Donalds, from Park Mains High School in Erskine. Her design was chosen from over 2,500 entries.

Join the EIF's INcrowd

posted June 4th, 2010.

In association with The Skinny, the International Festival is attempting to attract more younger people. For a £20 joining fee young punters will be offered: discounts on selected performances; invitations to dress rehearsals; plus attendance at VIP parties and other "meet the artist" events. Details, including information on the launch party on June 23rd, can be found [here](#) on the EIF website.

2010 Art Festival unveiled

posted June 3rd, 2010. modified June 7th, 2010.

Details of this year's Art Festival were unveiled yesterday. A comprehensive article on the launch [appears in Art Daily](#). A couple of days later [the press release \(Microsoft Word format only\)](#) was subsequently made available on the Art Festival website. However, the site has not so far been updated with the full 2010 festival details.

Deuchars IPA Fringe venue boards

posted June 3rd, 2010.

[The Stage reports](#) that the Fringe has entered into a three year sponsorship deal with the Caledonian Brewery. Deuchars IPA, one of its flagship beers, will appear on all Fringe venue boards and on the Fringe venue map in the programme brochure. The brewery itself will also become a venue - venue 268 - and host its own events in August.

Edinburgh Film Festival faces future funding challenges

posted June 2nd, 2010.

[The Scotsman reports](#) that the Film Festival faces funding issues after this year's festival. The budget for 2010 is £1.38m and although new sponsors have appeared - CityJet and Moët & Chandon - EIFF has been relying on a £1.9m grant in 2008 (spread over 3 years) from the UK Film Council. This grant is running out and is unlikely to be renewed, not least because the council is having to make cuts as it is losing some of its lottery funding to the 2012 Olympics.

Edinburgh Film Festival belated 2010 programme launch

posted June 1st, 2010.

The Edinburgh International Film Festival has belatedly [announced the 2010 programme](#), only two weeks before the festival starts. It has come in for a reasonable amount of criticism for this decision. Their defence is that the financial crisis has limited the appearances of film makers at film festivals this year ... and they have been waiting to see if they would be appearing at Cannes before making a decision on Edinburgh. The full programme can be viewed on [the EIFF website](#).

Festival in the Sky

posted June 1st, 2010.

Dinner in the Sky, which has been held in 30+ countries including Paris and Las Vegas, will come to Edinburgh in August - renamed [Festival in the Sky](#) for the occasion of course. Daring punters will be hoisted by a giant crane (situated in West Princes Street Gardens) 100 feet into the air for a 30 minute dining experience. The specially constructed table seats 22 diners who can book for breakfast, lunch, dinner or special events including Burns suppers.

Jobs at the Fringe

posted May 29th, 2010.

The Fringe is currently [looking for staff](#) for this year's event, as indeed are [some of the venues](#). The large venues - Assembly, Pleasance, Gilded Balloon and Underbelly - tend to recruit separately, so it is best to go to their individual websites for information.

C adds established venues to its stable

posted May 27th, 2010.

C Venues, arguably the largest Fringe venue organisation after the big four - Assembly, Pleasance, Gilded Balloon and Underbelly - [will be adding two long-established venues to its stable this year](#). They are the George Street Theatre and the Roman Eagle Lodge.

Foster's to sponsor Edinburgh Comedy Awards

posted May 26th, 2010.

Foster's, the Australian drinks company, is to [sponsor the Edinburgh Comedy Awards](#). Perrier, the original sponsor back in 1981 eventually withdrew in 2005 to be replaced by Intelligent Finance, the banking firm. Unfortunately, the financial crisis forced them to withdraw in turn after the 2008 festival, and no sponsor could be found for 2009 when Nica Burns, the original founder of the awards put her hands in her own pockets to keep it going.

Magic festival update

posted May 24th, 2010.

[Here is the 9 page programme booklet](#) for the festival. Please note that all tickets are now on sale. The festival is looking for [volunteers](#) and it has announced [two competitions for amateurs](#), War of the Wizards for Under 18s and Open War of the Wizards.

Calls for cheaper accommodation

posted May 19th, 2010. modified May 20th, 2010.

During the recent debate on the costs of taking a show to the Fringe on BBC Radio Scotland's Culture Café programme, Guy Masterson, producer, director, actor and Fringe stalwart, called for cheaper accommodation for performers. [In an article in The Scotsman](#) Charlie Wood, co-director of the Underbelly and Councillor Steve Cardownie, the city's festivals champion, call for cheaper accommodation for punters. It is rumoured that the city chiefs are looking at campsite solutions, although this avenue has been explored unsuccessfully several times in the past. See [Potential Threats to the Future of the Edinburgh Festival](#) for a more general discussion on factors which may affect punters and performers.

Film Festival to promote Scottish producers at four festivals

posted May 18th, 2010.

[The Film Festival is to promote selected Scottish producers](#) at EIFF 2010 and three other festivals over the next 12 months through their "Features Scotland" 2010 programme which is supported by the Scottish Government's Edinburgh Festivals Expo fund and Scottish Screen.

The World@St. George's West withdraws from Fringe 2010

posted May 18th, 2010.

The BBC [reports](#) that The World venue which puts on music and dance and has used St. George's West church in Shandwick Place for a number of years has withdrawn from this year's Fringe after losing £140K over the last two years. It plans to look for an alternative venue nearer to the High St. in 2011.

"Jazz on a Summer's Day" in jeopardy

posted May 17th, 2010.

[Assembly's use of Princes Street Gardens](#) for this year's Fringe looks likely to prevent the Jazz Festival from holding its popular annual free "Jazz on a Summer's Day" which was scheduled for August 1st, 2010, according to [The Scotsman](#). The Assembly has indicated that it will require access to the site from July 20th onwards. The Jazz Festival is currently investigating the possibility of an alternative venue.

Burdett-Coutts criticised for opposition to Assembly refurbishment plans

posted May 6th, 2010.

William Burdett-Coutts, the artistic director of Assembly, has been criticised by the city council for opposing its plans to refurbish the Assembly Rooms. [The Scotsman reports](#) that he has admitted to approaching the Heritage Lottery Fund with his concerns over the plans. The fund subsequently [rejected](#)

the council's application for a £2.7m grant.

Drip-feed of show announcements by major Fringe venues

posted May 6th, 2010. modified May 17th, 2010.

The Stand, one of the popular comedy venues on the Fringe, is the latest to [announce its line-up](#) for the 2010 festival. Terry Sheppard, the club's director, has said that he would have preferred to have waited for the official Fringe programme launch on June 10th but other venues had already started to drip-feed details of their programmes and he felt forced to follow suit. The Underbelly was the first to break ranks by [announcing the line-up](#) at its McEwan's Hall venue, followed by Assembly who have [announced four shows](#).

[The Scotsman added](#) (on May 14th, 2010) that the Pleasance and the Gilded Balloon have joined in the game of pre-announcements, giving news of a limited number of shows on sale.

More on the costs of taking a show to the Fringe

posted May 5th, 2010.

BBC Radio Scotland's Culture Café programme plans to have a discussion on the costs of taking a show to the Fringe next Tuesday (May 11th). I understand that it will be on roughly around 1:30pm for about 20 minutes. Listeners outside Scotland will subsequently be able to access it via the BBC iPlayer [at this link](#).

Cost of venue hire generates debate

posted April 27th, 2010.

[A theatre blog in the Guardian by Eleanor Turney](#) bemoans the cost of venue fees on the Fringe. It is a limited article in terms of addressing the costs of taking a show to Edinburgh - [Richard Wray's blog from 2007](#) is more coherent and informative - but it has generated a fair amount of comment from the likes of Peter Buckley Hill, founder and artistic director of the Free Fringe, Thomas Sandford, artistic director of Paradise Green (who run Augustines and The Vault) and Chris Cooke, co-publisher of the review paper ThreeWeeks and others. It is worth a browse, particularly for the comments.

Additional Pleasance venue

posted April 21st, 2010.

The approach of the deadline for the 2010 Fringe programme (which is in fact today) has produced news of a number of venue changes over the last week or so. [The latest announcement](#) is that the Pleasance, one of the four super venues who have multiple sites, have signed a deal to use the Ghillie Dhu nightspot in Rutland Place, adjacent to the Caledonian Hotel, at the west end of Princes Street. This is the first time that the Pleasance has had a venue outside the south side area.

Magic Festival starting to take shape

posted April 15th, 2010. modified April 19th, 2010.

[The Scotsman has reported](#) that the inaugural Magic Festival in July (7th to 11th) is starting to take shape. 20 acts have so far been signed up, including Paul Wilson, Drew McAdams and Jon Archer. Shows will be held in various venues, including The Netherbow Theatre, The Lot and The Vault. Programme information has started to appear on www.magicfest.co.uk.

