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News Snippets - August 2011 to August 2012

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The digest of individual news snippets since August 2011 can be found below. However, for those who want a brief update on what has been going on since last year's festivals here are the main pointers to news in what has been a quieter period than recent years.

Festivals ... [demise of the Edge Festival](#)

Artistic Directors ... [new artistic director for Film Festival](#) ... [Mills expects to leave EIF in 2014](#)

Venue operators ... [Assembly Rooms in use again but under new management](#) ... [Remarkable Arts goes into liquidation](#) ... [Financial troubles at Festival City Theatres Trust](#)

Other venue news ... [Tron Kirk](#) ... [C Nova](#) ... [Roxy Art House and Forest Cafe](#) ... [more on Forest Cafe](#) ... [Bongo Club](#)

Books for Fringe performers ... [Mark Fisher's *The Edinburgh Fringe Survival Guide*](#) ... [Ashley Frieze and Ian Fox's ebook *How to Produce, Perform and Write an Edinburgh Fringe Comedy Show*](#)

Art galleries ... [Scottish National Portrait Gallery re-opens](#)

Funding ... [increased public funding](#) ... [additional city council funding](#) ... [talk of bed tax idea](#) ... [talk of festival tax idea](#) ... [and back to the bed tax idea](#)

Fringe "should have changed dates"

posted August 29th, 2012.

[An article in The Scotsman](#) indicates that various venue chiefs wanted the dates of the 2012 Edinburgh Fringe changed to avoid a clash with the Olympics. There are claims that ticket sales were down by up to 25% in the first week of the festival. The article points out that the International Festival and the Book Festival which also overlapped the Olympics, although not to the same degree, were unaffected. I noticed no changes to the audience sizes for theatre productions on the Fringe and I speculate that this debate is about ticket sales for comedy shows.

2012 Fringe attendance holds steady & new chairman elected

posted August 28th, 2012.

The 2012 Edinburgh Fringe ended yesterday. [In its closing press release](#) the Society reports that the number of tickets issued was a mere 1% down on the 2011 figure. I may be overly cynical but I do wonder at the change in terminology in recent years from ticket sales to tickets issued. Is there a difference between the two? Anyway, the headline Fringe statistics are 1.857m tickets issued, with 42,096 performances of 2,695 shows in 279 spaces; and an estimated 22,457 performers. The press release also announces that Professor Sir Timothy O'Shea, Principal and Vice Chancellor of the University of Edinburgh, has been elected as the new Chair of the Fringe Society in place of Baroness Smith of Gilmorehill who stepped down after 17 years at the recent AGM.

Visits to 2012 Book Festival up 3%

posted August 28th, 2012.

[EdinburghGuide.com reports](#) that the 2012 Edinburgh International Book Festival which closed yesterday attracted 223,000 visitors. This represents a 3% increase over the 2011 festival. Book sales also held steady.

Punter's awards

posted August 27th, 2012.

I feel quite left out with all these festival awards, seemingly increasing by the year! So here are a few of mine ... [The List](#) for the most comprehensive festival coverage ... [The Guardian](#) for the best festival coverage by a national newspaper ... [William Burdett-Coutts' Assembly](#) for its Russian and South African mini festivals ... [Summerhall](#) for establishing a strong Fringe presence so early in its life ... and [Mark Fisher](#) for services to many future Fringe performers.

More on the costs of staging Fringe shows

posted August 26th, 2012.

The Scotsman has a couple of articles on the costs of Fringe shows and where the money goes. [The first article reckons that the Free Fringe is the way of the future](#) while the second concentrates primarily on [the emotion that the subject of economics engenders across the Fringe](#). I am not sure if these articles form an introduction to the serious investigation of the topic or not ... probably not.

Guy Masterson calls for star ratings to be banned

posted August 25th, 2012.

Guy Masterson, producer, director, actor and Fringe stalwart, [has written an article in The Scotsman](#) where he says that critical response has been reduced to a slogan and calls for the Fringe to give press accreditation only to those critics who will NOT give star ratings. Guy's article is well worth a read. However, while I fully understand his viewpoint I do not agree with his solution. I will write up my thoughts during the off-season although if you look at my various witterings you will probably already know where I am coming from.

New Fringe Society board members

posted August 24th, 2012.

The results of the recent elections for new board members [have been announced by The Fringe](#). Theatre producer Judith Doherty was elected in the open category, Anthony Alderson of The Pleasance in the venue category and Kate Smurthwaite in the performer category.

Assembly Rooms power problem in Music Room

posted August 24th, 2012.

Assembly Rooms had to cancel several shows in the Music Room on Wednesday after an electrical fault [reports The Scotsman](#).

More trouble at Usher Hall

posted August 21st, 2012.

[The Scotsman reports](#) that there has been more trouble at the Usher Hall. On this occasion the noise from a charity concert at the adjacent Festival Square upset concert-goers during last Saturday's London Symphony Orchestra concert.

Fringe Society chairman steps down

posted August 19th, 2012.

[The Edinburgh Reporter writes](#) that Baroness Smith, the widow of the former Labour leader John Smith, has formally stepped down after 17 years as chairman of the Edinburgh Festival Fringe Society. A new chairman will be appointed in October.

More punters required

posted August 19th, 2012.

At the Edinburgh Festivals Debate there were calls for a bigger marketing push to persuade more punters to visit the festival. [This was reported in The Scotsman](#). VisitScotland's chairman wants to persuade more Scots to try the festival while Jonathan Mills and William Burdett-Coutts called for a more consistent and coherent marketing campaign to attract punters from all over the world.

Power failure at Usher Hall

posted August 16th, 2012.

[The Scotsman reports](#) that the London Philharmonic Orchestra's concert had to be cancelled after 10 minutes on Tuesday night after a power failure at the Usher Hall.

Edinburgh hosts inaugural International Cultural Summit

posted August 16th, 2012.

An inaugural two day International Cultural Summit was held in the Scottish Parliament building in Edinburgh earlier this week, [as reported by BBC News](#) and other media outlets. It was attended by 30 countries.

Picasso nude kerfuffle at Edinburgh Airport

posted August 16th, 2012.

Complaints from several passengers about an advertisement for the Picasso exhibition in the international arrivals lounge at Edinburgh Airport which showed his "Nude Woman in a Red Armchair" led to the ad being covered up and a request for a more "appropriate" picture being submitted to the National Galleries

of Scotland. Unsurprisingly, this in turn led to a large number of complaints about the naive behaviour by the airport authorities who promptly did a u-turn and removed the cover. [The Guardian](#), among others, reported this controversy. Not quite Moira Knox stuff ... but close.

Early logistical troubles at Assembly Rooms and BBC

posted August 7th, 2012. updated August 16th, 2012.

[Queuing problems at the Assembly Rooms](#) have been highlighted in [The Scotsman](#). To be expected in a way. Sheppard *et al* have no experience of running a large venue. Late-running shows are blamed. From a festival punter's perspective it is an absolute cardinal sin to have a late-starting show or one that overruns. We all have other shows to get to!! Let us hope that they learn quickly. Meanwhile, the BBC gets slated in Twitter for giving out too many tickets to their free shows with the result that punters are being turned away. And [Michael Coveney gives us his views on the Fringe so far](#) in [Whatonstage.com](#). Update - I experienced no problems at the Assembly Rooms during my recent festival visit.

More Free Fringe shows in line for comedy awards

posted August 6th, 2012.

The initial judging for the 2012 [Foster's Edinburgh Comedy Awards](#) will include more shows from Free Fringe venues than ever before, [according to an article in The Scotsman](#). Nica Burns says that 25% of the 536 shows will be from Free Fringe or Free Festival venues.

Kings Theatre opens after refurbishment

posted August 3rd, 2012.

[EdinburghGuide.com reports](#) that the Kings Theatre will open on the 11th for Electra (part of the EIF festival) after its £2.6m refurbishment which includes a new roof, sections of new seating and redecoration work.

White rabbits white rabbits

posted August 1st, 2012.

... on behalf of all punters. Here's hoping that the month brings us many enjoyable, interesting and thoughtful shows with few if any turkeys.

Stewart Lee attacks Edinburgh Comedy Festival

posted July 31st, 2012. updated August 1st, 2012.

Comedian and Fringe stalwart, Stewart Lee, rages against the dying of the Fringe ethos in the comedy sector in [this article in The Guardian](#). His target is the Edinburgh Comedy Festival ... oh, and he plugs his own show (fair enough). Although it is a smidge ott - and may have been penned after a beer or three? - it contains some solid points and is worth a read. Is this the first bit of decent festival controversy this year? [Another article on the same subject has appeared in The Skinny](#) featuring the views of Stewart Lee and Bob Slayer.

A calm oasis in George Street

posted July 27th, 2012.

In an attempt to encourage punters into the New Town the Assembly Rooms venue, the Famous Spiegeltent and the Book Festival are joining forces to [create "a calm oasis"](#) ... a green corridor on George Street between Frederick Street and Hanover Street. It will include "yew hedges, outdoor cafe-bars, acoustic music & book readings, and the festival's first dedicated bike hire scheme".

Advance ticket sales for the Military Tattoo down

posted July 25th, 2012.

[The Scotsman reports](#) that advanced ticket sales for the Military Tattoo are down to their lowest level for over a decade. 32,000 tickets are still available. It is thought that slower sales to visitors from south of the border are responsible.

Refurbished Assembly Rooms unveiled

posted July 20th, 2012.

Various media outlets have articles on the unveiling, including [The Scotsman](#), while there are [some good pics in The Edinburgh Reporter](#). The Assembly Rooms will be open to the public from Saturday 21st July, 2012.

Forthcoming elections to the board of the Edinburgh Festival Fringe Society

posted July 18th, 2012.

Nominations for election to the board of the Edinburgh Festival Fringe Society have now closed. Anybody who is a member of the Fringe Society at 23.59 pm on Friday July 20th, 2012 will have the opportunity to vote in this election. Members will receive their ballot papers around July 30th and will have until 10am on Saturday August 18th (the date of the AGM) to cast their votes. The results will be declared on Tuesday August 21st. [Information on the candidates who are standing for election can be found here](#).

Amnesty at the Edinburgh Festival

posted July 15th, 2012.

2012 will be Amnesty's 15th year at the Edinburgh Festival. the line-up includes: the annual sell-out comedy show [Stand Up For Freedom](#), the [Imprisoned Writers Series](#), and its [Freedom of Expression award](#) in the performing arts.

Festival City Theatres Trust back in surplus

posted July 13th, 2012.

[The Stage reports](#) that Edinburgh Festival City Theatres Trust, which runs the Festival and Kings theatres, has posted a modest surplus of £250,000 for the 2011-2012 financial year. This follows on from the troubles which it had experienced in recent years which led to the cutting of one quarter of the permanent staff. Duncan Hendry, the recently appointed CEO, is cautiously optimistic about the future.

Snoozebox comes to Edinburgh

posted July 13th, 2012.

Several media outlets, including [stv.tv](#), report that Snoozebox, a portable hotel made up interlinked portacabins, will make its first appearance in Scotland this festival. It will be set up at the empty Caltongate site. It has been used at Silverstone and Goodwood for the racing and at Windsor for the Jubilee celebrations.

Preview and Recommendation season underway

posted July 12th, 2012.

The occasional set of festival picks from the critics and the odd preview article which all start around March with the launch of the International Festival programme turns into a torrent in July. [The List](#) leads the way this year with a large amount of material, while [The Scotsman](#) has just given its [50 recommendations for the Fringe](#). Others will follow in quick order over the next 3 weeks. You can find my digest of links to these picks and previews [here](#).

Assembly Rooms to reopen

posted July 11th, 2012.

The Assembly Rooms will reopen next week after its 18 month refurbishment. A number of articles have recently appeared to mark the occasion, including [this one in The Scotsman](#). Mark Fisher [penned this article in The List back in April](#).

Film Festival Artistic Director signs 3 year contract extension

posted July 6th, 2012.

Chris Fujiwara, the Artistic Director of the Edinburgh International Film Festival, [has agreed to a three year extension to his contract](#), taking him up to 2015. This follows on from a reasonably successful festival - his first - after last year's disaster. The news is mentioned in [The Edinburgh Reporter](#) and other media outlets.

Free city centre car parking after 5pm during festival

posted July 6th, 2012.

[BBC News reports](#) that free car parking will be available after 5pm on 53 city centre streets during the festival (August 6th to September 1st).

Opening day headaches for Book festival punters

posted June 30th, 2012.

