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## News Snippets - August 2012 to August 2013

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### Edinburgh International Festival 2013 statistics

posted September 2nd, 2013. updated September 3rd, 2013.

[Edinburghguide.com](#) provides the released figures for the 2013 festival. In essence, the number of tickets issued rose from 141,544 in 2012 to 158,500 this year. However, box office income was down from £2.83m in 2012 to £2.43m. It is claimed that a greater number of free and discounted tickets account for these changes. The EIF states that 80% of all tickets were "sold" with 48% of performances being sold out. [A later article](#) appeared in [The Stage](#).

### Venue news from Summerhall, Assembly Roxy & Traverse

posted August 30th, 2013.

[The Herald](#) has been reporting over the last couple of days that the company which runs the Summerhall venue is currently being pursued by HMRC for unpaid income tax and VAT amounting to around £200K. [Thom Dibdin](#) mentions that [Assembly Roxy](#) is to receive a grant of £30K from [Creative Scotland](#) to help it to turn the venue into a permanent 200 seater theatre. He also relays the statement made by [Orla O'Loughlin](#) on the BBC's programme to celebrate 50 years of the Traverse that they are considering a new home. [The programme](#) can be found on the BBC's iPlayer.

### Edinburgh Festival Fringe 2013 statistics

posted August 27th, 2013.

The 2013 Edinburgh Festival Fringe finished yesterday. As has become traditional [the Fringe Society](#) published [this year's statistics](#) part way through the final day. 45,464 performances of 2,871 shows took place in 273 performing spaces. An estimated 1,943,493 tickets have been issued which represents a 4.6% rise over 2012. As a cynic of the first water I once again question precisely what the terms "estimated" and "tickets issued" mean. [Thom Dibdin](#) also points out that while the number of shows is growing the average number of tickets issued per performance is falling ... by 22% when measured over the last 10 years. However, it would be churlish to deny that the Fringe continues to grow. Is this good? Is it sustainable? The answers are almost certainly no in both cases but let us leave the debate for another day.

### Edinburgh International Book Festival 2013 statistics

posted August 27th, 2013.

The 2013 Book Festival also finished yesterday. [The closing press release](#) revealed that it is in rude health. 225,000 visits were made to Charlotte Square, with tickets sales and book sales both up by 6% on 2012.

### Festival awards in full flow

posted August 23rd, 2013.

As we approach the end of the Fringe the awards (and there are quite a few) start to be dished out. A summary of these awards can be found [here](#).

### Edinburgh Festival Fringe Society election results

posted August 21st, 2013.

The Fringe Society has announced the election results for the vacant positions on the Board of Directors. In the show participant category Susan Morrison was elected. In the venue category Gareth Morinan was elected while Richard Wiseman won election in the open category. They will each serve a term of four years on the board. 44.4% of the Fringe membership of 620 individuals voted.

### Edinburgh Festival Fringe Society AGM

posted August 21st, 2013.

[The Scotsman](#) reports that the main theme from yesterday's AGM was a call from venue managers, producers and performers to take action to stem the soaring costs of putting shows on. Meanwhile, it was

noted that the society recorded a surplus of £166k last year.

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## Hoo ha on Scottish independence debate at festivals

posted August 15th, 2013.

[The Scotsman does a bit of stirring](#) by announcing that Jonathan Mills is banning productions that may touch on the subject of Scottish independence at EIF 2014. Mills rightly says that the Fringe will provide a better forum. However, the obvious place for such debates is the Book Festival.

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## Mark Ravenhill gives Fringe opening address

posted August 3rd, 2013. rewritten later the same day

Playwright Mark Ravenhill gave the first ever opening address at the Edinburgh Fringe. I have (eventually) read his speech ... [thanks to Thom Dibdin for publishing it in The Stage](#). Andrew Eaton-Lewis has said "I get the impression that some of the nuances in Mark Ravenhill's Fringe speech are missing from the media coverage". I agree ... so read the speech for yourself.

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## Is the Fringe too big?

posted July 27th, 2013.

Signs of some sensible thoughts on the size of the Fringe, particularly comedy. [Bruce Dessau's article](#) and [Theo Bosanquet's blog](#) are both well worth a read. And the answer is ... of course it's too big. The bubble will eventually burst at some point.

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## Fringe Society elections

posted July 25th, 2013.

There were only six nominations for the six vacant positions on the Edinburgh Festival Fringe Society's Participants' Council. Therefore, they have been elected unopposed. They are Pab Roberts (Performer), Sarah-Louise Young (Performer), Richard Lloyd (Venue), Heather Young (Venue), Toby Mitchell (Producer) and Holly Payton (Producer). There are [nine nominations for the three vacant positions on the Board of Directors](#). Voting here will commence shortly.

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## "Fringe is elitist" ...

posted July 25th, 2013.

[says Pippa Bailey in a blog](#) that was written back in March. [The Scotsman has picked this up](#), no doubt as part of the time-honoured pre-festival generation of controversy. I am afraid that I found the blog a bit of a rant when I read it in the Spring, in the sense that no coherent solutions were put forward to address the perceived problems.

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## Stars, stars and more stars

posted July 24th, 2013.

The debate about the use, or should that be the abuse, of star-ratings in reviews got going in earnest during the 2012 Edinburgh festival. I have recently come across several other articles on the subject, and I have added links to them. [Here is my twopenneth on why I think that they are a necessary evil for the festival punter plus a good smattering of links to those who have different views](#).

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## Critics' picks for 2013 Edinburgh Festival

posted July 24th, 2013.