Reappearance of Spiegeltent in doubt

posted April 13th, 2010. modified June 11th, 2010

The popular Spiegeltent venue which did not appear at the 2009 Fringe may not make a comeback this year due to eleventh hour problems over the use of the site, [according to The Scotsman](#). There is not long to sort the problem out as the deadline for the Fringe programme is April 21st.

Update on June 11th, 2010 - problems obviously resolved. The Spiegeltent will be hosting Smoke and Mirrors in George Square Gardens.

Assembly plans to use Princes St Gardens as a venue

posted April 12th, 2010.

The Scotsman [reports](#) that the Assembly is in discussions to use Princes Street Gardens as a Fringe venue, installing a giant marquee in the Ross Theatre area.

The Illusionist for Film Festival's Opening Gala

posted April 8th, 2010.

Although the full 2010 festival programme will not be announced until June 1st, 2010, with the box office opening on June 3rd, the Edinburgh International Film Festival (EIFF) [has announced](#) Sylvain Chomet's animated feature film The Illusionist for the opening night gala at the Festival Theatre on June 16th, 2010.

Festival Theatre to host Film Festival opening gala

posted April 1st, 2010.

The Edinburgh International Film Festival (EIFF) [has announced](#) that the Festival Theatre will host the opening night gala on June 16th, 2010. The theatre has received a grant of £245,000 to install the necessary facilities to show film. The EIFF has also announced that the full 2010 festival programme will not be announced until June 1st, 2010, with the box office opening on June 3rd.

More drinking time during the festival

posted March 30th, 2010.

The city's licensing board has agreed to increase the number of days that the two hour extension to the opening hours of pubs and clubs will apply to during the festival. According to [The Scotsman](#), the period was increased from 21 to 28 days in 2009. In 2010 it will be increased by a further 3 days to 31.

EIF - very busy first day of public booking

posted March 28th, 2010.

The EIF says that it is close to last year's opening day take of £270K. It is claimed that four or five shows have already sold out including the closing concert at the Usher Hall. Particularly strong selling shows are Porgy and Bess, Grupo Corpo and Caledonia.

Assembly Rooms refurbishment plans in disarray

posted March 27th, 2010.

The Scotsman [reports](#) that the city council's plans to refurbish the Assembly Rooms are in disarray because an application for £2.7m of lottery funding has been turned down for a second time. The plans, which would involve closing the building for 18 months leading up to the 2012 festival, have long been objected to by William Burdett-Coutts, the artistic director of Assembly Festival.

Fringe wants help to design 2010 programme cover

posted March 22nd, 2010.

The Fringe [is asking for ideas](#) for the design of the cover to the 2010 programme. They can be submitted via Twitter or email. On Thursday and Friday this week (25th and 26th March) it will be possible to go onto the website and see the best ideas being illustrated by Johanna Basford. The programme, with its cover, is expected to be available on 10th June.

Creative Scotland's main base to be in Edinburgh

posted March 19th, 2010.

[The Stage](#) and others report that Edinburgh has been chosen as the main base for Creative Scotland. Subject to confirmation, the agency's chief executive and the majority of its 123 staff will be housed in Waverley Gate, the old General Post Office building opposite the Balmoral Hotel, from June this year. Creative Scotland is the merging of the Scottish Arts Council and Scottish Screen. The current Scottish Screen office in Glasgow will be retained.

2010 International Festival programme launched

posted March 17th, 2010.

The 2010 EIF programme was unveiled this morning by Jonathan Mills, the artistic director, and Fiona

Hyslop, the Scottish Culture Minister. As rumoured before Christmas this year's theme is the New World, focusing on the Americas and Australasia. Initial information and links to early media feedback [can be found here](#).

Details of proposed Festival Theatre extensions

posted March 16th, 2010.

Details of the [proposed extension work at the Festival Theatre](#) have been announced. The estimated £2.8m project, which still requires planning permission, will provide a large rehearsal space at the rear of the building. It is expected that this area will also be used by local performance groups and could act as a Fringe venue.

Magic Festival for Edinburgh

posted March 7th, 2010. modified March 15th, 2010.

[The Scotsman has revealed](#) that Edinburgh will host an inaugural Magic Festival in July (7th to 11th). Edinburgh-based magician Kevin McMahon came up with the idea. Programmes, when they are available, can be ordered via www.magicfest.co.uk. As a punter who enjoys the occasional magic show on the Fringe, I hope that the magicians do not all decamp to this new event!

McEwan Hall to be used as Fringe venue

posted March 5th, 2010.

The impressive 1,000 seater McEwan Hall is to be used as a Fringe venue in 2010 by Underbelly, [according to The Scotsman](#). At the moment it appears as if it will only be used in the evenings for a small number of comedy acts.

Expo Emerging Artist Commission

posted February 25th, 2010.

[Kim Coleman and Jenny Hogarth will create Staged](#) for the 2010 Edinburgh Art Festival. It will be a multi-channel video installation, incorporating staged managed performances with live events filmed around the city by CCTV cameras. Staged will be launched on July 29th, 2010.

National Theatre of Scotland to appear at both EIF and Fringe

posted February 23rd, 2010.

[The Stage outlines](#) the NTS's summer and autumn schedule for 2010. They will appear at the EIF although the details will not be announced until the EIF programme is launched on March 17th - The Stage understands that it will be a new commission by political satirist Alistair Beaton. At the Fringe they will be appearing in a co-production with Frantic Assembly of Byrony Lavery's Beautiful Burnout.

Usher Hall glass extension to open

posted February 23rd, 2010. modified February 25th, 2010.

[The Scotsman reports](#) for the umpteenth time that the interminable work at the Usher Hall is nearing completion. Actually, it is good news bad news ... the good is that the glass extension will open to the public this week (25th Feb) ... the bad is that work on the culture quarter outside the hall will continue, possibly right up to the time of the EIF. It was subsequently [announced](#) that there will be a gala in October to celebrate the completion of the work. Holst's The Planets will be performed by the Houston Symphony Orchestra while a large screen will show Nasa high definition images of the planets.

Book Festival's 2009 Annual Review available

posted February 18th, 2010.

The Edinburgh Book Festival's 2009 Annual Review is now available. It can be [downloaded](#) from their website.

Creative Scotland appoints Chief Executive

posted February 17th, 2010.

Various media outlets, including [The Herald](#), report the appointment of Andrew Brown as the Chief

Executive of Creative Scotland. This organisation will be a merging of the [Scottish Arts Council](#) and [Scottish Screen](#). In brief, the merging of these two organisations was originally mooted in 2006. Currently, Creative Scotland does not exist: it is waiting for the passing of the Public Services Reform Bill in the Scottish Parliament (probably later this year). Meanwhile, [Creative Scotland 09 Ltd](#) was formed late last year to manage the transition to the new organisation.

Edinburgh City Council agrees budget for 2010-2011 fy

posted February 12th, 2010. [previous post January 26th, 2010.](#)

[stv.tv reports](#) that Edinburgh City Council has agreed the budget for the coming financial year. The cuts in grants to each of the individual festivals will be 1.5%, as previously reported. No figures are quoted for cuts in grants to the theatres, but there is no reason to suppose that it is any different from the figures that were mentioned in late January. The Scotsman's latest article on the budget cuts can be found [here](#).

More on festival passports

posted February 8th, 2010. [previous post October 31st, 2009.](#)

The Scotsman [provides slightly more news](#) on this disturbing development. Festivals Edinburgh is selling "festival passports" to the travel trade. It provides three or more of the "best shows" per day from £40 per day as part of travel package deals. Travellers will not of course find out which events have been selected for them until July, once all the programmes have been launched. The Scotsman mainly focuses on the criticism that it will only benefit big name performers. My concern is the added difficulty to ordinary punters who may find it problematic, if not impossible, to get tickets for some of their chosen shows. Further information can be found [here](#) on the Festivals Edinburgh site.

Fringe posts profit in 2009

posted January 29th, 2010.

The Edinburgh Festival Fringe posted a comforting profit of £132K in 2009, [reports The Scotsman](#), after its calamitous loss of circa. £900K in 2008 which was largely attributable to the box office system fiasco. It received £255K in grants in 2009, the largest sum in its history.

Fringe looking for volunteers to help with new website design

posted January 28th, 2010.

The Edinburgh Festival Fringe is developing a new website for the 2010 event and it is looking for volunteers to take part in workshops to say what they like and don't like about the ideas that it currently has. The workshops will be held in Edinburgh (Mon 1st Feb at 7pm) and London (Tue 2nd Feb at 6pm and 8pm). [Contact the Fringe](#) if you are interested.