Booking for this year's Book Festival opened yesterday. As has almost become traditional on the first day the stampede of punters, anxious to book to see the single performance of their favourite author(s), inevitably led to the online booking system struggling to cope. This is despite the fact that [the software has been changed to introduce a queueing system](#) which was in theory supposed to bring order to the normal first day chaos. [The Scotsman reports on this year's day 1 problems](#). Jeremy Paxman, Ian Rankin, David Walliams, Michael Palin, Jeremy Vine and Ian McEwan sold out on the day.

Creative Scotland modifies its stance on flexible funding

posted June 27th, 2012.

Creative Scotland's changes to funding small to medium-sized companies has led to a storm of protest among the arts community, particularly on Twitter. [The Scotsman reports on a modification to Creative Scotland's approach](#) which has been announced. Ignoring the headline The Scotsman calls it a partial climbdown ... very partial I would say.

2012 Edinburgh Book Festival programme launched

posted June 21st, 2012.

The 2012 Edinburgh International Book Festival programme was launched today. This is the final programme launch for this year's summer festivals in Edinburgh. Information on the launch can be found [here on the pre-festival stuff page](#).

Nominations open for election to the Fringe board

posted June 13th, 2012.

Nominations to stand for election to the board of the Fringe Society are now open. Nominations must be received by close of play on Monday July 9th. Ballot papers will be sent out to members on or around July 30th. The results of the election will be announced on August 20th.

Forest Fringe plans for 2012

posted June 13th, 2012.

As the Forest Cafe, or its eventual successor, is not available Forest Fringe plans to do something slightly different this year. Entitled Paper Stages, Forest Fringe will create a performance space not out of bricks and mortar but out of pen and ink. It will be launched over the weekend of August 11th and 12th. Further information can be found [here](#).

EIF's Festival backstage returns

posted June 13th, 2012.

The Edinburgh International Festival has [launched the return of its Festival Backstage films](#) for 2012. A partnership between EIF, Standard Life and Edinburgh Napier University will produce a series of short online films about life and events backstage. An initial set of films can be found [here](#). In addition, a competition will be run to offer one youngster between the ages of 12 and 17 the opportunity to spend one day with the Standard Life production team.

Edinburgh Festival Carnival

posted June 11th, 2012.

As announced back in February the Festival Parade which has been missing from the calendar recently is to make a return this year although it has been re-branded as Carnival. It will act as a curtain-raiser to the Edinburgh Jazz & Blues Festival. Music, dance, costumes and street entertainment will take place on Princes Street, Princes Street Gardens and Rose Street on Sunday 22nd July, 2012 from 2pm to 4pm. Further details can be found [here on the Edinburgh Jazz & Blues Festival website](#).

ScotRail announces "biggest ever" festival timetable

posted June 8th, 2012.

ScotRail provides details of extra trains during the festival. However, various people appear to be somewhat underwhelmed, particularly with the late night services to Glasgow.

2012 Edinburgh Fringe programme launched

posted May 31st, 2012.

The 2012 Edinburgh Fringe Festival programme was officially launched today even though selective pre-announcements from various venues have been rife since late January and it has been possible to purchase tickets for said shows on the Fringe website for some time. Information on the launch can be found [here on the pre-festival stuff page](#).

Edinburgh Film Festival 2012 programme launched

posted May 30th, 2012.

The Edinburgh Film Festival 2012 programme was launched today. Information on the launch can be found [here on the pre-festival stuff page](#).

Summerhall and Assembly announce 2012 Fringe programmes

posted May 30th, 2012.

The Scotsman contains brief summaries of the 2012 Fringe programmes at [Summerhall](#) and [Assembly](#).

Edinburgh Jazz festival programme launched ... I think

posted May 26th, 2012. updated May 29th, 2012.

I am assuming that the Jazz festival has been launched. The full programme appeared on [its website](#) last Friday. Is there an official launch?

Funding fears among the Scottish arts fraternity

posted May 18th, 2012.

Reductions in its funding from the Scottish Government will result in Creative Scotland making changes to its funding of certain arts organisations. The changes affect those middling organisations such as Grid Iron who currently qualify for "flexible funding", i.e. funding for two year periods. From April 2013 they will have to apply for funding on a per project basis. Needless to say, affected organisations are apprehensive about their futures. Articles on this subject can be found in various media outlets, including [The Stage](#), [The Guardian](#) and [The Scotsman](#).

Go-ahead given for Spiegel tent on George Street

posted May 18th, 2012.

[The Scotsman reports](#) that the city council has given the go-ahead for a spiegel tent to be erected in George Street for the whole of August. This is an arrangement between Australian impresario David Bates who was ousted from George Square last year and Salt 'n Sauce Promotions who have captured the initial contract to run the New Assembly Rooms.

Made in Scotland Showcase 2012 announced

posted May 18th, 2012.

[The programme for Made in Scotland 2012 has been announced](#). The 12 successful applicants include Gerry Mulgrew with Tam O'Shanter and Rob Drummond with Bullet Catch. Made in Scotland is a curated showcase of Scottish work. It is a joint initiative of the Festival Fringe Society, the Federation of Scottish Theatre and Creative Scotland - supported by the Scottish Government's Expo Fund. Details of all 12 shows can be found on the [Made in Scotland website](#).

Featherstone resigns from NTS

posted May 13th, 2012.

Various media outlets, including [The Stage](#), report that Vicky Featherstone, the artistic director of the

National Theatre of Scotland, has tendered her resignation. She will become artistic director at the Royal Court in London when Dominic Cooke steps down in April 2013. [The Scotsman kicks off speculation regarding her possible successor.](#)

"Fringe stars attack blitz on swearing in programme adverts"

posted May 10th, 2012.

... [is the headline in The Scotsman](#) with similar attempts to drum up some outrage in various other media outlets. This is all about the Fringe Society altering the titles of several shows in their forthcoming programme brochure. Talking Cock becomes Talking C*ck and Prick becomes Pr!ck. This hardly registers one point zero on the Edinburgh Festival brouhaha scale. When you want a bit of controversy where are those councillors, churchmen and other moral guardians of old who were always all set to run some show or other out of town? Or the threat of some naked nuns on stage or an "event with happening"?

Fringe programme brochure to have a Spoken Word section

posted May 1st, 2012.

[The Scotsman reports](#) that a Facebook campaign has been successful in persuading the Fringe to introduce a Spoken Word section in this year's programme brochure. Actually, I seem to remember that there used to be a poetry section back in the early 1990s.

The return of Edinburgh's Assembly Rooms

posted April 26th, 2012. updated April 28th, 2012.

[Mark Fisher has penned an article in The List on the Assembly Rooms](#) which will re-open in time for the 2012 festival after its 18 month refurbishment. If you have been following the saga you will be aware that the venue will be under new management. Tommy Sheppard's organisation, Salt 'n Sauce Promotions who are owners of the Stand Comedy Club, has been awarded the initial contract. Mark covers the refurbishment and gives an inkling of the some of this year's shows. Similar articles appeared in [The Scotsman](#) and [BBC News](#) the following day which both concentrate more on this year's shows at [Assembly Rooms Fringe](#), as it will be known.

MagicFest 2012 programme launched

posted April 25th, 2012.

Trailed as "the biggest illusion ever attempted in Scotland", the programme for the 2012 Edinburgh Magic Festival was officially launched today at Lothian Buses Central Depot where Kevin McMahon transformed a bus into butterflies. Information on the launch can be found [here on the pre-festival stuff page](#).

New Fringe venue at former registry office

posted April 25th, 2012. updated May 3rd, 2012.

The former registry office in India Buildings on Victoria Street will act as a Fringe venue this year, operating under the name of C nova. [According to the report in The Scotsman](#) there will be 6 performance spaces. All seven floors of the building will in fact be used; it will include spaces for art exhibitions, workshops and educational activities. [Further info was added in The Stage](#).

Killer Joe to open 2012 Edinburgh Film Festival

posted April 20th, 2012.

EIFF continues to drip-feed announcements relating to the 2012 festival. Various media outlets, [including The Scotsman](#), report that Killer Joe will open this year's festival. It will be the UK premiere with the film going on general release on June 29th, 2012.

Roadkill wins Olivier award

posted April 18th, 2012.

Roadkill was arguably the highlight of the 2010 Fringe although only a small number of punters were able to see it. It made a return visit in 2011, once again as part of the Traverse programme. It has subsequently been staged in various other places, and it was for its stay at the Theatre Royal Stratford East that it has recently won the [Olivier Award for Outstanding Achievement In An Affiliate Theatre](#).

Shinji Somai retrospective at 2012 Film Festival

posted April 13th, 2012.

More pre-announcing ... this time from the Film Festival. There will be [a major retrospective of the work of Japanese director Shinji Somai](#) at this year's festival. The full programme is due to be launched in early May.

Edge Festival is no more

posted April 11th, 2012.

[The Scotsman reports](#) that DF Concerts is to pull the plug on the Edge Festival, previously known as T on the Fringe. It blames the lack of a major sponsor. It says that it will still be bringing gigs in August, just not under the Edge Festival banner.

Free Fringe spat

posted April 10th, 2012. update April 13th, 2012.

[Chortle reports](#) that some comedians are upset about a restriction imposed on those who are appearing under the PBH Free Fringe banner. They are seemingly barred from also regularly appearing at the rival Laughing Horse's venues. PBH and Laughing Horse fell out in a big way 6 or 7 years ago. [John Flemings' blog](#) provides more information.

Tron Kirk to become new Fringe venue

posted April 5th, 2012.

[Tron Kirk](#) is set to become a Fringe venue for the first time [according to The Scotsman](#). The drinks organisation Drambuie has agreed a deal with the city council to lease the A-listed building which dates back to 1636. It will be open to the public during the day and act as a 100-seater venue in the evenings. The longer term aim is to use it as a visitor centre for the world heritage site.

Fringe drive to attract more Glaswegians

posted April 2nd, 2012.

[The Scotsman reports](#) that the Fringe is to receive £70k funding from Creative Scotland to aid its marketing campaign to attract more punters from the West of Scotland. The Fringe reckons that only 2% of ticket sales stem from Glasgow and only 5% across the whole of the West of Scotland. These figures compare with 50% in the Edinburgh area and 25% in the UK outside Scotland.

Public Entertainment License

posted March 30th, 2012.

There is [an interesting article by Tiffany Jenkins in spiked](#) - it can also be found on [Tiffany's website](#) - about the Scottish Government's legislation that from April 2012 any public entertainment will require a license, even small free entertainment somewhat bizarrely. The government seems to be saying that there is confusion among individual councils about this change in licensing - i.e. nothing to do with us gov! The article includes [a link which gives the current position of Edinburgh City Council](#).

EIFF to run Talent Lab

posted March 29th, 2012.

[The Edinburgh International Film Festival has announced that it will run its 4 day Talent Lab](#) for a second year during the festival. It will give Scottish and UK filmmakers the chance to take part in group discussions and networking events as well as featuring an afternoon of one-on-one advice and information sessions with experienced industry insiders. The initiative is backed by the Scottish Government's Edinburgh Festivals Expo Fund and by Creative Scotland.

Edinburgh Art Festival 2012 programme launched

posted March 28th, 2012.

To my great surprise the Edinburgh Art Festival has launched its programme for the 2012 festival, more than two months earlier than in recent years. Links to reports of this event can be found [here on the pre-festival stuff page](#).

To Fringe or not to Fringe?

posted March 26th, 2012.

The deadline for participants to register their shows so that they get into the Fringe programme brochure is April 11th, 2012. The deadline for discount registration has in fact just passed. So now is the time when would-be performers have to make up their minds ... are they coming or not? Some will decide to perform on the Free Fringe to limit their venue costs and some will forego their entry in the Fringe programme brochure because they feel that it is not value for money. There are several articles floating around at the moment ... [one on the pull of the Free Fringe](#) ... and [another on Fringe fees](#).

Off piste - Complicite's production of The Master and Margarita

posted March 25th, 2012.

Apologies for going off piste but we were bowled over last Friday night by Complicite's production of The Master and Margarita at the Barbican in London. It was a visually exhilarating adaptation of one of the foremost novels of the 20th century which is notoriously difficult to transfer to film or theatre. The critics seemed to be split over it. We were in no doubt that it was one of the best shows that we have seen in recent years. It is not totally off piste for us. The very first show that we saw in Edinburgh was a production of The Master and Margarita (by The Four Corners Theatre company I think). It remains one of our all-time Fringe favourites. And Complicite (one of our favourite companies)? ... they were one of the early winners of the Perrier Award on the Fringe back in 1985.

Jools Holland to close 2012 Jazz Festival

posted March 25th, 2012.

[The Edinburgh Jazz & Blues Festival](#) has also now got into the pre-announcements stuff. Jools Holland & His Rhythm & Blues Orchestra will bring this year's festival to a close on Sunday, July 29th. Tickets are already on sale although the full festival programme will not be launched until May.

Book Festival appeals for donations

posted March 20th, 2012.

[The Scotsman reports](#) that the Edinburgh International Book Festival has launched an appeal for private donations to supplement its other fundraising activities. Attendances were slightly down last year although the EIBF says that this is not the reason for the appeal.

Mills expects to leave EIF in 2014

posted March 15th, 2012.

[The Stage](#) and other media outlets report that Jonathan Mills, the artistic director of the Edinburgh International Festival, announced at yesterday's EIF 2012 programme launch that he expects to leave his post in 2014 after 8 years in the role.

EIF 2012 programme launched

posted March 14th, 2012.

The Edinburgh International Festival launched the programme for the 2012 festival this morning at The Hub. Links to reports of this event and early feedback on the programme can be found on the [pre-festival stuff page](#).

EIFF to host premiere of Disney-Pixar film Brave

posted March 14th, 2012.

There is widespread coverage this morning, [including in The Scotsman](#), of the announcement that the Edinburgh International Film Festival has landed the European premiere of the new Disney-Pixar film Brave. It will form the grand finale of this year's festival, being staged on June 30th, 2012 at the Festival Theatre.

Assembly buying Roxy Art House and Forest Café venues

posted March 9th, 2012.

[According to Chortle](#) Assembly venue boss William Burdett-Coutts is in the 'advanced stages' of buying the Roxy Art House and Forest Café venues from the administrators of Edinburgh University Settlement which went bankrupt in late 2010. Assembly has been looking for new festival spaces since it lost the use of the Assembly Rooms. The Roxy Art House will be used this year but it is thought unlikely that the Forest Cafe will be ready in time.

Public funding of festivals increased to £3.2m

posted March 9th, 2012. updated March 10th, 2012.

[BBC News reports](#) that public funding of the Edinburgh festivals will be increased to £3.2m. The additional money will be used to help World Dance Feste, an inaugural [World Fringe Congress](#), a World Jazz Orchestra, and [The Edinburgh World Writers' Conference 2012](#). Public funding comes from The Scottish government, Edinburgh City Council, EventScotland and Creative Scotland, with the government contributing £2.25m. Further details of the additional funding can be found in [this eGovmonitor article](#).

Edinburgh World Writers' Conference in August

posted March 9th, 2012. updated March 10th, 2012.

[EdinburghGuide.com reports](#) that the Edinburgh International Book Festival and the British Council are combining to launch the Edinburgh World Writers' Conference at the EIBF this August, marking the 50th anniversary of a five-day writers' conference which took place in 1962. Full details will be announced in June.

Another book for Fringe performers

posted March 3rd, 2012.

Following hot on the heels of Mark Fisher's [The Edinburgh Fringe Survival Guide: How to Make Your Show A Success](#) comes [How to Produce, Perform and Write an Edinburgh Fringe Comedy Show](#) by Ashley Frieze and Ian Fox. I cannot comment on it. It is only available on a Kindle and, being a bit of a luddite, I have not managed the quantum leap to electronic books yet!

"Olympic dilemma: Is it worth performing at Edinburgh this year?"

posted March 2nd, 2012.

... is [the title of a blog by Lyn Gardner](#). Apprehension over the possible effect of the Olympics on the festival surfaced back in August 2011 with concerns that it may be difficult to find sufficient technical staff. It is no doubt a subject that will continue to crop up right through to the end of this year's festival. Lyn, displaying her enthusiasm and optimism in equal measures, encourages would-be performers to attend. I do not consider that the Olympics on its own will have a significant effect on the festival although it is possible that it and other factors, such as the state of the global economy, may contribute to some downturn in the number of punters this year.

Forest Fringe at The Gate

posted February 29th, 2012.

Punters in and around London who have enjoyed the [Forest Fringe](#) at the festival in recent years may like to know that the group will have a [two week residency at The Gate](#) in Notting Hill in April. The dates are 9th-21st April, 2012.

Book Festival's Review of 2011 now available

posted February 28th, 2012.

The Edinburgh International Book Festival has recently published its official annual review of 2011. [It can be downloaded from its website](#).

Festival Parade

posted February 17th, 2012.

[The Scotsman reports](#) that a festival parade will be held along Princes Street, the first for four years. It is being organised by the Edinburgh Jazz & Blues Festival. It is likely to be smaller than previous cavalcades as it will take place on July 22nd as a curtain raiser to the Jazz & Blues festival when there are likely to be few Fringe or Tattoo acts around.

Proposal for Spiegeltent on George St.

posted February 17th, 2012.

[The Scotsman reports](#) that Tommy Sheppard who will be running the Assembly Rooms this year has put forward a proposal to have a venue in the middle of George Street. The idea is to attract acts and punters back to the New Town, stemming the drift towards the south side of the city. This is far from straightforward of course, there being traffic and parking implications and it assumes that Princes Street will free of tram works by August.

Film Festival to reinstate awards

posted February 15th, 2012.

The Edinburgh International Film Festival [has announced that it will reinstate three awards](#) which it had abolished in 2011. They are Best International Feature Film by an Emerging Director, Best Performance in a British Feature Film and The Michael Powell Award for Best British Feature. [The Scotsman has an article which covers the announcement.](#)

Bongo Club to be given marching orders

posted February 8th, 2012.

[Chortle reports](#) that the Bongo Club, a popular Fringe venue, has received notice to quit its Moray House home in September after this year's festival by Edinburgh University who plan to use the space as a new home for its Office of Lifelong Learning.

Launch of Fringe 2012 programme to be a week early

posted February 2nd, 2012.

The full programme for Fringe 2012 will be launched on May 31st this year, one week earlier than usual. This is to avoid it clashing with the double bank holiday in early June when the Queen's Diamond Jubilee will be celebrated.

Annual review of Fringe 2011 available

posted February 1st, 2012.

[The Fringe Society's Annual Review of 2011 can be downloaded](#) from its website. It includes draft financial figures which show income for the year of circa. £3.16m and expenditure of £2.79m.

First Fringe 2012 shows announced

posted February 1st, 2012.

The idea in recent years of announcing some shows well before the official launch of the Fringe programme in early June continues. Details of eight shows can already be found on [the Fringe website](#). They are mainly productions at Venue150@EICC. I am afraid that I am old school - early June is the time for launching the full programme ... and not before.

Old Vic New Voices & IdeasTap to bring shows to the Fringe

posted January 21st, 2012.

[The Stage reports](#) that Old Vic New Voices is teaming up with [IdeasTap](#), a funding body and network for emerging talent, to bring five shows to this year's Fringe. New Voices, the education arm of the Old Vic, will showcase five new plays at the Underbelly venue.

Fringe Survival Guide

posted January 18th, 2012.

[Mark Fisher](#), theatre critic and freelance journalist, has written *The Edinburgh Fringe Survival Guide: How to Make Your Show A Success* which will be published in February 2012. It is primarily aimed at aspiring performers and others who are involved in putting on a show at the Edinburgh Fringe for the first time, although punters may also find it a useful read. Further information can be found on [the book's website](#).

Fringe roadshow and show registration deadlines

posted January 15th, 2012.

The Fringe Society's roadshow started earlier this month in New York. In February it will visit Edinburgh, Manchester and London and finally Adelaide in early March. The roadshow provides an opportunity for potential performers to find out more about what is involved in appearing at the Fringe. Deadline dates for registering shows have also been announced. To get into the printed programme brochure the deadline is April 11th, 2012. Full details on the roadshows and registration dates can be found [here](#).

Early news on visual arts exhibitions during 2012 festival

posted January 5th, 2012.

Here is some early news on major visual arts exhibitions that will be running at the time of the 2012 Edinburgh festival: *Van Gogh to Kandinsky: Symbolist Landscape in Europe 1880-1910* at the National Gallery of Scotland; *Picasso and British Modern Art* at the Scottish National Gallery of Modern Art; and *Catherine The Great: an Enlightened Empress* at the National Museum of Scotland. The Picasso exhibition is also on at Tate Britain earlier in the year, running from February 15th to July 15th, 2012.

New chief executive for Edinburgh Festival City Theatres Trust

posted January 5th, 2012. updated January 6th, 2012.

[The Stage reports](#) that Duncan Hendry has been appointed as the new chief executive for the Edinburgh Festival City Theatres Trust. Hendry, who currently has a similar role with Aberdeen Performing Arts, will take up his position at the beginning of April. Further information, including some background on the troubles that the Trust faces ([previously covered here](#)), [appeared subsequently in The Scotsman](#).

Festival marketing for 2012 to start early

posted January 2nd, 2012.

[The Scotsman reports](#) that [Festivals Edinburgh](#), the umbrella body for the city's festivals, will head the biggest marketing campaign ever for the Edinburgh festival. It is estimated that around £550,000 will be spent in various promotional and advertising campaigns, as part of Edinburgh's attempts to compete with the London Olympics in 2012. The campaigns, which aim to woo both the media and punters, will get under way in the next few weeks, some two months earlier than usual. The City Council, VisitScotland and Creative Scotland have all contributed towards this campaign.

Happy New Year

posted January 1st, 2012.

Happy New Year to all festival punters. A quick note on some changes here. I have completed my annual update of the festival history, summary of favourite shows over the years and other articles with any relevant data from 2011. I have also added some further material on the history of the Fringe which I have gleaned from Alistair Moffat's *The Edinburgh Fringe* which was published back in 1978, a copy of which I recently obtained. Finally, I have largely rewritten the article on potential threats to the festival, as the old version was somewhat past its sell by date.

Edinburgh to host cultural summit in 2012

posted December 20th, 2011.

[The Stage reports](#) that Edinburgh is to host a cultural summit on August 13th and 14th 2012 during the Edinburgh International Festival. Ministers of Culture from all nations who are competing at the London Olympics have been invited. Titled "Culture as an International Dialogue" ministers, artists, thinkers and those who are charged with the development and implementation of cultural policy will discuss the use and value of culture and its role in encouraging dialogue among nations. The summit is being organised by the Scottish and UK governments, the EIF and the British Council.

Alternative model for Fringe comedians?

posted December 17th, 2011.

[Bob Slayer](#), owner of the Alternative Heroes of Comedy company, will be co-promoting the "Alternative Fringe at the Hive" with Free Festival outfit Laughing Horse in 2012. [The venue will host some paid for shows alongside the standard Laughing Horse free shows](#). Comedians who are appearing on the paid for side will not be charged rent for the venue and ticket revenue will be split 70-30 in the artist's favour. [In an article in Chortle](#), Slayer markets the idea of comedians being more independent, and not relying on

venues and promoters. [John Fleming outlines the approach in this blog](#).

City leader says no to festival campsite at Meadows

posted December 16th, 2011.

One of the winning ideas from the recent [Edinburgh Festival Ideas Challenge](#) was to use the Meadows as a campsite in August during the festival. [Council leader Jenny Dawe has been quick to scotch this idea](#). They are prepared to look at other possible sites although they will have to be outside the city centre. This news will come as no surprise to anybody who has monitored the complaints from local residents over the years about the damage caused to the Meadows by events that have been held there. It is boggy ground that is easily damaged.

Concerns over future arts funding

posted December 10th, 2011.

There is apprehension over plans by Creative Scotland to scrap its Flexible Funding scheme in March 2013 [according to The Herald](#). Beneficiaries of the £7m scheme include the Festival Fringe, Inverleith House and Edinburgh Printmakers. Fears are being fuelled by a lack of clear information on a replacement scheme, to be called Strategic Commissioning. Creative Scotland is facing cuts to its core grant from the Scottish Government.

Bed tax idea to be further investigated

posted December 8th, 2011.

Edinburgh City Council is to further investigate the idea of a bed tax as a means of raising revenue to help festival funding [according to The Stage](#). The ideas revolve around a charge of £1 or £2 per night that would be levied on hotels and guest houses. This would generate £5-£10m per year. The council currently spends approximately £3.3m on grants and subsidies to Edinburgh's 12 main festivals.

Results of Edinburgh Festival Ideas Challenge

posted December 8th, 2011.

[The results of the Edinburgh Festivals Ideas Challenge have been announced](#). It was launched in August, seeking ideas to improve the festival experience. It was an initiative of the [Edinburgh Festivals Innovation Lab](#). It remains to be seen if any of the ideas will be adopted.

Remarkable Arts expected to go into liquidation

posted December 7th, 2011. updated December 8th, 2011.

[The Scotsman reports](#) that Remarkable Arts which ran the Hill Street Theatre and St.George's West venues in 2011 is expected to go into liquidation early next year after a winding up order was instigated at the end of November. The article claims that at least a dozen companies are owed money from this year's Fringe by Remarkable Arts. The company is run by Tim Hawkins who is also an employee of the Fringe, acting as its IT Manager. In a short message, the Remarkable Arts website confirms that it is closing its doors. [The Stage estimates that it has debts of £75K](#).