Edinburgh City Council considering funding reductions

posted January 26th, 2010.

According to [The Edinburgh Evening News](#) the City Council is discussing how to tackle a £90m gap in its finances over the next three years. Wide-ranging cuts to third parties, including the arts, are likely. Among the proposals are 1.5% cuts in funding to each of the individual festivals next year, growing to 3.5% in each of the two following years; theatres such as the Traverse and the Lyceum plus Festivals Edinburgh (which markets the festivals) may see 2.5% next year with a further 3.5% in years two and three; while the Queens Hall is among those who could be hardest hit with 3.5% next year and 4.5% subsequently.

Edinburgh Film Festival MD steps down

posted January 16th, 2010.

[EdinburghGuide.com reports](#) that Ginnie Atkinson, Managing director of the Edinburgh Film Festival for 15 years and CEO of the Filmhouse for 5 years, has stepped down from both roles.

Fringe constitutional survey results

posted January 7th, 2010. modified January 16th, 2010.

Slightly later than scheduled, the results of the [online survey that the Fringe conducted in October](#) on its constitution have been announced - [see this article in The Stage](#). Key items of feedback from respondents

include: a limit placed on the tenure of chair of the board; an increase in the number of members of the Society (currently limited to 100); and a desire to see elected board members with expertise in particular areas such as IT and sponsorship. Here is a summary of the results ([Microsoft Word format](#) as issued by the Fringe or [pdf version](#)). A five strong working group will now discuss the findings with stakeholder groups - including performers, producers and venues - and a set of proposed constitutional changes will eventually be put to the vote in June 2010.

Tattoo gets Royal status

posted January 4th, 2010.

Royal status has been conferred on the Tattoo which will henceforth be known as the Royal Edinburgh Military Tattoo, as reported in various newspapers, including [The Scotsman](#).

Edinburgh Art Festival 2010 - Impressionist and Surrealist exhibitions

posted January 1st, 2010.

The major exhibition at the National Galleries' complex this summer will be *Impressionist Gardens* at The Scottish Royal Academy, featuring around 90 Impressionist and Post-Impressionist works. See the [press release](#) for further details. Meanwhile, the Dean Gallery will host *Another World: Dali, Magritte, Miro and The Surrealists*. The exhibition will include the first showing of the complete Surrealist collection of The Scottish Gallery of Modern Art, according to the [press release](#).

Edinburgh Art Festival commissions announced

posted December 18th, 2009.

[Edinburgh Art Festival](#) has announced details of commissions for 2010, supported by the Scottish Government's Expo fund: Richard Wright (recently winner of the 2009 Turner Prize) is to produce a painting for the Dean Gallery; Martin Creed is to produce a public work for the city centre; while the third commission will introduce Scotland's new visual arts talent to the festival audience.

New World theme for EIF in 2010?

posted December 16th, 2009.

The Scotsman [reports](#) that early promotional material appears to indicate that acts from the Americas and Australasia are likely to dominate the 2010 Edinburgh International Festival in celebration of the discovery of the New World 500 years ago.

Work to start on new arena for the Tattoo

posted December 9th, 2009.

Work will shortly start on the construction of a new temporary arena on The Esplanade for The Tattoo and other events [according to The Scotsman](#). Initial work on the £16m project will involve the replacement of the network of pipes and cables that run under The Esplanade along with the laying of the foundations. Work on the new stands will not commence until after the 2010 Tattoo and they will be used for the first time at the 2011 event.

No rise in Fringe participation fees for 2010

posted November 26th, 2009.

The Stage [reports](#) some good news for Fringe performers. Kath Mainland, CE of the Edinburgh Fringe, in an interview with the paper, announced that there will be no increase in participation fees for the 2010 festival. This decision has been made in response to the current economic downturn.

London to have its own Fringe in 2010

posted November 24th, 2009. modified November 26th, 2009.

News that promoter Greg Tallent, the man behind the 2009 London Bridge Festival, is trying to drum up support for a [London Festival Fringe](#) in 2010, dates to correspond with the Edinburgh Festival Fringe. Needless to say the media has jumped on it ... [New London comedy festival will rival Edinburgh next summer](#) (says the Times) ... [oh no it wont](#) says The Guardian ... *et cetera*. The Scotsman's [initial response](#) was quite muted.

Book Festival needs more space

posted November 21st, 2009.

The Scotsman [reports](#) that the Book Festival has run out of space in Charlotte Square and is considering expanding into other venues. Possibilities include the Royal Society of Edinburgh's headquarters and the masonic halls in George Street, church halls in George Street and Shandwick Place, and the Filmhouse and Usher Hall.

Funding issues begin to loom

posted November 13th, 2009.

News that Edinburgh city council has warned the major festivals to expect a 4% cut in budgets in the coming financial year has prompted [this article in The Scotsman](#) on funding issues in general. Anybody who monitors the dry subject of festival finance will be aware that 2009 was unlikely to be a major problem despite fears being expressed by many earlier in the year. 2010 and 2011 were always going to be more problematic as the recession hits punters harder and sponsorship becomes more difficult to find and to maintain. This useful article also includes: the impact of the threatened demise of the Lloyds TSB Foundation and the merger of the Scottish Arts Council and Scottish Screen; trouble with sponsors, particularly in the banking sector; and the inability of individual festivals to confirm backing for the 2010 festival as negotiations with sponsors continue.

"Why isn't comedy funded by the Arts Council? ..."

posted November 5th, 2009.

... is an [interesting article in The Guardian](#). Among others, it draws on Daniel Kitson, Simon Munnery and Mark Watson's *The Hotel* at this year's Fringe as examples of works that warrant support. However, surely the title of the article should have been "Why isn't **some** comedy funded by the Arts Council?". The vast majority of comedy, e.g. plain vanilla stand-up, does not warrant support.

Travel trade to offer customers priority access to festival tickets

posted October 31st, 2009.

As a somewhat paranoid punter who has always been into conspiracy theories I view with great suspicion the [news in travelagentcentral.com](#) that Festivals Edinburgh is selling "Edinburgh Festival Passports" to the travel trade. Although there is precious little detail so far on what precisely a passport is, previous rumours have indicated that travel agents will sell holiday packages which will include priority access to tickets. Having struggled to buy tickets lately - it seems to me virtually impossible to get hold of tickets for the Donmar in London even months in advance, sometimes for fairly average shows in the critics' eyes - the general move of organisations to sell large volumes of tickets to the travel trade and other middlemen is bad news for ordinary punters. I will be watching intently for news of this disturbing development.

New Book Festival director appointed

posted October 12th, 2009.

Nick Barley, previously Executive Director of The Lighthouse design centre in Glasgow and prior to that editor of The List, has been appointed as the new director of the Book Festival. The Times was first to report the appointment, publishing [this interview with him](#). It was eventually followed by a [formal announcement](#) on the Book Festival website.

Fringe constitutional review - online survey

posted October 4th, 2009.

As reported after its AGM in August, the Fringe Society has decided that its constitution is no longer fit for purpose. The Stage [provides some further details](#) of the proposed review. The initial step is an online survey which is open to all. This will close on October 31st, 2009. It is expected that the results will be published in December. This will be followed by consultations with key stakeholders early in 2010. June 2010 is earmarked as a likely date for a General Meeting to vote on any constitutional amendments. A brief overview of the review process can be found [here](#). It includes a link to the online survey itself. If you have any trouble (the link was not working when I first tried it) you can start the online survey by clicking [here](#). Beware that this survey has nothing to do with the arts - it is limited to items such as membership rules and make up of the board.

Festivals Edinburgh to grow

posted October 2nd, 2009.

Festivals Edinburgh, set up to market all Edinburgh's festivals in the wake of the [Thundering Hooves report](#) on the festivals back in 2006, are to recruit a head of development and CRM & digital marketing manager, bringing the team size to 7, according to the [Drum](#).

Architect "design tsar" criticises Edinburgh

posted September 18th, 2009.

The architect Sir Terry Farrell has come to the end of his 5 year tenure as "design tsar" to Edinburgh City Council. As reported in [The Scotsman](#) he has signed off by criticising the city fathers for their general inertia and stifling bureaucracy. His targets include: the lack of progress over the creation of a cultural quarter linking Usher Hall with Festival Square, poor decisions with respect to the tram network and the waterfront regeneration, and the lack of pedestrian-friendly crossings at the bottom of Lothian Road, outside the Scottish Royal Academy and the Princes mall.

Fringe to get £125k loan from city council

posted September 10th, 2009.

The Fringe Society is to get a short term loan of £125k from Edinburgh city council to help with its current cash flow problems, according to [The Scotsman](#). There is also talk of a possible one-off grant of £65k from the arts council. The Society reported a loss of £882K at last month's AGM, due principally to the box office system debacle in 2008.

Usher Hall external changes "relaunch"

posted September 9th, 2009.

The plans to change the look of the area outside the Usher Hall which are behind schedule have been relaunched. The Scotsman [reports](#) the relaunch which now includes talk of erecting a stage for outdoor events during the summer months.

Fringe 2009 ticket sales and other statistics

posted September 1st, 2009.

Initial statistics have been put out by the Fringe Society for the 2009 festival. They are summarised in [The Guardian](#) and [The Scotsman](#). The headline figure is a new record of 1.85m tickets sold. This beats the previous record of 1.7m in 2007 by 9%. Other stats include: 18,901 performers in 34,265 performances of 2,098 shows; comedy made up 35% of the overall programme, theatre 28% and music 16%. While there is no breakdown of audience figures so far the feedback from some venues appears to indicate that increases in attendances at comedy shows may well be attributable to the Scots.

As previously stated, despite apprehension in various quarters buoyant ticket sales are not totally unexpected this year. 2010 and 2011 will be more problematic years as the effects of the recession impact on employment numbers. Comedy is least likely to be affected as its audience tends to be younger and is more likely to have the necessary disposable income.

Fringe venues complain about costs

posted August 30th, 2009.

The Scotsman [reported](#) that Fringe chief, Kath Mainland, is to meet venue chiefs who are concerned about rising costs and the future viability of medium-sized venues.

More on the expense of putting on shows at the festival

posted August 30th, 2009.

This time it is Tommy Sheppard, director of The Stand Comedy Club, [writing in The Scotsman](#) on the difficulties faced by comedians.

Free Fringe venues concerned about cost increases

posted August 28th, 2009.

The Scotsman [reports](#) that the Free Fringe chiefs are concerned that tougher licensing restrictions may be imposed on them in future years by the city council after reports of overcrowding at some venues (which are pubs), leading to increases in their costs.

News from Fringe Society AGM

posted August 23rd, 2009.

The Fringe Society's AGM took place yesterday - August 22nd, 2009. [The Observer](#) was first out of the blocks with the news that the box office debacle in 2008 led to an overall loss of £882K in the last financial year. On its balance sheet the Society currently has liabilities of £672K against net assets of £48K, and it estimates that it will take three years to build up adequate reserves. [As stated earlier](#), the Society is consulting artists, venues and audiences to work out performance costs, needs and a modern constitution.

Fringe Society to review its constitution

posted August 13th, 2009.

The Scotsman [reports](#) that the Fringe Society is to start a consultation process in September as part of a project to investigate and possibly revise its constitution (which dates back to 1969). Last year's box office fiasco has obviously made the Society consider that its constitution may no longer be fit for purpose.

Call for a single Edinburgh Festival

posted August 12th, 2009.

[Martin Hannan](#) calls for a single festival rather than the current set of individual festivals.

Earlier news items can be found on the [2009 News Snippets page](#).



[Home](#) [Festival History](#) [News](#) [Pre-Festival Stuff](#) [Festival Time](#) [Newbie?](#) [Witterings](#)
[Links](#) [Site Map](#)

Pre-Festival Stuff for 2010

2008

[2011](#) | [2009](#) |

This page is split into two halves. The top section covers the launch of each festival programme and the early critical feedback:

[Edinburgh International Festival](#)
[Edinburgh Fringe](#)
[Edinburgh International Book Festival](#)
[Edinburgh International Film Festival](#)
[Edinburgh Jazz & Blues Festival](#)
[Edinburgh Art Festival](#)
[Forest Fringe](#)
[The Edge Festival](#)
[Edinburgh Mela Festival](#)

Once all the programmes have been announced by mid-June newspapers and other print mediums often give a single set of recommendations across all the festivals. For this reason I group all media recommendations and preview articles together in [a digest of links called Picks and Previews](#) at the end of the page until the start of the main festival season at the end of July / early August.

Edinburgh International Festival

The launch of the EIF programme in early Spring always heralds the dawn of another festival year. The 2010 programme was unveiled this morning (March 17th, 2010) by Jonathan Mills, the artistic director, and the Scottish Culture Minister, Fiona Hyslop. As previously rumoured the theme is the New World, focusing on the Americas and Australasia.

The brochure for this year's festival can be viewed online, downloaded as a PDF file or you can order a printed version. [See this page for details](#). Tickets will be on sale to the public from March 27th, 2010.

Initial media feedback

Initial media feedback was available almost instantly ([links below](#)) although these pieces are seldom more than a regurgitation of the EIF's press release. Articles written later in the day which usually appear in the paper the following day make for a slightly more coherent read - I call them day 2 previews. Any more studied feedback will not appear for a day or three.

The early headlines have been reserved for: Caledonia, a new play commissioned by the EIF from Alistair Beaton and performed by the National Theatre of Scotland; Bliss, a new Australian opera based on the novel by Peter Carey; The Gospel at Colonus, set in present day America and driven by Gospel Music, a reworking of Sophocles' Oedipus at Colonus; and Porgy and Bess, a multi-media production of George Gershwin's work by Opéra de Lyon and the contemporary dance Compagnie Montalvo-Hervieu.

A comprehensive series of articles on various aspects of this year's programme was published in The Scotsman on March 27th, 2010 ([links below](#)).

Susan's Views

My friend and fellow punter Susan was first out of the blocks with detailed views, particularly impressive as she lives on the east coast of the USA. Although her tastes are more eclectic Susan is a particular aficionado of music and opera and has been coming to Edinburgh in August for close on 30 years. Although she protests that her thoughts are merely her gut impressions, as she is way ahead of mainstream media, their verbatim reproduction here is fully warranted ...

"My immediate reaction is that the EIF is becoming more like the Fringe and vice-versa that you have to wonder where it all will lead. I also, as last year, find it very frustrating that instead of focusing on bringing the best artists from all over the world, which I believe is what the "international" part of the EIF was always meant to be, Jonathan Mills remains intent to make choices that fit into his "themes." I think that really limits and weakens the overall program. That said, even within his own parameters, the choice of music seems baffling. For instance, since one of the nations highlighted is the good old USA, I am bewildered by his leaving out certain composers, like Samuel Barber, who is having an anniversary celebration this year and many consider one of our best ever. Ditto for Aaron Copeland - there is only one of his pieces. I am also surprised by there being so few Canadian artists given the number of Canadians who attend the Festival.

I noticed in the different presentations a predominance of "modern" music which probably isn't going to make traditional Festival goers happy. As in past years, opera is getting weaker and weaker. Two of the operas, John Adam's El Nino and a premiere Australian opera are very modern. I admire Mill's eagerness to present new and infrequently heard music (ie Montezume-a German opera rarely if ever heard) but this only works if the pieces are worth being heard---and I'm not so sure how often this will be the case. Once again there is a lot of theatre---a lot from South America in Spanish--and one new play, Caledonia, by the Scottish National Theatre and written by Alistair Beaton (about a Scottish speculative scheme to establish a colony in Central America which ultimately failed and so threatened Scotland's solvency that it was considered a major factor in the decision to join the Union). Lots of dance but all modern and innovative. To me the strength of the Festival this year are the Orchestras, especially the Royal Concertgebouw. There are also very good artists and quartets at Queens Hall but they are established. I still greatly miss the former role the EIF played in presenting and discovering new and very talented artists. Instead of Mill's focusing on this important aspect of the EIF, he has chosen to "discover" artists who fit into his annual themes.

Ok, Brian. As I know you like me to name some of what I look forward to and plan to attend, here are my

initial thoughts in note form:

Opera:

El Nino by John Adams- in my opinionated point of view this American composer is overrated but this is considered one of, if not, his best. Conductor is excellent and the singers seem promising

Porgy and Bess- I have seen many times but Opera de Lyon is very good

Bliss-Opera Australia-premiere - We have decided to take the risk as it is based on Peter Carey's book, great baritone and we need to support new works.

Idameno-concert performance with fantastic American singer, Joyce De Donato, and Scottish Chamber Orchestra with Charles Mackerras. Should be interesting to compare with EIF much acclaimed production several years ago.

The Indian Queen by Purcell presented by the Sixteen-wish he would have picked another Purcell instead of feeling compelled to stick to his theme but I love Purcell and The Sixteen are fab.

Orchestras:

Royal Concertgebouw-THE BEST.