Scottish National Portrait Gallery reopens

posted December 1st, 2011. updated December 2nd, 2011.

There is general rejoicing that [the Scottish National Portrait Gallery reopened](#) today after its major refurbishment which has taken two and a half years. There have been a variety of articles on the gallery over the last week. They include: [The Scotsman](#), [The Guardian](#), [The Herald](#), and [a video on YouTube](#).

Early plans for Traverse's 50th anniversary

posted November 23rd, 2011.

[The Stage reports](#) that the Traverse is to celebrate its 50th anniversary in 2013 with a Scotland-wide initiative to encourage writers to create work for the stage. Established playwrights will mentor 50 new writers. The current objectives are to: produce 10 new plays in 2013; and identify 5 emerging writing talents and produce 5 new plays for the following 5 years. The city council plans to award the Traverse a £50K grant to help in the anniversary work. Full details of Traverse 50 will be announced in 2012.

£650K package to compete with Olympic and Commonwealth Games

posted November 23rd, 2011.

Edinburgh City Council has agreed a £650K package to help Edinburgh Festivals compete with the London Olympics in 2012 and complement the 2014 Commonwealth Games in Glasgow [according to stv.tv](#).

More info on EIF 2012

posted November 19th, 2011.

The Edinburgh International Festival has [released a smidge more information about the 2012 festival](#). In the main, it simply recycles previous announcements on the two Shakespeare productions and the Speed of Light show. What is new is that there will be no themes by geographic region - but I think that we had all guessed that one. The official programme will be launched on Wednesday, March 14th, 2012 and public booking will commence on Saturday, March 24th, 2012.

School of Comedy Edinburgh residency

posted November 19th, 2011.

[The Stage reports](#) that young comics from the London-based School of Comedy clubs are to benefit from more opportunities to showcase their talent, with an annual presence at the Edinburgh Festival Fringe, content for CBBC and a dedicated YouTube channel all planned. An annual residency at the Assembly Rooms will start in 2012.

Financial troubles at Festival City Theatres Trust

posted November 8th, 2011.

[The Edinburgh Evening News reports](#) that auditors have warned that there is a doubt about the ability of the Festival City Theatres Trust, which runs the Festival and King's Theatres, to continue as a going concern. The accounts for April 2010 to March 2011 have not yet been officially published. In previous years they have appeared around July time. The trust has been struggling recently with [cutbacks](#) and [resignations](#).

More info on EIF's Speed of Light show

posted November 2nd, 2011.

The Edinburgh International Festival has [published further information on the Speed of Light show](#). The objective is to bring communities together from all over Scotland to celebrate sport and culture. "Thousands of runners will activate specially designed light suits, illuminating the hillside as they follow choreographed routes over Arthur's Seat creating an astonishing visual displays". A call is being put out for runners who wish to participate. The performance will take place nightly on Arthur's Seat from Thursday 9 August to Saturday 1 September 2012.

Made in Scotland Showcase 2012

posted October 29th, 2011.

[Applications are now being accepted for the Made in Scotland Showcase 2012](#). This will be a curated showcase of performances at the 2012 Edinburgh Fringe. Investment will be available to the successful Scottish dance and theatre companies and individual artists to present artistically ambitious work at the 2012 Fringe. The showcase is supported by the Scottish Government's Expo Funding. The closing date for applications is November 28th, 2011.

Book Festival seeks company for website development

posted October 28th, 2011.

The International Edinburgh Book Festival is seeking a company [to take on the maintenance and development of its website](#).

Festival venue for St. Andrew Square?

posted October 11th, 2011.

Essential Edinburgh, a group which represents New Town businesses between Princes St and Queens St, is concerned over the significant drop in customer numbers and spending during the 2011 festival. It

considers that the closure of the Assembly Rooms and the gradual move of venues to the Old Town is responsible. [The Scotsman reports](#) that Essential Edinburgh is looking to encourage venues to open up in the New Town. It is particularly looking at the viability of using St. Andrew Square.

Film Festival sticks with June date

posted October 7th, 2011.

[The EIFF has announced that it is keeping to its June date in the calendar](#). The 2012 Film Festival will run from June 20th to July 1st. It has also been announced that the Michael Powell Award for Best New British Feature Film will make a return.

Now we are back to the bed tax idea

posted October 6th, 2011.

Following on from talk of a festival tax, councillors are now having a go at Edinburgh's hotels who had an extremely successful August, outperforming London hotels. [The Scotsman quotes Steve Cardownie](#), the city's festivals and events champion, as saying that they are "laughing all the way to the bank" and he raises the need for a bed tax to be levied on them, a subject which has been brought up before. The hotels, needless to say, cry poverty.

Talk of Festival tax?

posted September 25th, 2011.

The Scotsman, and other media outlets, have seemingly got exercised by the mere [mention of a possible festival tax on tickets](#) by Council leader Jenny Dawe. A sensible debate on festival funding is long overdue but it appears to be a bit early for journalists to be marshalling the troops - alias the interested parties - on either side of the funding divide.

Interim CEO for CMI

posted September 22nd, 2011.

Ken Hay, a former CEO of Scottish Screen, has been appointed as interim CEO of the Centre for the Moving Image, the parent organisation of the Edinburgh International Film Festival. This follows on from the sudden resignation last week of Gavin Miller as CEO of the CMI after a turbulent year at the Film Festival. This is reported by a number of media outlets, including [The Scotsman](#).

New Artistic Director for Film Festival

posted September 15th, 2011.

A number of media outlets report that the troublesome year at the Edinburgh International Film Festival has eventually led to the appointment of a new artistic director and the resignation of Gavin Miller, CEO at the CMI - the organisation which is responsible for the Film Festival. Chris Fujiwara, an American film writer, author and critic, is to be the new artistic director of the Edinburgh International Film Festival. Brooklyn-born, he has been based in Tokyo for the last 5 years. [EdinburghGuide.com has the most comprehensive article](#) on the subject.

Portrait Gallery on course to re-open in November 2011

posted September 8th, 2011.

The Scottish National Portrait Gallery closed in 2009 for major refurbishment work - the project being called Portrait of the Nation. The work has been completed and the art works are in the process of being installed [according to its website](#). St. Andrew's Day, November 30th 2011, is the date when the gallery will re-open. [The Scotsman contains a short article on the gallery](#) and some of its history.

EIF to take part in 2012 World Shakespeare Festival

posted September 7th, 2011.

The Edinburgh International Festival will take part in the 2012 [World Shakespeare Festival](#), a feature of the Cultural Olympiad which will accompany the London Olympics. The EIF will stage Macbeth by Polish company TR Warszawa and a version of A Midsummer Night's Dream, a production from The Chekhov International Theatre Festival in Russia which will be directed by Dmitry Krymov. [The Herald also reports](#) that the EIF is to commission Speed of Light in 2012, a light show powered by cyclists on top of Arthur's

Seat.

EIF 2011 box office income down slightly

posted September 6th, 2011.

Initial estimates indicate that box office income for the 2011 International Festival was 3% lower than the figure for 2010 [according to The Stage](#). The EIF spokesman was at pains to stress that they had balanced their budget this year.

Valery Gergiev appointed honorary president of the International Festival

posted September 4th, 2011.

[BBC News reports](#) that the Russian conductor and director Valery Gergiev has been appointed as honorary president of the Edinburgh International Festival. Valery Gergiev is the artistic and general director of the Mariinsky Theatre in Saint Petersburg. He first came to Edinburgh in 1991 with the Kirov Opera. He is the third honorary president of the International Festival, following on from violinist Yehudi Menuhin and conductor Charles Mackerras.

Final allocation of tickets for Fireworks Concert

posted September 2nd, 2011.

The final tranche of tickets for Sunday night's Virgin Money Festival Fireworks will go on sale at 10am on Saturday. These tickets will only be sold over the counter at the Hub. [Further details in EdinburghGuide.com](#).

Commercial Director appointed at Festival City Theatres Trust

posted September 2nd, 2011.

[The Stage reports](#) that Nick Parr has been appointed to the new post of commercial director at the Festival City Theatres Trust which is responsible for both the Festival Theatre and the King's Theatre. The new role includes the duties that were previously the responsibility of the head of sales and marketing.

Dates for 2012 summer festivals

posted September 1st, 2011. updated September 13th, 2011.

I have posted details of the dates of the 2012 summer festivals on [the home page](#). A number are provisional at the moment and await confirmation. The most problematic is the Edinburgh International Film Festival. It is currently unclear if it will continue in June or return to its original dates in August. [The Scotsman currently thinks that it will remain in June](#). Information relating to the dates on all the festivals will be updated as it becomes available. This includes dates for programme launches and the commencement of public booking.

Closing thoughts and 2011 statistics from the Festival Fringe Society

posted August 30th, 2011. updated August 31st, 2011.

The Festival Fringe Society issued its closing thoughts on the 2011 festival plus the usual selected set of statistics. 1.877m tickets were issued - I could be cynical and ask what "issued" means precisely. Anyway, the figure is marginally up (approximately 2.5%) on the 2010 figure. [The Scotsman quotes provisional figures from the super venues](#), including: Underbelly with a claimed 19% increase in ticket sales (this excludes the McEwan Hall which was not available this year - not sure that this makes for a valid comparison), Gilded Balloon up 10%, Pleasance up 6% while Assembly expects the figures to be "marginally up" on last year. Everybody says that the figures would have been better if it had not been for the rain, particularly in the first week.

Ideas sought to improve festival experience

posted August 29th, 2011.

The Edinburgh Festivals are seeking ideas to improve the festival experience. [Ideas can be submitted and voted upon](#) until the end of October 2011. Prizes will be awarded in late November for the best ideas. This is an initiative of the [Edinburgh Festivals Innovation Lab](#).

New Artistic Director for The Traverse

posted August 27th, 2011.

[The Traverse](#) has announced that Orla O'Loughlin, currently Artistic Director at The Pentabus Theatre, will replace Dominic Hill as its Artistic Director. Hill leaves in October to take over the reins at the Citizens in Glasgow. O'Loughlin will start in January 2012.

Forest Café looking for alternative premises

posted August 26th, 2011.

The Forest Café Arts Centre, home to The Forest Fringe in August, has given up the unequal struggle to stay in its current premises. [If you remember](#), the owners, Edinburgh University Settlement, were declared bankrupt and forced into administration in October 2010. The Forest Café has unsuccessfully tried to raise sufficient funds to allow them to stay in the building in Bristo Place. They have accepted the inevitable and are now looking for alternative premises. [Read more here](#) including their requests for donations.

Equity survey on backstage conditions and pay at the Fringe

posted August 26th, 2011.

[The Stage](#) reports that Equity is conducting [an online survey on backstage conditions and pay](#) at this year's Fringe. It can be accessed until early September and is open to any UK-based performer.

Fringe set to commence marketing for 2012 early

posted August 24th, 2011.

The Fringe is in talks with venues about commencing marketing for 2012 as early as March or April [according to The Scotsman](#). In an attempt to compete with the attraction of the London Olympics The Fringe would promote the 2012 festival, including some shows, several months earlier than usual.

Film Festival loses funding from British Film Institute

posted August 24th, 2011.

[The Herald](#) reports that the British Film Institute, the recently appointed lead provider of funding and support to the film industry, has told the EIFF that it is unable to provide any funding although other forms of support may be possible. The Film Festival had previously received a grant of £1.8m spread over 3 years, a funding package that ended last year.

Fringe 2012 AGM

posted August 23rd, 2011. updated August 29th, 2011.

The Fringe AGM was held on Saturday August 20th, 2011. A brief summary follows. See [the article in Whatsonstage.com](#) for more information.

- concerns expressed over potential shortage of technicians next year due to the London Olympics
 - £100K set aside in last year's accounts towards debts re the disposal of the failed Pivotal software system
 - new back-office software "Fringeware" being developed - to help analyse the data that is held about participants and punters
 - Tommy Sheppard (Stand) beat Charlie Wood (Underbelly) for a place on the Fringe board. [See all Fringe election results](#).
-

Warning on potential lack of availability of technicians for 2012 festival

posted August 23rd, 2011.

Venue bosses are warning that the London Olympics in 2012 will suck up many technicians, leaving a potential shortfall of these resources for events such as the Edinburgh Festival [according to The Stage](#) and other media outlets.

Possible home for Demarco's festival archive

posted August 13th, 2011.

Richard Demarco is the 81 year-old veteran festival impresario who has been responsible for bringing many International companies to the Fringe over the years. He was also one of the founders of the Traverse back in 1963. [The Herald reports](#) that he may have found a home for his festival archive which runs to around one million pieces. Discussions are ongoing to use part of the old Royal (Dick) Vet School building in Edinburgh (the Summerhall campus).

EIF 2011 ticket sales still a "challenge"

posted August 12th, 2011.

[The Herald appears to be indicating](#) that ticket sales for the International Festival are not going as well as they might, possibly due to this year's theme which is based on South East Asian culture and its links with the west.

Cheap EIF tickets for the under 26s

posted August 10th, 2011.

The International Festival will be offering £8 tickets for selected performances during the festival if you are under 26. [Further details can be found here.](#)

Edinburgh Book Festival website working again

posted August 10th, 2011.

The website appears to be working ok this morning.

Edinburgh Book Festival website unavailable

posted August 9th, 2011.

The data centre in Ireland which houses the Book Festival's website was affected by a lightning strike on Sunday evening. The website is currently unavailable although tickets can still be purchased over the phone and at the box office. The online brochure can be browsed [here](#).

Earlier date fails to boost Jazz Festival

posted August 4th, 2011.

The Jazz Festival was a week earlier than normal this year. [The Scotsman reports](#) that the festival's expectations of increased ticket sales failed to be satisfied. However, it is likely that the new date in the calendar will be retained.

Extended line-up announced for Amnesty's Stand Up for Freedom comedy night

posted August 3rd, 2011.

[Further names have been announced by Amnesty](#) for its famous Stand Up for Freedom comedy night which this year will take place on August 17th, 2011.



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[Links](#) [Site Map](#)

Pre-Festival Stuff for 2012

2009

2011 | 2010 |

This page is split into two halves. The top section covers the launch of each festival programme for 2012 as they take place plus any 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
Edinburgh Magic Festival

The second half of the page is called [Picks and Previews](#). It contains links to media views on the individual programme launches plus, from June to early August, a digest of links to the critics' recommendations and useful preview articles.

Edinburgh International Festival

The 2012 programme was launched on March 14th, 2012. Those punters who have been upset by the use of festival themes in recent years will be pleased to see there isn't one this year. The general approach, if there is one, seems to be to latch onto the Olympic Games. The so called Cultural Olympiad is a loose amalgamation of events and shows under the generic title of [London Festival 2012](#) which will run from June 21st to September 9th. The contributions from the EIF are shown [here](#). Three of the shows are also part of the [World Shakespeare Festival](#) - they are *2008: Macbeth*, *A Midsummer Night's Dream* and *The Rape of Lucrece*. They were pre-announced back in the autumn, as was *NVA's Speed of Light*, a mass choreographed act of walking and endurance running by individuals wearing special light suits which will light up Arthur's Seat.

The EIF 2012 brochure can be viewed online or downloaded in pdf format. Meanwhile, the [press office page](#) contains useful information, including a short film on some of the participants and the official press release.

Early reports on the launch can be found in various places, including [EdinburghGuide.com](#), [The Stage](#), [BBC News](#), [The Herald](#) and [The Guardian](#).

Mark Fisher in [The Guardian](#) was first out of the traps with his views on the drama programme while [The Scotsman's](#) critics gave us their initial thoughts the following day. A [classical music preview](#) subsequently appeared in [EdinburghGuide.com](#).

Links to previews, critics' recommendations, etc across all the summer festivals can be found in the [Picks and Previews section at the bottom of this page](#).

This punter's twopenneth

In the drama section the following sound appealing me: *Watt* (from a novel by Samuel Beckett), *2008: Macbeth* (a multi-media version) and *Wonderland* (created by Vanishing Point). One possible is *The Rape of Lucrece* which will be performed by the singer Camille O'Sullivan, accompanied by Feargal Murray on piano. It is down as a possibility only because for me it is so soon after seeing Gerard Logan's spellbinding performance of this work at last year's Fringe.

Early favourites for me in the dance programme are probably *Tatyana* by the Deborah Colker Dance Company, *And then, one thousand years of peace* by Ballet Preljocaj and *Cinderella* by the Mariinsky Ballet.

I am glad to see that there is no visual arts in the programme this year. As I have wittered before on a number of occasions ... it should be left to the Art Festival.

Being something of a barbarian as far as music and opera is concerned I will leave these art forms to my friend Susan to comment on below.

Susan's initial thoughts

My American friend Susan and her husband have been coming to the festival for close on 30 years. I received her initial thoughts on the day of the programme launch which I have inserted below, virtually verbatim.

"The Festival programme arrived last night so I haven't yet had too much time to think about it. I am happy to see that the Greyfriars Series is back and there is no emphasis on "themes" as that indicates someone must be listening to the feedback.

I am saddened that the days that this Festival was a major, groundbreaking force now seem over, but I am sure that finances are affecting festival funding everywhere and in such an environment, we have to be thankful that so much is on offer.

Initial impressions are that there is a lot of Shakespeare-themed theatre presented by international groups---which we have seen in the past few years. There is also a non-Shakespeare play based on a Samuel Beckett novel performed by the Gate Theatre Dublin the first week of the Festival and two others at the end of the Festival, one from Chile that seems interesting.

To my eye, I also think there is more dance this year, mostly modern. In the first week there is the Deborah Colker Dance Company from Brazil and Ballet Preljocaj. There is also an Indian dance based on what is called classical Kathak which may be interesting. Of course, the groups I'd like to see are later in the Festival---including Leigh Warren + Dancers from Australia, Julliard Dance from New York, and the Bathsheva Dance Company, which is now performing in New York ---these appeal to me the most. The one ballet company I'd LOVE to see is the Mariinsky doing Cinderella but unfortunately isn't until the end of the Festival. We saw them recently in Washington and, as the kids say, they are awesome!

Re music, other than opera, there is much to enjoy at Queen's Hall with both established and novice vocal and instrumental artists, and four nights of the London Symphony with Gergiev and some outstanding soloists. The Sixteen are doing King Arthur, but at Usher Hall which doesn't have the intimacy of Greyfriars.

Opera remains very weak. There is a Makropoulos Affair full opera by Opera North in English. We are opting out of this because we saw it in Czech in Florence and as the performance was excellent, we are not inclined to hear it performed in English. There is a concert opera of Tristan and Isolde by the Welsh Opera which while not optimally performed as a concert, we will see because of who is doing it. Then there are some new operas which the Scottish Opera are doing later in the Festival. While I applaud the Festival being so innovative, I still wish the operas of bygone Festival days would make a stronger reappearance--- I really miss what was once such a strength of the Edinburgh Festival, albeit an expensive one.

Greyfriars will be utilized for performances but there is an absence of the wonderful European groups of past years (they do have the Sixteen, Collegium Vocale Gant (Phillippe Herreweghe), and The English Concert (David Daniels) but at Usher Hall. Greyfriars itself has an Afghan instrumentalist, a group presenting Croatian music, and another the music of Azerbaijan etc.

In summary, while greatly missing the consistent excellence of past festivals, we acknowledge the funding limitations and appreciate the chance to be introduced to new artists and being exposed to musical experiences which you never knew existed. However, what remains is that the overall Edinburgh Festival continues to be so much the greater as a whole than its constituent parts. Where else can one listen to musicians at the EIF, enjoy new plays at the Fringe, hear great authors at the Book Festival all in one day in a glorious city, while bemoaning after a week without sleep, all that you wanted to do and couldn't fit in?"

Edinburgh Fringe Festival

The 2012 programme was officially launched on Thursday May 31st, 2012, a week earlier than usual this year. Of course, punters will be aware that a fair degree of pre-announcing has been going on this year, dating back to late January. Key themes from the launch are that: the Fringe will continue its attempt to woo Glaswegians by having a box office in the city for the first time; and there will be more shows than ever - 2,695 at the moment compared to the previous record of 2,542 in 2011.

Our copy of the Fringe brochure arrived in the post on the actual morning of the launch ... I think that this is a first. Excellent - keep it up.

It is good to see that the [Traverse programme was available on its website on the day of the launch](#), as it was last year. In previous years it had been prone to lag the official launch, occasionally by a week or more.

Early coverage of the launch can be found in [stv.tv](#) (who seemed to be first out of the blocks as far as I can tell), [Whatsonstage.com](#), [The Stage](#), [The Guardian](#), [EdinburghGuide.com](#) and [BBC News](#).

Lyn Gardner of The Guardian wins first prize for producing [her initial set of Fringe recommendations](#) only 24 hours after the launch. Any other early thoughts on the programme from other critics will follow here when they have managed to plough through the brochure.

Note that links to previews, critics' recommendations, etc across all the summer festivals can be found in the [Picks and Previews section at the bottom of this page](#).

We have eventually completed an initial look through the programme brochure. The objective at this stage is simply to identify a set of shows which can hopefully be relied upon. This conservative approach will gradually change between now and the festival as more information comes available and the word on the street highlights the shows not to miss. At the risk of being accused of plagiarising Lyn Gardner, drama shows at the Traverse, Northern Stage @ St. Stephens and Summerhall can generally be relied upon. I am also keeping a keen eye on drama productions at Assembly (the George Square outfit) and Assembly Rooms (under new management), shows in the Made in Scotland 2012 Showcase, and on the dance programmes at DanceBase, Summerhall again and Assembly Roxy.

Our initial drama shortlist includes ... *And No More Shall We Part*, *Bullet Catch*, *Morning, Angels, Letter of Last Resort / Good with People*, Daniel Kitson, Mark Thomas: *Bravo Figaro*, *Mess and Blink* (all at the Traverse). Others include *Oh The Humanity and Other Good Intentions*, *The Half*, Tam O'Shanter, *Appointment with The Wicker Man*, Churchill and *Thin Ice*.

Away from drama we have highlighted Derevo's *Mephisto Waltz* in the dance programme and probably Mark Grist in the poetry spot. On the subject of poetry, we saw Luke Wright last year and would thoroughly recommend him although he is only doing a short run this year.

On the comedy front, Daniel Kitson's stand up act has unfortunately sold out already. We will probably give Jerry Sadowitz's magic act another whirl. The magic is excellent ... we just hope that we are spared the sight of his member this time - it is a lunch-time show so we may be in luck. Other comedy choices will probably not be made until we are in Edinburgh.

Edinburgh International Book Festival

[The programme for the 2012 festival was launched](#) on Thursday 21st June 2012. The theme this year is "rethinking the world around us". [Full programme details were available online](#) from noon on the day of the launch.

As part of the overall programme the Book Festival in partnership with the British Council will be holding an Edinburgh World Writers' Conference. This 5 day event is inspired by a similar conference which took place back in 1962.

Zadie Smith will preview her long-awaited new novel *NW*. Other authors who will be launching new books include Ian McEwan, Will Self, Pat Barker and James Kelman.

The inevitable stats on these occasions talk of 800+ authors from 44 countries in 750+ events, including 8 Booker winners.

The Guardian, as a sponsor, [got to publish their piece on the programme](#) an hour or two before the official launch. [The Scotsman followed](#) immediately after the launch finished with [stv.tv](#) close behind, and [The Telegraph](#) later.

Edinburgh International Film Festival

[The 2012 programme was eventually launched](#) on Wednesday May 30th, 2012. One of the many criticisms of last year's festival was the late launch. This year it is even later. And as for holding it the day before the Fringe launch ... do they not want any publicity? It will be interesting to hear the reasons ... is it the effect of Cannes again and / or the global financial situation?

The festival will include 121 new films from 22 countries, with 19 world premieres, 11 European premieres and 76 UK premieres. Highlights include 7 Days In Havana, with Benicio Del Toro, and Disney/Pixar's animated feature Brave.

Early coverage of the launch can be found in [The List](#), [BBC News](#) and [The Scotsman](#).

[Alistair Harkness from The Scotsman](#) was an early critic with views on this year's programme.

Details of the juries for this year's awards [have been announced](#). The list includes Elliot Gould and Jim Broadbent. [See the article in The List](#).

Edinburgh Art Festival

The programme for the 2012 festival [was launched on March 27th, 2012](#). This caught me by surprise as it has been around June time in recent years.

Exhibitions at the national galleries have been known for some time. They include: [Van Gogh to Kandinsky: Symbolist Landscape in Europe 1880-1910](#) at the National Gallery of Scotland; [Picasso and British Modern Art](#) at the Scottish National Gallery of Modern Art; [Catherine The Great: an Enlightened Empress](#) at the National Museum of Scotland; and [Edvard Munch: Graphic Works from the Gundersen Collection](#) at the Scottish National Gallery of Modern Art. The Picasso exhibition has been on at Tate Britain earlier this year, running from February 15th to July 15th, 2012. I visited it just before it closed. While the basis for the exhibition - to show the influence that Picasso had on British artists - seemed somewhat contrived to say the least I found it to be very enjoyable. Here are a couple of reviews of the Tate show from back in February, one in [The Telegraph](#) and one in [The Observer](#).