Cleveland Orchestra-among best in US with "controversial" conductor loved in Europe but not always in US.

Finnish Radio Symphony-good conductor and musicians.

Russian National Orchestra--great conductor.

Scottish Chamber Orchestra-very promising young conductor Robin Ticciati.

BBC Scottish Symphony Orchestra-again conductor Donald Runnicles--especially Mahler Symphony 8.

Sydney Symphony-again conductor Vladimir Ashkenazy.

Minnesota Orchestra-fantastic Finnish conductor.

Individual Artists:

Piano: Jonathan Biss, Llyr Williams, Steven Osborne.

Violin: Midori

Opera: Magdalena Kozena, Christianne Stotjin, Simon Keenlyside, Gerald Finley, Joyce Di Donato, Susan Graham

Choral groups: Ars Nova, The Tallis Scholars, The Sixteen, Fiesta Criolla---Sadly much less than past two years which is a shame as this has definitely been one of the highlights. As focus of all is South American folk/liturgical music, one wonders if there is less because it didn't fit into the "theme" but there are excellent American groups and probably true in other countries as well but they don't sing the "theme" music.

Quartets: Skampa Quartet, Pavel Haas, Takacs, Nash Ensemble, Tokyo Quartet, Kronos

Theatre:

Caledonia.

Again, the above represent only the artists I know so there may be others worth seeing. They also just

reflect my personal tastes....The Spanish plays too may be excellent but since my Spanish isn't good enough to understand and looking at subtitles robs one of the visual experience, these are not my first choice. Given how many productions I like, it kind of makes everything else I said seem petty. However, it is because the EIF has been such a tremendous experience over all the years we have attended, the present one is competing against these and without criticism, there can be no growth."

This Punter's Views

Like Susan, and indeed many others, I remain to be convinced about the use of themes although I accept that they have been used with great success on a couple of occasions over the history of the EIF. Mark Fisher briefly discusses themes in [Scotland on Sunday](#).

I am pleased to see that Mills has omitted the visual arts this year. Given the precarious nature of funding at this time it seems eminently sensible to leave the visual arts to the Edinburgh Art Festival. In the drama programme Caledonia, to be performed by the National Theatre of Scotland, has to be a must see, while Gospel at Colonus and The Sun Also Rises (based on Hemingway's novel) may both be worth a punt. The dance programme looks more interesting than it has done for a number of years. Grupo Corpo definitely appeals while Agua by Pina Bausch's Tanztheater Wuppertal, Lemi Ponifasio's MAU company and Paco Pena Flamenco Dance Company are possibilities.

Go to [Picks and Previews](#) for a digest of links to useful articles and critics' recommendations across all the festivals from now until August.

Edinburgh Fringe

The drip drip of pre-announcements by the major venues over the last month or two has thankfully come to an end with the official launch of the 2010 Fringe programme today (Thursday 10th June 2010).

As is traditional, the Fringe likes to trot out figures to demonstrate just how large it is. So here goes ... it will include 40,254 performances of 2,453 shows involving an estimated 21,148 performers ... the biggest ever!

The breakdown of productions sees comedy lead the way again with some 850 shows (35% of the total) with drama just behind on 700+ shows (29% of the total). 83% are UK-based productions with a quarter being Scottish. C Venues will host 210 shows, Pleasance 206 and Assembly 122. 558 shows (23% of the total) will be free.

Early media feedback on the Fringe launch was available within hours in [The Stage](#), [the BBC News website](#), [The Scotsman](#), [WhatsonStage.com](#) and [The Guardian](#). [The Scotsman had a slightly more measured piece](#) the following morning.

In depth comments usually take several days to appear as it takes time - even for media organisations - to plough through the bulky 340+ page programme brochure. It usually takes us best part of a week to come to any conclusions. I am glad to say that our brochure arrived on time - just after lunch on the day of the launch.

Re the above, the mainstream media seems loath to let us know their thoughts. It is now July 21st and picks and previews are in short supply. Does this presage a relative lack of interest this year?

The brochure can be [viewed online or downloaded in pdf format \(70MB\)](#). In my opinion its sheer size makes it preferable to get hold of a printed copy if you can.

The revamped Fringe website was launched on Friday 11th June, 2010. Tickets can be purchased online from 8am. The site contains [the official unveiling of the programme](#).

The Traverse Theatre, home of drama at the Edinburgh Festivals, has announced its 2010 festival programme which will consist of 18 productions. The brochure can be [downloaded from their website](#). Other venues either already have details of their own shows on their web sites or will have them shortly. [This facility](#) on The Stage web site can be useful to find the link to a venue's web site, as well as other

useful information.

Go to [Picks and Previews](#) for a digest of links to useful articles and critics' recommendations on the Fringe when they have had time to digest the programme. You will also find links to picks and previews across all the festivals from now until August.

Punters' Initial Fringe Picks

Our Fringe picks are done in three or four iterations from the time that the programme brochure is issued right through to when we are actually in Edinburgh getting the word on the street. The first pass simply concentrates on our experiences in previous years ... although this is not always a guarantee of quality.

Enda Walsh's *Walworth Farce* is up there among the best plays that we have seen at The Traverse over the years. And so, we are looking forward to seeing his latest play *Penelope*. We are also fans of Tim Crouch who we have seen several times before in Edinburgh. His current offering, *The Author*, was on at the Royal Court in London but we avoided seeing it there in the expectation that it would be on this year's programme. Daniel Kitson, in his storytelling guise, is another favourite and we plan to take in his new show *It's Always Right Now, Until It's Later*. Finally in drama, Guy Masterson productions can usually be relied upon although he may struggle to match last year's great success, *Morecambe*. *I, Elizabeth* appeals to us while *I, Claudia* and *The Solitary Choice* are possibles.

On the dance front, we will certainly be seeing Derevo's production of *Harlekin*. We have good memories of Derevo productions at Aurora Nova, a venue which is sorely missed and which we fervently hope will one day be resurrected. In addition, *Beautiful Burnout*, a Frantic Assembly / National Theatre of Scotland / Byrnyony Lavery production, is on our early list of definites.

Our comedy picks tend to be arrived at close to festival time but we are currently thinking about going to see Tim Vine, the arch pun maker, and Tom Wrigglesworth. If you are old enough to remember and appreciate the dry humour of Victor Borge then Rainer Hersh's show is well worth a visit.

Our second iteration has been hampered by the relative lack of information from the professional critics. However, we have added the following to our list of possibles: *While You Lie*, Emma Thompson presents *Fair Trade*, *The Cage* and *My Romantic History* (drama); plus *Continent* (dance). Our third pass will follow when the early reviews appear.

International Book Festival

Thursday 17th June, 2010 saw the final programme launch for the 2010 Edinburgh festival season when the Book Festival [unveiled its programme](#). There will be more than 750 authors from 50 countries. The names will include: three Nobel Laureates - Joseph Stiglitz, Jose Saramago and poet Seamus Heaney, Philip Pullman and Vidal Sassoon. [The Scotsman](#) was first to provide feedback on the launch, followed by [BBC News](#) and later by [The Guardian](#). A more comprehensive article on the launch was available in [Edinburghguide.com](#) the following day.

The programme brochure can be browsed on the [Book Festival website](#) or it can be [downloaded](#) from its website.

Sad to say, [the death of Jose Saramago has been announced](#). As mentioned above, he was due to appear at the festival in August.

International Film Festival

The Edinburgh International Film Festival belatedly [announced the 2010 programme](#) on June 1st, 2010, only two weeks before the festival starts. It has come in for a reasonable amount of criticism for this decision. Their defence is that the financial crisis has limited the appearances of film makers at film festivals this year ... and they have been waiting to see if they would be appearing at Cannes before making a decision on Edinburgh.

It had previously been pre-announced at the beginning of April that animated feature film *The Illusionist*

had been chosen for the opening gala which this year will be held in the Festival theatre.

The programme with 133 movies from 34 countries will include: a 90 minute interview with Patrick Stewart; among the films will be Ryan Piers Williams' *The Dry Land*, Werner Herzog's *My Son, My Son, What Have Ye Done?* Floria Sigismondi's *The Runaways* and Steven Soderbergh's *And Everything Is Going Fine*; while the festival will close with the British tragi-comedy *Third Star*.

The full programme can be viewed on [the EIFF website](#).

Three late additions to the programme [have been announced](#): an interview with Nick Hornby, the British premiere of Lucy Walker's documentary *Countdown to Zero* on June 18th, 2010 and the presence of Nick Cave at the Irregular event on June 24th, 2010.

Go to [Picks and Previews](#) for a digest of links to useful articles and critics' recommendations across all the festivals.