Other major exhibitions by international artists include: Philip Guston at Inverleith House, Dieter Roth at The Fruitmarket Gallery, Melvin Moti at National Museum of Scotland, Tim Rollins & K.O.S and Donald Judd at Talbot Rice Gallery, Rachel Mayeri at Edinburgh College of Art, plus Robert Kusmirovski, Hermann Nitsch and Art & Language at Summerhall.

A venue map and a full EAF guide can be downloaded [here](#).

[New commissions](#) include: *Timeline* by Turner Prize winner Susan Philipsz which is inspired by Edinburgh's one o'clock gun; Andrew Miller is producing a festival pavilion constructed from salvaged materials; and works in Rose Street from early career artists including Kevin Harman.

Articles on the launch can be found in [EdinburghGuide.com](#), [The List](#), [BBC News](#), [The Scotsman](#) and [ArtLyst](#).

Edinburgh Jazz & Blues Festival

Programme details were available [on its website](#) on Friday May 25th 2012 but it is unclear (at least to me) if there is to be an official launch. Brief summaries of the programme appeared in [The Scotsman](#) and [Jazzwise](#) later the same day. [A brief summary of the programme appeared in The Scotsman](#) on the same day. A printed brochure can be ordered or a pdf version accessed online [here](#).

Forest Fringe

As the Forest Cafe, or its eventual successor, is not available Forest Fringe plans to do something slightly different this year. Entitled Paper Stages, Forest Fringe will create a performance space not out of bricks and mortar but out of pen and ink. It will be launched over the weekend of August 11th and 12th. Further information can be found [here](#).

Edinburgh Magic Festival

The 2012 Edinburgh International Magic Festival programme was launched in spectacular fashion on Wednesday 25th April 2012 at Lothian Buses Central Depot, as Artistic Director Kevin McMahon pulled off one of the biggest illusions ever attempted in Scotland. After transforming a single decker bus into butterflies, the audience and depot were covered in a snow storm of paper butterflies produced from his

empty hands. stv.tv covered the launch.

The programme brochure can be downloaded from the Magicfest website.

Here is the full press release along with one of the images ...



The Edinburgh International Magic Festival launched in spectacular fashion today at Lothian Buses Central Depot, as Artistic Director Kevin McMahon pulled off one of the biggest illusions ever attempted in Scotland. After transforming a single decker bus into butterflies, the audience and depot were covered in a snow storm of paper butterflies produced from his empty hands. A popular motif in visual and literary arts, butterflies represent MagicFest's metamorphosis from a fledgling festival into an event that is now a highly anticipated fixture of the Edinburgh Festivals calendar.

as The Edinburgh International Magic Festival casts its spell across the Capital and promises to take you to the extreme end of visual theatre. Attracting over 30 performers from eight countries including: France, Germany, Portugal, Australia, Italy, New Zealand, Ukraine and the UK, this year classic meets close-up, mindreading defies illusion, cabaret clashes with comedy and levitation renders the impossible possible.

Artistic Director, Kevin McMahon, says, "Magic demonstrates, in a creative manner, that the human soul has within it the capability to rise above the forces of nature and flourish. It is the artistic example that any impossible challenge can be overcome. We aim to inspire the audience in every show and to spotlight Magic; the 'Art of the Impossible', like no other event on a national scale."

Once again The Royal Lyceum theatre hosts the Magic and Variety Gala Opening night. A breath-taking spectacle of the finest acts in the Magic World, the addition of a Gala afternoon preview show opens up the world of unreality for just £10.

From the Ukraine, VORONIN has a uniquely powerful and mesmeric presence, the looks and charisma of a matinée idol and a complete mastery of legerdemain and illusion. A mute magician and master of smoke and mirrors, a Dracula-cum-Casanova, he is inexplicably alluring and both terrifying and flirtatious. LES CHAPEAUX BLANCS from France tells the marvellous adventures of two characters through the unique visual act of 'black art magic'. A duality of illusions, an innovative visual feast, Claude Brun and Jérôme Helfenstein skilfully bring modernity to old world magic. PIERRE XAMIN presents the 'changing faces' act and joins Germany's juggler JETON, Glasgow's award-winning theatre company VOX MOTUS, Scotland's foremost mind reader DREW MCADAM and Italy's clown-magician TINO FIMIANI to complete the bill.

MagicFest is proud to bring the UK premier of VOYAGEURS EGARES to the Capital. Produced by the spectacular Les Z'enfants Terribles, this unavoidable trip into an imaginary world is part play, part circus, with magic, clowning and the illusion of shadow theatre all rolled into one.

The first man to fool Penn & Teller, JOHN ARCHER, brings a brand new show to a new MagicFest venue this year. 'Forget about the Tricks' at Traverse Café Bar weaves stories, silliness and audience participation into a night where the most amazing events become just part of the fun.

Britain's Got Talent's COLIN MCLEOD promises to keep his trouser on as he replicates the mythical deductive powers of Sherlock Holmes, whilst attempting to reveal everything about you, find hidden objects and memorise vast amounts of information.

No-one played truant from MAGIC SCHOOL last year and it proved so popular, that this year's MagicFest has a brand new five day programme for kids aged 7-10 years old. Pupils will be taught by former Magic Circle Stage Magician of the year and BBC's "Help my supply teacher is Magic" JOHN ARCHER.

JAV JARQUIN, aka Card Ninja, is one of the most skilful card handlers in the UK, his Street Magic Master Class, sponsored by ideas.co.uk, for 11-14 year olds promises to teach the coolest street magic effects

that will blow your friend's minds.

Levitating forks, cards turning to glass and disappearing wine! Adventure seekers should head to The Royal Scots Club for MAGIC DINNER, an evening of delicious food, magical cabaret, mindreading and show stopping close-up magic that promises to mess with your head.

MagicFest closes on Friday 6 July with the ever popular FOUR NATIONS MAGIC-OFF. The UK's top comedy magicians use every trick in the book to win your vote. Who wins, you decide at this late night MagicFest party. The line-up, featuring stars from the main programme, remains top secret until just before the festival.

Immerse yourself in the extraordinary world of mystery and illusion from the 29 June – 6 July. Be amazed, see things differently and catch the magic at The Edinburgh International Magic Festival 2012.

-ENDS-

Picks and Previews for 2012

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

Date posted	Item Details
15th Mar 2012	Mark Fisher's blog on his initial thoughts on the EIF drama programme
16th Mar 2012	Initial views of The Scotsman's critics on the EIF programme
25th Mar 2012	Preview of classical music in the EIF programme in EdinburghGuide.com
18th May 2012	Made in Scotland Showcase 2012 - the 12 successful shows have been announced
26th May 2012	The List on the Shinji Somai retrospective at the Film festival
31st May 2012	Alistair Harkness with his views on the Film Festival programme.
1st June 2012	Lyn Gardner of The Guardian with her initial set of drama recommendations on the Fringe
4th June 2012	Tim Cornwell of The Scotsman with more on the Film Festival programme
24th June 2012	Preview of the Magic Festival in the Edinburgh Evening News
7th July 2012	Preview of Catherine the Great: An Enlightened Empress exhibition in Scotland on Sunday
10th July 2012	Preview of Unbound evening programme at the Book Festival in stv.tv
11th July 2012	Fringe: comedy highlights in The List
11th July 2012	Fringe: theatre highlights in The List
11th July 2012	Art festival highlights in The List
11th July 2012	International festival highlights in The List
11th July 2012	Fringe: music highlights in The List
11th July 2012	20 top shows at the festivals in The List
11th July 2012	Preview of Picasso and Modern art in The List
11th July 2012	Jazz & Blues Festival highlights in The List
11th July 2012	Fringe: dance highlights in The List
11th July 2012	Interview: NVA's Speed of Light at the EIF in The List
11th July 2012	Susan Philipsz sounds the one o'clock gun at the Art Festival in The List
11th July 2012	Cecile McLorin Salvant lead Duke Ellington tribute at the Jazz & Blues Festival in The List
12th July 2012	50 Fringe recommendations in The Scotsman
12th July 2012	Fringe: kids highlights in The List
13th July 2012	Slideshow of 10 pics from the Van Gogh to Kandinsky art exhibition in The Guardian
16th July 2012	Preview of Van Gogh to Kandinsky art exhibition in the FT
18th July 2012	Preview of Jazz & Blues festival in The Scotsman
19th July 2012	Book festival highlights in The List
20th July 2012	Preview of One Thousand Points of Light art exhibition in The Scotsman
22nd July 2012	Scotland on Sunday's Edinburgh Festival picks
22nd July 2012	Mark Brown's EIF highlights in the Sunday Herald
29th July 2012	Details of outdoor installations that are part of this year's Art festival in The List

29th July 2012	I tend not to provide links to previews of individual shows. If you want to browse them then the best places to find them so far this year are The List and The Skinny .
30th July 2012	20 must-see shows from The Guardian's critics
30th July 2012	Lyn Gardner's what to see Edinburgh special in The Guardian
30th July 2012	Art festival shows ... Philip Guston ... Leslie Hunter ... Weaving the century in Scotland on Sunday
2nd Aug 2012	Preview of Picasso and Modern British Art exhibition in EdinburghGuide.com
2nd Aug 2012	Picks from Whatsonstage.com
3rd Aug 2012	Book Festival highlights in The List
4th Aug 2012	Picks from The Telegraph
4th Aug 2012	Fringe picks from The Independent
9th Aug 2012	Preview of the Speed of Light in The Scotsman



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Info on Reviews of Shows at the 2012 Festival

[2011](#) | [2010](#) | [2009](#)

The main objectives of this page are to:

- provide links to selected Visual Arts, Jazz & Blues and Film festival reviews
- tell you where you can find reviews of EIF and Fringe performances on the web. There are simply too many shows to provide links to specific reviews
- provide a list of those shows on the EIF and Fringe which have scored most marks with the critics
- summarise our own thoughts on the shows that we managed to see
- detail some of this year's awards
- provide links to selected postmortems of the summer festivals by the critics.

Where to Find 2012 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. Beware the wide range of criteria for giving star ratings among the critics. For example, The Guardian may give a very occasional 5 star rating whereas some sites spray them around like confetti. FringeReview gave around 50 in 2010. [There was a spat in 2010 on this very subject](#) if you are interested that ultimately centred on how the critics reported on the National Theatre of Scotland's production of *Caledonia*.

Some of the links change from year to year. I will update any of these links as soon as it becomes clear where they are situated this year.

[Scotsman](#) - this review section on its Edinburgh Festivals website does not appear to be operating. No idea if this is temporary or not. It may (or may not) have something to do with The Scotsman's new website which has become operational since last year's festival. Perhaps there is a problem interfacing with its Edinburgh Festivals website? Try [the festival reviews page on the main Scotsman website](#) for the moment. Update 9th Aug 2012 - clicking on the review section of the Edinburgh Festivals website now takes you straight to the alternative page that I mention. However, the reviews do not seem to remain there for more than a couple of days.

[The List](#)
[The Guardian](#)
[The Stage](#)

EdinburghGuide.com
Chortle (comedy)
Fest
Whatsonstage.com
BritishTheatreGuide
Viewfromthestalls ... seemingly no reviews this year
The Herald
The Telegraph
The Independent
FringeReview
ThreeWeeks
OnstageScotland
BroadwayBaby
Edinburgh Festivals Magazine

I had a minor rant a couple of years ago about [the layout of review lists](#) on some of the websites. Overall, they are gradually improving but I mention it again in the hope that the remaining sites may follow suit one day.

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 version. Instead, I focus on producing periodic lists of those shows that the critics liked best. In 2012 they will be based on the star ratings in reviews from 11 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" or "the ubiquitous tweet" and perhaps try something different – you might be pleasantly surprised.

This is **the twenty-first and final iteration of the 2012 list** and it was posted here on **Saturday 1st September, 2012 at 5.30pm.**

The shows with the highest average ratings were: Songs of Lear, Mies Julie, Budapest Festival Orchestra, Theatre Uncut, Knee Deep, Les Naufrages du Fol Espoir (Aurores), La Clique Royale and Pappy's Last Show Ever.

The full list of most critically acclaimed shows by genre follows ...