Art Festival

The programme for the 2010 Edinburgh Art Festival was launched on June 2nd, 2010. The festival will run from July 29th to September 5th. 48 galleries will be taking part, 11 for the first time. [The press release \(Microsoft Word format only\)](#) was subsequently made available on the Art Festival website.

The major exhibitions at the National Galleries include: *Impressionist Gardens* (NG complex on the Mound) and *Another World: Dalí, Magritte, Miró and the Surrealists* (Dean Gallery).

There are a number of commissions this year which have been possible through the Scottish Government's Expo funding. They comprise three artworks - Richard Wright, Kim Coleman & Jenny Hogarth plus Martin Creed - and four interventions.

Photography exhibitions include: William Wegman: *Family Combinations* and Edward Weston's work, both at the City Art Centre.

The most comprehensive articles on the launch can be found in [Art Daily](#) and [Creative Boom](#).

Go to [Picks and Previews](#) for a digest of links to useful articles and critics' recommendations across all the festivals from now until August.

Edinburgh Jazz & Blues Festival

The Scotsman provided an initial summary of the 2010 festival on Friday 11th June, 2010. It will feature among others China Moses with pianist Raphael Lemonnier, a salute to the new French jazz, Chris Barber at 80, the Edinburgh Jazz Festival Orchestra and blues from Eric Burdon. In the free events *Mardi Gras* continues but, as feared, *Jazz on a Summer's Day* is not possible due to the unavailability of Princes Street Gardens. It is replaced by *Clandemonium* in Parliament Square.

Full details can be found on [the Jazz & Blues website](#). The programme can be [downloaded](#) from the website.

Go to [Picks and Previews](#) for a digest of links to useful articles and critics' recommendations across all the festivals from now until August.

Forest Fringe

Their [blog](#), published on June 21st, 2010 outlines their current thoughts for 2010 - 4 festivals in one!

Edge Festival

The [Edge Festival](#) (formerly *T on the Fringe*), which is effectively the rock element of the Fringe, announced its initial lineup of gigs today (Thursday 10th June, 2010).

A summary article on the line-up can be found in [The Skinny](#) with information on some of the Scottish acts taking part in [The Scotsman](#).

Edinburgh Mela Festival

The [Edinburgh Mela Festival](#) launched its 2010 programme on Tuesday 29th June 2010.

A summary of the launch can be found in [Edinburgh Spotlight](#).

Picks and Previews for 2010

Links to programme launches, preview articles, critics' recommendations and any other relevant info will be posted below until early August.

Date posted	Item Details
17th March 2010	Precis of EIF 2010 programme launch press release - The Scotsman , BBC website , The Stage and The Guardian
17th March 2010	Coverage of the EIF 2010 programme launch in The Times
18th March 2010	Day 2 preview of EIF 2010 in The Scotsman , The Times , The Guardian and The Herald
18th March 2010	Top 10 acts at EIF 2010 according to The Scotsman
18th March 2010	Jonathan Mills tells The Guardian's Severin Carrell what is in the EIF 2010 programme
18th March 2010	EIF 2010 opera , dance , drama and music programmes info in EdinburghGuide.com
19th March 2010	EIF 2010 drama programme info in The Stage
27th March 2010	EIF 2010 drama programme info in The Scotsman - Caledonia , Teatro Cinema , Vieux Carré , The Gospel at Colonus , Songs of Ascension , The Sun Also Rises and Dicembre
27th March 2010	EIF 2010 dance programme info in The Scotsman - Grupo Corpo & Pina Bausch's Tanztheater Wuppertal and Paco Peña Flamenco Dance Company
27th March 2010	EIF 2010 opera programme info in The Scotsman - Porgy and Bess , Bliss and Montezuma
27th March 2010	EIF 2010 music programme info in The Scotsman - El Nino (opening concert) , Sir Charles Mackerras and Idomeneo , Charles Ives and SNJO
2nd June 2010	Comprehensive coverage of Film Festival launch in EdinburghGuide.com
2nd June 2010	Top 10 must-see films at EIFF 2010 according to The Scotsman
3rd June 2010	Top picks at EIFF 2010 from The Herald
10th June 2010	Top 10 films at EIFF 2010 from The Guardian
17th June 2010	Preview of The Edge Festival in EdinburghGuide.com
23rd June 2010	Preview of Jazz & Blues Festival in EdinburghGuide.com
1st July 2010	Unveiling of Richard Wright's work at the Dean Gallery - commissioned by the Edinburgh Art Festival.
5th July 2010	10 best comedians ... according to The Observer
5th July 2010	Guardian picks across all the festivals
6th July 2010	Brief preview in The Scotsman of Another World - Surrealist exhibition at the Dean Gallery
10th July 2010	Preview in The List of Another World art exhibition at the Dean Gallery
12th July 2010	Useful link for assorted preview articles in Edinburgh Spotlight
14th July 2010	Useful link for assorted preview articles in The Fest (alias The Skinny)
14th July 2010	Assorted preview articles on The Scotsman's Festival website
15th July 2010	First Fringe picks from bloggers View from the Stalls
15th July 2010	Preview of the Edinburgh Art Festival - blog in Caledonian Mercury
16th July 2010	Overview of festivals & their directors in The List
16th July 2010	More on Edinburgh Art Festival in The List
16th July 2010	Gilbert and George at the Art Festival in The List
16th July 2010	Brief EIF previews of Music , Opera , Dance and Theatre in The Fest
16th July 2010	The Rest of The Edge in The Fest

16th July 2010	EIF Dance - The legacy of Pina Bausch in The List
16th July 2010	EIF Opera - preview of Porgy and Bess in The List
16th July 2010	EIF Music - preview of Idomeneo (Joyce DiDonato/David Zobel) in The List
16th July 2010	30 shows to watch ... according to The List
16th July 2010	Festival installation of Kim Coleman & Jenny Hogarth in The List
16th July 2010	Impressionist Gardens in The List
16th July 2010	Comedy, Theatre, Opera, Music, Dance, Visual Art and Books in The List
18th July 2010	Interview with Martin Creed in The Observer
20th July 2010	Django Reinhardt's gypsy rhythms live on in The Herald
20th July 2010	William Wegman's photography exhibition in The Herald
21st July 2010	Forest Fringe unfolding blog of their 2010 festival
22nd July 2010	Scotsman interview with singer China Moses - Jazz & Blues Festival
24th July 2010	Art Festival preview in pictures in The Telegraph
24th July 2010	fringereview.co.uk recommendations
25th July 2010	14 pics from the Impressionist Gardens exhibition in The Telegraph
26th July 2010	Made in Scotland Fringe showcase in The Herald
27th July 2010	Jazz & Blues Festival preview in The Scotsman
27th July 2010	Telegraph's Edinburgh festival page takes shape - including picks
27th July 2010	Hurrah some picks ... this set from Whatsonstage.com
28th July 2010	Book Festival Primer in The Skinny
29th July 2010	City Art Centre refurb & its photography exhibitions in Edinburghguide.com
29th July 2010	Folk, Jazz and other music on The Fringe in The Scotsman
29th July 2010	Derevo's Harlekin (Dance) in The List
30th July 2010	5 Fringe picks from musicomh.com
30th July 2010	20 things not to miss at the festival in The Independent
1st Aug 2010	Preview of cabaret acts in The Observer
1st Aug 2010	Stewart Lee's five essential Edinburgh shows in The FT
6th Aug 2010	Scottish theatre productions on the Fringe in The Scotsman
7th Aug 2010	Preview of ventriloquist shows in The Independent



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Info on Reviews of Shows at the 2010 Festival

2009 | 2008

The main objectives of this page are to:

- tell you where you can find reviews on the web
- provide a summary of those shows which have scored most marks with the critics
- detail some of this year's awards
- provide links to selected summaries of the festival by the critics
- summarise our own thoughts on the shows that we managed to see
- provide links to selected Visual Arts, Jazz & Blues and Film festival reviews.

Where to Find 2010 Reviews

There are a plethora of sources to satisfy even the most voracious consumer of reviews. Of course the critics vary from the professional to the semi-pro, the student, the enthusiastic theatregoer ... and all shades in between.

The following list will be updated as it becomes clear precisely where reviews can be found on any given site.

Scotsman
The Guardian
The Stage
Chortle (comedy)
Fest
OnstageScotland
BritishTheatreGuide
The List
FringeReview
Viewfromthestalls
Whatsonstage.com
The Herald
The Telegraph
EdinburghGuide.com
The Independent
Edinburgh Festivals Magazine
ThreeWeeks
BroadwayBaby

Here is a minor rant about [the layout of review lists](#) on some of the websites.

Most Critically Acclaimed Shows (Fringe and EIF)

There are simply too many shows and too many reviews to attempt a list of links to them, even an abbreviated one. Instead, I focus on producing periodic lists of those shows that the critics liked best. In 2010 they are based on reviews from 12 sources, varying from mainstream media outlets to established festival websites.

Let me start off by stating the obvious: there are many enjoyable shows which never make these lists. We have seen many "minor classics" in Edinburgh over the years that went largely unnoticed by the critics. Indeed, we have a number of shows in our planned schedule for this year that have had little publicity during the "preview season". So, do not be a complete slave to reviews: listen to the "word on the street" and perhaps try something different – you might be pleasantly surprised.

The minimum criterion for a show to be considered for the following list is that it must have had at least three reviews ... which is not easy.

Here is the eighth and final iteration of the list - published on Saturday September 4th. Several notes ... from the fifth iteration onwards changes will only be made to accommodate late shows / concerts on the International Festival; established comedians sometimes tend not to get many reviews and so may not appear in the list - presumably it is assumed that they will get full houses whatever; successful shows returning for a second year tend to get few reviews; shows and concerts on the International Festival sometimes get few reviews and so may not appear on the list; and finally, I use the categories that shows appear in in the programmes - which is sometimes a bit problematic, e.g. should Daniel Kitson's show be in comedy rather than drama?

Drama. *Daniel Kitson: It's Always Right Now Until It's Later, The Gospel at Colonus, Djupid (The Deep), The Crying Cherry, Do We Look Like Refugees, Lockerbie: Unfinished Business, Our Share of Tomorrow, The Author, The Girl in a Yellow Dress, Ovid's Metamorphoses, Roadkill, Sub Rosa, Pedestrian, Running on Air, Lorca is Dead, The Silver Darlings, Decky Does a Bronco, Expectations, An Evening with Dementia, Honest, Jordan, No Child, Freefall, Sometimes I Laugh Like My Sister, Beautiful Burnout, Bound, Hot Mess, Penelope, The Hunchback of Notre Dame, Speechless and Imperial Fizz.*

Comedy. *Bo Burnham, The Boy with Tape on His Face, Kevin Eldon, Bridget Christie, Des Bishop, John Bishop, Greg Davies, Tim Vine, Celia Pacquola, Ian D. Montfort, Chris Addison, Emo Philips, Jason Cook, Miles Jupp, Sarah Millican, Stuart Goldsmith, Jeremy Lion Goes Green, Gyles Brandreth, Colin Hault, Andrew Lawrence, Barry and Stuart, Keith Farnan, Magnus Betner, Paul Sinha and Geraldine Quinn.*

Dance & Physical Theatre. *Grupo Corpo, Agua, Harlekin*(mime), *The Big Smoke, Tabu* and *Inside*.

Music, Musicals and Opera. *Idomeneo, La fanciulla del West, Bliss, Royal Concertgebouw* and *The Finnish Radio Symphony Orchestra*.

Children. *White* and *Just Macbeth*.

2010 Awards

There are a growing number of awards which will all be mentioned in this section when they are announced. The Scotsman Fringe Firsts and The Glasgow Herald Angels, the major awards, are handed out weekly while the remainder are given towards the end of the festival.

The Scotsman Fringe First awards for new writing. The week 1 awards have been announced: *Speechless* adapted by Linda Brogan and Polly Teale, Bryony Lavery's *Beautiful Burnout*, Renny Krupinski's *Bare*, Catherine Wheel's *White*, DC Jackson's *My Romantic History* and Stewart Permutt's *Real Babies Dont Cry*. **The Week 2 awards are:** David Benson's *Lockerbie: Unfinished Business*; Daniel Kitson's *It's Always Right Now Until It's Later*; Jesse Briton's *Bound*; Laura Murgidges' one woman show *Running On Air*; *Do We Look Like Refugees*; Enda Walsh's *Penelope*; and *Roadkill*. **The Week 3 awards are:** Doon MacKichan for *Primadoona*; Jack Thorne for *Bunny*; The Traverse for *Flesh and Blood and Fish and Fowl*; Frances Ya-Chu Cowhig for *Lidless*; and RashDash's *Another Someone*.

The Glasgow Herald Angel awards. The week 1 awards have been announced. The Herald Archangel is the actor Jack Klaff who is currently appearing in *Jack the Knife* at Assembly. The Herald Angels are Richard Michael (Jazz musician); John Retallack's Company of Angels for *Apples*; Cora Bissett's *Roadkill*; Andy Manleys' show for Catherine Wheel's *White*; and Canada's 2B Theatre for *Invisible Atom*. The Little Devil award goes to Remarkable Arts for meeting the technical demands of *Sub Rosa*. **The week 2 awards** started with the Archangel award to Liz Smith, press and marketing supremo at Assembly. The Angels were: choreographer Lemi Ponifasio for MAU's *Tempest: Without a Body* and *Birds with Skymirrors*; veteran conductor Gunther Schuller for the RSNO concert of American music; Bear Trap Theatre for *Bound*; choreographer Janice Parker for *Private Dancer*; Varieté Velociped for *The Butterfly Effect*; and Forest Fringe co-director Deborah Pearson for *Like You Were Before*. The Little Devil award went to Bear Trap Theatre for deftly handling a fire alarm during one show. **The week 3 awards:** Joanathan Mills, the artistic director of the International Festival, is the Archangel; Angels are Grant Smearton for *Bette / Cavett*; Little Bulb for *Operation Greenfield*; Katrina Caldwell for *The Songbird*; Bell Shakespeare for *Just Macbeth*; and Michael Marra, songsmith from Dundee. The Little Devil award goes to Bill Kyle for coping with flooding problems at The Jazz Bar.

Foster's Edinburgh Comedy Awards: best comedy show - Russell Kane; best newcomer - Roisin Conaty; panel prize - Bo Burnham.

The Stage Awards for Acting Excellence at the Fringe: Scott Kyle for *Singin' I'm No a Billy, He's a Tim* (best actor); Mercy Ojelade for *Roadkill* (best actress); *Do We Look Like Refugees?!* for Beyond Borders Productions Ltd (best ensemble); and Caroline Horton for *You're Not Like the Other Girls Chrissy* (best solo performer).

Edinburgh International Festival Fringe Prize 2010: *Meow Meow* and *Roadkill*.

Amnesty International's Freedom of Expression award: Cora Bissett's *Roadkill*.

The Carol Tambor Edinburgh to New York award: Peter Bramley's *Ovid's Metamorphoses* performed by Pants on Fire.

Jack Tinker Spirit of the Fringe award: Karen Koren who runs The Gilded Balloon.

Holden Street Theatres award: Jesse Briton's *Bound* and Cora Bissett's *Roadkill*.

Total Theatre awards: *Sex Idiot* presented by Bryony Kimmings/Escalator East to Edinburgh (emerging artists / company); *White* presented by Catherine Wheels at Traverse@Scottish Book Trust and *Tabu* presented by Nofit State (physical and visual theatre); *Roadkill* presented by Ankur Productions/

Pachamama Productions, *The Author* presented by News from Nowhere at Traverse Theatre and *30 Days to Space* presented by Bootworks Theatre (innovation); and David Bates, Speigelmaestro of The Famous Speigeltent (significant contribution to theatre).

Arches Brick award for emerging talent: Me and the Machine for *When We Meet Again* (Introduced as Friends) at Forest Fringe, and ThickSkin with their production of Davey Anderson's *Blackout*.

Malcolm Hardee comedy awards: Robert White (comic originality), Bo Burnham (act most likely to make a million quid) and Stewart Lee (best publicity stunt).

FringeReview awards. Outstanding theatre shows: Gothenburg English Language Production's *Expectations*; and *Do We Look Like Refugees?!* - a Beyond Borders Productions featuring the Rustavelli Theatre, Tbilisi and National Theatre Studio.

Other awards include *Threeweeks Editors' Awards*, *MTM:UK Musical Theatre Awards*, *Mervyn Stutter's Spirit of the Fringe Awards*, and the *Allen Wright Awards for Journalists*.