Drama. Mies Julie, Songs of Lear, Les Naufrages du Fol Espoir (Aurores), Villa + Discurso, Bullet Catch, The List, Miriam Margolyes - Dickens' Women, Theatre Uncut, The Trench, The Rape of Lucrece, Caesarian Section - Essays on Suicide, Beats, The Boat Factory, Camille Claudel, Churchill, Joyced, The Static, A Soldier's Song, The Letter of Last Resort / Good With People, The Half, Miss Havisham's Expectations, Tam O'Shanter, The Sewing Machine, Waiting for Orestes: Electra, Chapel Street, After The Rainfall, Educating Ronnie, Juana In A Million, Oliver Reed: Wild Thing, Thread, Woza Albert, Mark Thomas - Bravo Figaro, Monkey Bars, Grit, Formby, Hand Over Fist, The Agony And The Ecstasy Of Steve Jobs, Thin Ice, Watt, Bottleneck, Dirty Great Love Story, Continuous Growth, Flaneurs, Oh The Humanity and Other Good Intentions, Icarus: A Story of Flight, Molly Naylor and The Middle Ones, Gulliver's Travels, As Ye Sow, Wojtek The Bear and Still Life - An Audience With Henrietta Moraes.

Comedy. Sam Simmons, The Boy With Tape On His Face - More Tape, Jim Jefferies, Pappy's Last Show Ever, Hal Cruttenden, Tony Law, Kumail Nanjiani, Richard Herring, Hannibal Buress, The Pajama Men, Trevor Noah, Will Franken, Nick Helm, Mark Watson, Alfie Brown, Felicity Ward, James Acaster, Jim Campbell, Sean Hughes, Ben Target, Nick Mohammed and Sh*t-Faced Shakespeare.

Dance & Physical Theatre. Knee Deep, Ballet Preljocac - And Then One Thousand Years Of Peace, Deborah Colker Dance Company - Tatyana, Juilliard Dance, Mr. Carmen, Flash Mob, Sulle Labbra and Mephisto Waltz.

Music and Opera. Trio Zimmermann, Budapest Festival Orchestra, Ali McGregor's Alchemy, David et Jonathas, The Makropulos Case, In The Unlocked Room and King Arthur.

Cabaret. La Clique Royale.

Children's. The I Hate Children Children's Show and Horrible Histories - Barmy Britain.

Several notes ...

- the minimum criterion for a show to be considered for the list is that it must have had at least three reviews ... which is not easy.
- the drama section tends to be dominated by shows at the Traverse for the first couple of iterations simply because this is where a lot of critics tend to start - things will settle down after that with some of the Traverse shows dropping off the list;
- shows can drop off the list when later reviews are less flattering than the earlier ones;
- established comedians tend not to get many reviews and so may well not appear in the list - presumably it is assumed that they will get full houses whatever;
- successful shows returning for a second year also tend to get few reviews;
- music on the Fringe and performances on the International Festival often struggle to get three reviews and so may not appear on the list;
- and finally, in general I use the categories that shows appear in the programme brochures - which can sometimes seem a bit strange, e.g. the occasional comedian in the drama section, poet in the comedy section *et cetera*.

2012 Awards

There are a growing number of awards which will be mentioned in this section as they are announced. The Scotsman Fringe Firsts and The Bank of Scotland Herald Angels are handed out weekly. The other awards are given towards the end of the festival. The most prestigious of these later awards are arguably [The Stage Awards for Acting Excellence at The Fringe](#) and [The Foster's Comedy Awards](#).

The Scotsman Fringe First awards for new writing. The week 1 awards have been announced: Mark Thomas: Bravo Figaro; All That Is Wrong from Ontroerend Goed; Peter Arnott's Why Do You Stand There In The Rain; Juana In A Million - Vicky Araico's one woman show, co-written by Nir Paldi; and Continuous Growth.

The Bank of Scotland Herald Angel awards. The week 1 awards have been announced. The Herald Archangel award goes to The People Show for its sustained contribution to the Fringe, going back to the 1960s. The Herald Angels are: Baxter Theatre for Mies Julie; Anna Bogodist for the Russian season at Assembly Roxy; Rob Drummond for Bullet Catch; Mark Thomas for Bravo Figaro; Daniel Holdsworth and Aidan Roberts for Tubular Bells; and The NewRope String Band. The Little Devil award goes to Square Peg Contemporary Circus for overcoming a warm-up accident that forced Nick Galzin to withdraw from the show.

The Scotsman Fringe First awards for new writing. The week 2 awards have been announced: Richard Marsh and Katie Bonna's Dirty Great Love Story; Joe Douglas's Educating Ronnie; Mies Julie - Yael Farber's reinvention of Strindberg's play; Jennifer Tremblay's The List; Hannah Price and Emma Callender's Theatre Uncut; and Daniel Kitson's As Of 1.52pm on Friday April 27th 2012, This Show Has No Title.

The Bank of Scotland Herald Angel awards. The week 2 awards have been announced. The Herald Archangel award goes to Andy Manley for his work in theatre for young people. The Herald Angels are: Tadashi Suzuki for Waiting For Orestes: Electra; LaN-T003, a quartet of Japanese contemporary dancers, for Jishin; Maureen Beattie and the Stellar Quines company for The List; Hannah Price and Emma Callender for Theatre Uncut; Richard Neville-Towle and the chamber ensemble Ludus Baroque. The Little Devil award goes to Nick Pynn and Kate Daisy Grant who are taking one day off from their show to get married ... and then back to the show.

The Scotsman Fringe First awards for new writing. The week 3 awards have been announced: Unicorn Theatre's Monkey Bars; The Shit / La Merda; Jenna Watt's Flaneurs; Fishamble's The Wheelchair On My Face; Nutshell's Thread; Song of The Goats' Songs of Lear; and Sell a Door Theatre and Boxed Cat

Theatre's Rainbow. The Spirit of the Fringe Award goes to Theatre Uncut at The Traverse.

The Bank of Scotland Herald Angel awards. The week 3 awards have been announced. The Herald Archangel award goes to Song of The Goat Theatre for Songs of Lear. The Herald Angels are: Soprano Christiane Karg for her Queens Hall recital; choreographer Angelin Preljocaj and company for And Then One Thousand Years Of Peace; Silvio Purcarete for Gulliver's Travels; Camille O'Sullivan for The Rape of Lucrece; fiddler Duncan Chisholm; and Tom Cunningham and Alexander McCall Smith for A Tapestry of Many Threads. The Little Devil award goes to Usta Usta Republika for some nifty lateral thinking after the council refused permission for amplified music to be played in their outdoor venue at the courtyard in Summerhall.

The Stage Awards for Acting Excellence at the Fringe: **best actor** - Bill Paterson for And No More Shall We Part; **best actress** - Nicola McAuliffe for Maurice's Jubilee; **best ensemble** - Caroline Horton and Company for Mess; and **best solo performer** - Silvia Gallerano for The Shit /La Merda.

Foster's Edinburgh Comedy Awards: best comedy show - Doctor Brown - Befrdfgth; best newcomer - Daniel Simonsen; panel prize - The Boy With Tape On His Face.

Amnesty International's Freedom of Expression award: the winner was Bravo 22 Company's The Two Worlds of Charlie F written by Owen Sheers and directed by Stephen Rayne.

The Carol Tambor Edinburgh to New York award: Baxter Theatre's Mies Julie. Unfortunately, the company is unable to take the show to New York in January and so an alternative winner has been named - Midsummer, a play that was actually on the 2009 Fringe.

Arches Brick award for emerging talent: Silvia Gallerano and Christian Ceresoli for The Shit / La Merda at Summerhall.

Jack Tinker Spirit of the Fringe award: Theatre Uncut at The Traverse.

Holden Street Theatres award: Second Shot Productions' Glory Dazed at Underbelly.

Scottish Arts Club in conjunction with EdinburghGuide.com - Best Scottish Contribution to Drama on the Fringe: The Static.

Malcolm Hardee comedy awards: The Rubberbandits (comic originality), Trevor Noah (act most likely to make a million quid) and Stuart Goldsmith (best publicity stunt).

Total Theatre awards: **work by emerging artist / company** - XXXO (Belgium) Charlotte De Bruyne & Nathalie Marie Verbeke, Supported by Ontroerend Goed & Richard Jordan, in association with Pleasance (Pleasance Courtyard); **physical / visual and devised performance** - the joint winners were Caesarean Section – Essays on Suicide (Poland) by Teatr Zar at Summerhall and (remor) by Res de Res at C Nova; **innovation and experimentation** - the joint winners were All That is Wrong by Ontroerend Goed, Laika, Richard Jordan Productions, Drum Theatre Plymouth at the Traverse, Bullet Catch - Arches presents Rob Drummond at the Traverse; and Doctor Brown – Befrdfgth - Soho Theatre and the Mason Sisters @ PBJ at the Underbelly in Cowgate. Finally, a special award for a significant contribution to 'total theatre' went to: Helen Lannaghan and Jospeh Seelig, co-directors of the London International Mime Festival.

FringeReview awards. Outstanding theatre shows: Theatre Damfino's Mayday Mayday.

Dave Funniest Joke of the Fringe 2012. Stewart Pearson ... "You know who really gives kids a bad name? Posh and Becks."

Other awards include [Threeweeks Editors' Awards](#), [MTM:UK Musical Theatre Awards](#), [Mervyn Stutter's Spirit of the Fringe Awards](#), [So You Think You're Funny](#) and the [Allen Wright Awards for Journalists](#).

Punters' 2012 Visit

It appeared to us that the 2012 festival was the best for some years. Even the weather was good during

our stay ... of course all things are relative - this is Edinburgh weather that I am talking about.

We managed 24 shows, 2 art exhibitions and a brief trip to the recently refurbished Portrait Gallery during our one week visit to Edinburgh.

Best drama. The best play by some distance was [Mies Julie](#) - a very powerful South African version of Strindberg's Miss Julie. Next on my list was [The Trench](#), a highly imaginative piece by Les Enfants Terribles and one that very much personifies what a Fringe show should strive to be.

Best one-man shows. This is arguably my favourite genre at festival time. The performance of Barry McGovern in a stage version of Beckett's [Watt](#) was peerless. Some critics have complained that it is too short an adaptation of the novel ... or simply that it was Beckett. To me, Mc Govern's knowledge of Beckett shone through and his command of the large Royal Lyceum stage with no set to speak of was a wonder to behold. Of the others, Iain Robertson gave a very solid performance in [Angels](#) at the Traverse.

Other drama of note. In no particular order ... [And No More Shall We Part](#) for the acting of Bill Paterson and Dearbhla Molloy ... [Woza Albert](#), an exuberant two-hander ... [Mess](#), a funny play with a serious message about anorexia ... [Bullet Catch](#) - an intriguing version of the famous stage illusion ... and [The Letter of Last Resort / Good With People](#).

"Feel Good" shows. We took the opportunity to see Communicado's [Tam O'Shanter](#) (we were fans of the company back in the 1990s when they produced a number of outstanding shows). It was an inventive and very enjoyable show ... The National Theatre of Scotland's [Appointment With The Wicker Man](#) was also a very enjoyable show.

Dance and physical theatre. Derevo is one of our favourite companies and we really enjoyed their [Mephisto Waltz](#). Deborah Colker's Dance Troupe performing [Tatyana](#), their Brazilian version of Eugene Onegin, was enjoyable. We also saw [Mister Carmen](#) which was a very zany piece of physical theatre.

Comedy. We had no stand-ups in our schedule this year. We did see [Mark Thomas: Bravo Figaro](#) which was both funny and poignant. This was about his father and his relationship with his father. However, I must admit that I am not altogether happy about artists using their family in their art.

Poetry. We enjoyed [Mark Grist](#) but would have liked to hear more poetry and marginally less about his life story.

Visual Arts. We had already seen the Picasso exhibition at The Tate in London and so we gave this a miss. The best exhibition was the [Edvard Munch](#) show at the Modern Art Gallery. It is not a large exhibition but it was both interesting and intriguing. We also took in the [Van Gogh to Kandinsky Symbolist exhibition](#) at the National Gallery. It seemed to be very popular - there were quite a few punters when we were there. My favourite picture was Millais's Dew-drenched Furze.

Disappointments. Daniel Kitson's [As of 1.52pm on Friday ...](#) was praised by some of the critics. I am afraid to say that I have not spoken to any punter who has any praise for it. I do wonder if the general goodwill and enthusiasm for his work among punters has been damaged by this experience of being on the receiving end of what was to all intent and purpose an unfinished piece of work ... no matter how it is dressed up. [Morning](#) was another show that received praise in high critical quarters. While I have no particular qualms with the ideas behind the play I considered the production itself to be of poor quality. I only mention this because it has the name of the Lyric in Hammersmith attached to it.

As I always say there are many show that we would like to have seen but were unable to fit in. They include: Knee Deep, Maurice's Jubilee, Monkey Bars, Beats, Theatre Uncut and Oliver Reed: Wild Thing.