Punters' 2010 Visits

We took in 24 shows and 3 art exhibitions during our one week visit to Edinburgh. A brief summary of our thoughts on what we saw:

- a better than average year
- best drama show - *The Girl in the Yellow Dress*
- best "Edinburgh" play (tight, well-written and well-acted show for a small cast in a small space) - *Jordan*
- best verbatim theatre - *Do We Look Like Refugees?!* and *Lockerbie: Unfinished Business*
- best storytelling - Daniel Kitson's funny and poignant *It's Always Right Now, Until It's Later*
- best comedy - Tim Vine for a very professional and impressive show - quite how he remembers all the puns we do not know
- best dance / physical theatre - *Grupo Corpo* with *Harlekin* (mime) a close second
- choral music - *The Sixteen* at Greyfriars Kirk
- best visual arts - *Impressionist Gardens* which we felt was the most coherent exhibition that we have seen at the National Gallery since the Warhol exhibition in 2007. *Another World*, a showing of the Modern Art Gallery's entire Surrealist collection, was also enjoyable
- biggest disappointment - *Caledonia*. Very thin drama. Calling it Brechtian ... well Bertolt must be turning in his grave
- this year's "turkey" was Martin Creed's art exhibition at the Fruitmarket Gallery. It's only saving grace was the musical stairs
- best sales pitch ever for a Fringe show - apart from the obligatory flyer we were offered 20,000 dollars to see *Allegations*. When we explained that unfortunately we no longer had any space in our schedule the nice young man allowed us to keep the 20,000 dollar bill. I should add that we are talking about Zimbabwe's currency (the play concerns Zimbabwe) and so \$20K dollars would not be worth a great deal; indeed the bill is no longer legal tender.

My friend Susan was kind enough to give her thoughts on the International Festival programme when it was announced back in March. I asked for her thoughts on this year's visit ... which follows:

- Best of Edinburgh International Festival - the number and range of symphonies performing at the Usher Hall this year, especially the *Royal Concertgebouw*. This alone made it worth coming to the Festival!
- Best Opera - Mozart's *Idomeneo* because of the quality of the singers, their working together and the conductor, Sir Roger Norrington. Next best was Bliss although in many ways I would wish for one terrific opera production if that is all that is affordable to several mediocre ones
- Best Queen's Hall Concert - *Magdalena Kozena* - not just for her singing but for her stage presence and passion for what she was singing
- Best Plays - *The Girl In the Yellow Dress* and *My Romantic History*
- Best Greyfriar's concert - a toss-up between *The Sixteen* and *The Tallis Scholars* - both were fantastic
- Best of the Book Festival - Interviewees: *AS Byatt* and *David Mitchell*; Interviewer: *Andrew O'Hagan*

- Best Art - [Impressionist Gardens](#) was truly unforgettable - one of those rare exhibits that not only teaches but makes you see and appreciate the line between reality and art in a completely new way. We also greatly enjoyed the exhibit of Danish Artist [Christen K bke](#) as it was an opportunity to see the work of a great artist whom we would otherwise never have had a chance to be introduced.
- Best Bonus Ever - The gift of perfect weather which allowed us to further explore Edinburgh , the city, which is as much a part of the Festival as the performers.

Post 2010 Festival

There has been little if any post mortem on this year's festival in the media. This is not totally surprising, as reviewers are often wiped out by the end of it all. My view, limited of course to what I saw, was that 2010 was a better than average year.

What did get reviewers and punters worked up was the subject of star ratings and their credibility. It started off with [a short piece by Tim Cornwell in The Scotsman](#). This was subsequently picked up by [Bella Todd in The Guardian](#) which generated much general comment on star ratings. However, the debate in Scotland, and a heated debate at that, centred specifically on reviews of the National Theatre of Scotland's production of Caledonia, the main drama piece on this year's International Festival. [Vikki Jones' article, Death of the Critic, in the Leith Magazine](#) focused on the favourable reviews of the play by Scottish critics despite its poor reception among audiences and non-Scottish critics. It generated much animated comment.

My own views: I am in the camp which very seldom gives a show 5 stars, as opposed to a number of publications that seem to shower them around like confetti; while Caledonia was poor fare and Scottish critics do little for their credibility by insisting otherwise. I understand perfectly their desire to support Scottish productions - I fervently hope for example that the National Theatre of Scotland is a total success, a company that Scotland can be proud of - but relatively unconditional praise such as this helps nobody.

Finally, a word of praise for BBC TV's coverage of this year's festival. They have come in for criticism of their festival coverage in recent years. Much of the praise must go to new presenter Sue Perkins who brings that priceless advantage over recent predecessors - enthusiasm for the festival.

Edinburgh Art Festival

Links to selected reviews:

Date Posted	Review
13th July 2010	Christen K�bke, Danish Master of Light in The Scotsman
14th July 2010	John Squire: Nefertiti in The List
14th July 2010	Very short review of Another World in The Herald
18th July 2010	Full review of Another World in The FT
31st July 2010	Joan Mitchell in The FT
2nd Aug 2010	Impressionist Gardens in The Telegraph
7th Aug 2010	Comprehensive review of Impressionist Gardens in The FT

Edinburgh Jazz & Blues Festival

Links to selected reviews:

Date Posted	Review
2nd Aug 2010	China Moses in The Scotsman
3rd Aug 2010	Salsa Celtica Big Band in The Scotsman
3rd Aug 2010	Kevin Mackenzie's Vital Signs in The Scotsman
4th Aug 2010	An Evening with Joe Temperley in The Herald
4th Aug 2010	Brian Auger's Oblivion Express in The Herald

4th Aug 2010	Ken Mathieson's Classic Jazz Orchestra & Duke Heitger Play Louis Armstrong in The Scotsman
4th Aug 2010	Laura MacDonald / Martina Almgren in The Scotsman
5th Aug 2010	Havana Swing in The Scotsman
5th Aug 2010	Orchestre National de Jazz in The Scotsman
5th Aug 2010	Edinburgh Jazz Festival Orchestra: Swinging for Basie in The Scotsman
5th Aug 2010	Festival of Swing in The Scotsman
5th Aug 2010	Malcolm MacFarlane Octet in The Scotsman
5th Aug 2010	Hypnotic Brass Ensemble in The Scotsman
6th Aug 2010	Tommy Smith in The Scotsman
8th Aug 2010	GOL in The Scotsman
9th Aug 2010	Curtis Stigers, Edinburgh Jazz Festival Orchestra, Django a la Creole and Stornoway in The Herald
9th Aug 2010	Tom Bancroft's Band of Eden and Eric Burdon & The Animals in The Herald

Edinburgh Film Festival

Links to selected reviews:

Date Posted	Review
16th June 2010	The Illusionist in The Telegraph and EdinburghGuide.com .
17th June 2010	The Illusionist , Lucky and Boy in The Scotsman .
17th June 2010	The Last Rites of Ransom Pride in Blogcritics.org .
17th June 2010	Skeletons in The New Current .
17th June 2010	Pelican Blood and Huge in Obsessedwithfilm.com
18th June 2010	Pelican Blood in The Independent
18th June 2010	Skeletons , Huge and Out of the Ashes in The Telegraph
18th June 2010	World's Greatest Dad , Pelican Blood and Red Hill in The Scotsman
18th June 2010	And Everything Is Going Fine and Cherry Tree Lane in Obsessedwithfilm.com
18th June 2010	The Last Rites of Ransom Pride in Cinema Blend .
19th June 2010	Winter's Bone , The People vs George Lucas plus And Everything is Going Fine in The Scotsman
19th June 2010	The Runaways in Blogcritics.org .
20th June 2010	Outcast in Blogcritics.org .
20th June 2010	Toy Story 3 in stv.tv .
21st June 2010	The Red Machine in Den of Geek
21st June 2010	The Extra Man in Obsessedwithfilm.com
21st June 2010	A critical view of the 2010 EIFF by Andrew Pulver in The Guardian .
22nd June 2010	Monsters in Blogcritics.org .
23rd June 2010	Chase The Slut , World's Greatest Dad and The Man Next Door in Den of Geek
23rd June 2010	Mai Mai Miracle in EdinburghGuide.com
23rd June 2010	Jackboots on Whitehall in Den of Geek .
24th June 2010	My Son, My Son, What Have Ye Done? The Kid HIGH School Obselida The Good Heart in The Scotsman .
25th June 2010	Mr. Nice Police, Adjective Cherry Tree Lane in The Scotsman .
25th June 2010	Donkeys in Edinburghguide.com
26th June 2010	Scotsman's thoughts on the 2010 EIFF.
27th June 2010	The Independent's views on the 2010 EIFF.
28th June 2010	Third Star in The Independent

The Film Festival awards included: the Michael Powell award for best British feature film to director Nick Whitfield for [Skeletons](#); PPG award for best performance in a British feature film to David Thewlis for [Mr. Nice](#); Projector.tv best new international feature to Ryan Piers Williams for [The Dry Land](#); best feature documentary award to Laura Poitras for [The Oath](#); and the Standard Life Audience award to [Get Low](#). All

the awards can be found [here](#).