Susan's Thoughts on The International Festival

Our American friend Susan and her husband have been coming over for the festival since the mid 1980s. I asked for her thoughts on this year's International Festival although they also see theatre on the Fringe and take in the Book Festival. I am grateful for her comments which are printed in full ...

"Yes, I would agree that this was a very good year for the International Festival. I really feel that Jonathan Mills has found his "groove" and made his and our lives easier and more enjoyable by letting go of his

obsession with themes. The only thing worrying me now is his planned departure given how long it takes festival directors to develop the "contacts" for learning about new talent and persuading existing talents that the festival is a happening place at which they want to be, not to mention learning the ins and outs of where to find money and the development of relationships required to get such commitments. Add to this mixture all the challenges of decreased public funding and competition from so many other summer festivals, I do worry even more about what the future will bring to the Festival.

In any case, the "stars" of this year's festival was Jonathan Mill's signing up new talent at the beginning of their careers and having the opportunity to see baroque opera I would never have a chance to see in Washington (even if these groups sound a lot better at Greyfriars than the much larger and more profitable Usher Hall.) I feel the same excitement about discovering the young English countertenor Iestyn Davies as I did years ago being introduced to Jonas Kaufman. I also wish we could have seen the pianist Daniil Trifonov.... It also was a gift to hear Les Arts Florissants at both Usher Hall and at Queen's Hall. I really enjoyed the presentation of a baroque opera in a modern staging in David et Jonathas. I would also have loved hearing the Orchestre des Champs-Élysées but unfortunately we were not in Edinburgh. While opera in general remains as much a disappointment as in recent years, it was a real gift to hear rarely performed baroque music performed by such talented musicians. Even the concert opera of Tristan und Isolde, while the lead singers were a disappointment, introduced us to conductor Lothar Koenigs whose interpretation of Wagner's music was breathtaking. Also, this year's Queen's Hall performers continued at a very high level and never disappointed....In the best of all worlds, I could only have hoped that Greyfriars could have continued to introduce us to the many wonderful European baroque music groups we have blessed with in past years. I know this is a very expensive venture but the previous high consistency of music at Greyfriars is one of the unique experiences that differentiates the Edinburgh International Festival from all the rest. One other very important point for the music this year was the great benefit the festival has derived from its relationship with Gerghiev. The four nights of performances with his conducting the London Symphony were a wonderful gift to the Festival as is the Kirov-Marinsky ballet---if only we were so lucky to have been able to see both!

I also agree with you, Brian, that the drama and music this year was a highlight. We greatly enjoyed Watt and there were other plays and dance groups that we would have loved to see had we the time. This definitely is the year in which the Festival proved one could feature a diverse and excellent sampling of the best performers worldwide, thus maintaining the emphasis on an international festival, while freeing itself of the thematic chains in which it had imprisoned itself.

I am now looking forward to next year's festival and hoping the city of Edinburgh will be able to demonstrate enough appreciation and support to Jonathan Mills to persuade him to stay a little longer while pronouncing a level of continued commitment that will succeed in convincing an equally talented heir to accept the challenges and rewards required for the Edinburgh International Festival to remain world class and not sink into parochial status."

Post-mortem on 2012 Edinburgh Festival

There are no signs of any articles in the media which express an opinion on the success, or otherwise, of this year's summer festivals.

Across the piece I would say that 2012 has been the best festival in quite some years. Even the weather was reasonable (for Edinburgh) although the less said about the tram works the better. Media coverage beforehand was significantly down on previous years, particularly during July. This may be partly attributable to troubles within the industry and partly due to the impending Olympics. Fortunately, it generally picked up once the feast (as I call it) was in action although coverage on BBC TV has been patchy so far, singularly failing to convey the excitement, inventiveness and spirit of the festival.

The Edinburgh International Festival (EIF) had a successful year. Some punters will naturally put this down to the fact that there was no "theme" this year. The drama programme was extremely strong. In fact, one could almost make a case to say that it was the best in the history of the EIF. Dance also had another good year. The music programme continues to provide the solid cornerstone on which much of the EIF's reputation is based. Only opera had a mixed reception although this is probably due in part to the high demands of the aficionados. Ticket sales were up 11% on 2011.

The Edinburgh International Book Festival saw visitor numbers up by 3% while book sales remained steady. Arguably the main highlight this year was the 2012-2013 Edinburgh World Writers Conference

which was produced in association with The British Council.

The Edinburgh International Film Festival can be said to be on a slow, steady road to recovery after last year's disaster. Hopefully, improvements will continue now that Chris Fujiwara, the new artistic director, has signed up for another three years.

The Edinburgh Jazz & Blues Festival had a quiet but successful year ... quiet in the sense that media coverage was down on previous years.

The Edinburgh Art Festival had a good year. The main event was arguably the Picasso and British Artists exhibition which had previously had a successful stay at Tate Britain. The Van Gogh to Kandinsky Symbolist exhibition at the National Gallery (Scottish Royal Academy building) was very popular. Meanwhile, among the present generation of artists most attention in the media was accorded to Susan Philipsz's Timeline.

For the first time in over a decade **the Edinburgh Military Tattoo** was not sold out months before the festival although it was eventually a sell-out. It is thought that this was due to punters waiting until the last moment before deciding how to spend their money.

The Magic Festival is the Cinderella of the summer festivals. It is obviously gaining confidence as it announced dates for a third festival as soon as this year's event had finished.

I have left the **Edinburgh Festival Fringe** until last as this is where the controversy has been centred this year. From this punter's perspective theatre and dance are currently in robust health. Along with The Traverse programme the Assembly Theatre's Russian and South African mini festivals were key ingredients in the best festival for some years, with Mies Julie being the stand out drama for me. Audience levels seemed to be unaffected by the Olympics as far as I could see. Music and Children's shows are niche areas which appear to be largely unaffected by the Olympics although I leave it to others to say whether the loss of the branding vehicle that was the Edge Festival made any significant difference to the music programme.

By contrast comedy on the Fringe seemed to be fairly chaotic, not on the artistic front but on the financial side. A growing number of performers are questioning the costs of putting on a show in Edinburgh. Fingers are variously pointed at the venues, particularly the super venues, agents & PR people, as well as the general living costs. "Being in Edinburgh in August is like living in Monte Carlo" as one of them said. Reduced ticket sales during the first week while the Olympics were in progress naturally only helped to increase the performers' levels of unhappiness. There is a view that the current model is unsustainable – a view that I have held for some time although I do not consider that it is limited solely to comedians. More comedians are likely to be attracted to the Free Fringe over time, quite how many remains to be seen.

Venue chiefs blamed the Olympics for problems with ticket sales and in turn the Fringe Society for not changing the dates of the festival to avoid a clash. The final statistics, which showed that the total number of tickets issued (whatever that phrase means) was only down on 2011 by 1%, allowed the Fringe Society to reply with "what is your problem" ... well ok, not actually phrased in that way ... they said that "the Fringe is in fantastic health". Some venues appear to have seen an increase in punters while others report a downturn this year.

Posted on August 31st, 2012 and updated on September 3rd, 2012.

P.S. Here are some links on the comic finances debate ... [Bob Slayer who proposed a different model](#) late last year ... [Stewart Lee's diatribe at the beginning of the festival](#) ... [a blog from an unhappy Susan Calman](#) ... [a pragmatic view from Tim Clark](#) ... an article by Brian Ferguson in The Scotsman on [the view that the Fringe dates should have been changed](#) ... and there are others which can be readily located on the Internet.

For anybody who is contemplating an appearance on the Fringe, whether they are comedians, actors, directors or whatever, get yourself a copy of [Mark Fisher's Edinburgh Fringe Survival Guide](#) and READ it. I am not sure how many pints Mark now owes me for these various plugs ... but seriously buy it or request it as a Christmas present and read it before you do anything!!

P.P.S. I keep meaning to congratulate the Traverse on their blackboard. A major problem for serious

punters who are scuttling between venues can be shows which overrun their originally published times. The Traverse's low tech solution was to have a blackboard which had the actual running times on. One for the suggestion box of the Fringe Society and venues - why can we not have details of all shows across the Fringe that overrun by more than (say) 10 minutes, ideally on the Fringe Society website. Individual venues would have the relevant information on their own shows.

Edinburgh Art Festival

Links to selected reviews:

Date Posted	Review
7th July 2012	Edvard Munch's Graphic Works from the Gundersen Collection in The Scotsman
25th July 2012	Van Gogh to Kandinsky: Symbolist landscape in Europe, 1880-1910 in The Scotsman
2nd Aug 2012	George Leslie Hunter: A Life in Colour in The List
2nd Aug 2012	Philip Guston: Late Painting in Scotland on Sunday
2nd Aug 2012	Catherine the Great: an Enlightened Empress in The Scotsman
5th Aug 2012	Susan Philipsz's Timeline and other outdoor art installations in Scotland on Sunday
6th Aug 2012	Dieter Roth: Diaries in The Telegraph

Edinburgh Jazz & Blues Festival

Links to selected reviews:

Date Posted	Review
24th July 2012	Dr. John and the Lower 911 in EdinburghGuide.com
25th July 2012	Martin Kershaw Quartet in The Scotsman
26th July 2012	The Bad Plus in the Edinburgh Evening News
26th July 2012	Hidden Orchestra in The Scotsman
26th July 2012	Kurt Elling & Charlie Hunter in The Scotsman
26th July 2012	EJFO: Sketches of Spain in The Scotsman
27th July 2012	Aga Zaryan in EdinburghGuide.com
27th July 2012	Lazy Lester in EdinburghGuide.com
28th July 2012	Kyle Eastwood Band and Martin Taylor in The Scotsman
28th July 2012	Marcin Wasilewski Trio in The Scotsman
28th July 2012	Kyle Eastwood Band in The Scotsman
29th July 2012	Colin Steele and Konrad Wiszniewski in The Scotsman
30th July 2012	Rumba Caliente in EdinburghGuide.com
30th July 2012	Havana Swing in EdinburghGuide.com
31st July 2012	Jools Holland in the Edinburgh Evening News

Edinburgh Film Festival

Links to selected reviews:

Date Posted	Review
21st June 2012	Killer Joe in The Scotsman
21st June 2012	First Position in The Scotsman
21st June 2012	Pusher in The Independent
21st June 2012	Lovely Molly in WhatCulture!
22nd June 2012	Selection of brief reviews in The Herald
22nd June 2012	Kid-Thing in The List
22nd June 2012	Future My Love in The List

22nd June 2012	Diary in WhatCulture! (covers various films)
23rd June 2012	Eddie - The Sleepwalking Cannibal in WhatCulture!
23rd June 2012	Philippine New Wave in The List
23rd June 2012	Mondomanila in The List
24th June 2012	Fukushima: Memories of the Lost Landscape in The List
24th June 2012	The King of Pigs in Cine-Vue
24th June 2012	Rent-a-Cat in The List
25th June 2012	The Ambassador in The List
25th June 2012	Diary #4 in WhatCulture! (covers various films)
26th June 2012	What is This Film Called Love in The List
26th June 2012	Dr Seuss' The Lorax in The List
26th June 2012	Grabbers in The Telegraph
27th June 2012	Day of the Flowers in The List
27th June 2012	Anton Corbijn: Inside Out and Small Creatures in The Herald
27th June 2012	Nino in The List
27th June 2012	God Bless America in WhatCulture!
28th June 2012	The Impostor in The Telegraph
28th June 2012	Shadow Dancer in stv.tv
28th June 2012	California Solo in The List
28th June 2012	V/H/S in The List
28th June 2012	Brave in The List
28th June 2012	Berberian Sound Studio & others in The Scotsman
29th June 2012	Review of documentaries in EdinburghGuide.com
29th June 2012	Diary #6 in WhatCulture!
29th June 2012	Differently, Molussia
30th June 2012	Gregory La Cava Retrospective in The List

The Film Festival awards included: the Michael Powell award for best British feature film to director Penny Woolcock for [One Mile Away](#); the Michael Powell award for best performance in a British feature film to Andrea Riseborough and Brid Brennan for [Shadow Dancer](#); the award for best film in the international feature competition to Mao Mao for [Here, Then](#); the award for best film in the international short film competition to Rafael Urban for [Dinosaur Eggs in the Living Room](#); the award for best film in the British short film competition & the McLaren award for new British animation to Will Anderson for [The Making of Longbird](#); and the Student Critics' award to Frédéric Jardin for [Sleepless Night](#). Details of all the awards can be found [here](#).

The first postmortem on the film festival [appeared in The Independent](#). This was followed by [stv.tv](#), [WhatCulture!](#) and [Time Out](#).