With the notable exception of The Guardian, and more recently The List, the festival preview season has been slow to get going this year. However, this week has seen significant activity. As usual, you can find links to various critics' picks [here](#). I will continue to update the links until the Fringe starts.

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## Fosters to continue sponsorsip of Edinburgh Comedy Awards

posted July 23rd, 2013.

[EdinburghGuide.com reports](#) that Fosters have agreed to continue their sponsorship of the Edinburgh Comedy Awards until 2016.

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## Jazz Festival receives Expo funding

posted July 21st, 2013.

[The Scotsman reports](#) that the Edinburgh Jazz and Blues Festival has received £155k from the Scottish Government's Expo fund. The money will be put towards its work to unite musicians from Scotland with those in other countries in a series of collaborative concerts.

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## The Scotsman revamps festival website

posted July 20th, 2013.

The Scotsman's festival website had deteriorated significantly over the last couple of years. It is therefore pleasing to hear that it has revamped the site in partnership with WOW247. The address remains the same ... <http://www.edinburgh-festivals.com>.

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## Extra festival trains

posted July 19th, 2013.

[ScotRail](#) has announced additional trains during August, principally on the Stirling, Helensburgh and Fife routes. However, there are no changes to the Glasgow service.

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## Ravenhill to give Fringe 2013 opening address

posted July 6th, 2013.

[Thom Dibdin](#) reports that playwright Mark Ravenhill is to give the first ever welcoming address to participants at Fringe Central on Friday August 2nd. *Why You Have To Be a Liar, Vagabond and Thief To Put On A Show At The Fringe* will argue that the economic crisis in 2008 changed the arts world forever and that there will be no going back to the 'old normal'.

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## Further sections of George Street to be closed during August

posted July 5th, 2013.

[The Edinburgh Evening News](#) reports that further sections of George Street will be closed to traffic during August. In addition to last year's complete closure between Hanover Street and Frederick Street, traffic will only flow eastwards on the northern side from Hanover Street, and westwards on the southern side from Frederick Street. The closed sections will be used by the Spiegel Terrace and by other pavement cafes, as well as providing more pedestrian space and on-street entertainment.

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## Amnesty to hold session on fiction and the death penalty at the Book Festival

posted July 4th, 2013.

After its successful session last year on fiction and human rights, [Amnesty International](#) has announced that it is to hold a session for teachers at this year's Edinburgh Book Festival on exploring fiction to inform the young about the death penalty.

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## Film Festival 2013 sees 10% rise in admissions

posted July 3rd, 2013.

[The Edinburgh International Film Festival](#) has announced that more than 44,000 tickets were issued this year, a 10% rise over 2012. The figure is approximately the same as the attendance back in 2010 although in 2008, the first year that the festival was moved to June, it was around 52,000.

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## Film Festival seeks further funding

posted July 1st, 2013.

The end of the film festival saw a plea in [The Scotsman](#) from [Chris Fujiwara](#), the artistic director, for further funding. The festival has not recovered from the loss of its grant from the UK Film Council back in 2010.

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## The List to launch free weekly festival magazine

posted June 26th, 2013.

[The List](#) is to launch a free weekly magazine during the festival. It will be published on July 31st, August 7th and August 14th. Over 75,000 copies will be distributed at venues, galleries, cafes, bars and other key locations.

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## BBC at the Edinburgh Festival

posted June 23rd, 2013.

[The BBC](#) has announced details of its presence at the 2013 Edinburgh Festival in August. It will again be based at Potterrow. Live shows and recordings of popular radio programmes for future transmission will take place. Free tickets are available for these shows. Details can be found [here](#). Other highlights include: a broadcast of the annual Edinburgh Comedy Gala, three festival-related Culture Shows on BBC Two, including a programme dedicated to the Traverse Theatre at 50; two festival-focused Review Shows on BBC Four; a broadcast of the Tattoo on BBC One; plus Radio 3's coverage of the International Festival.

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## Edinburgh International Book Festival programme for 2013 launched

posted June 20th, 2013.

Today's announcement of the programme for the 2013 Edinburgh International Book Festival is the final launch for the city's summer festivals. The centre of attention was arguably the plan to celebrate the life of author Iain Banks, who recently passed away. See the [pre-festival stuff](#) page for further information

on the programme, including links to articles in the media on the launch.

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### **Fringe Society elections**

posted June 17th, 2013. updated June 18th, 2013.

[Nominations to stand for election to the Board of Directors of the Edinburgh Festival Fringe Society are now open.](#) In addition, nominations are also open for six positions on the Participants' Council. All nominations must be received, in hard copy, by the Edinburgh Festival Fringe Society at 180 High Street by 12:00 on Friday 19 July. Ballot papers will be sent out to members on or around Monday 22 July.

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### **Artistic Director of EIF knighted**

posted June 16th, 2013.

Jonathan Mills, the Artistic Director of the Edinburgh International Festival since 2006, [has been knighted in the Queen's Birthday Honours list.](#)

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### **Forest Fringe 2013 programme announced**

posted June 10th, 2013.

Forest Fringe has announced details of its programme for the 2013 festival which will run from August 16th to the 25th. It will be based at Out of the Blue Drill Hall in Leith this year. See the [pre-festival stuff page](#) for further information.

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### **Pip Utton retires as Fringe Society's Vice-Chairman**

posted June 1st, 2013.

Pip Utton has been performing one-man shows on the Fringe for over 20 years, and he has also spent 18 years on the Fringe Society's board, including filling the role of Vice-Chairman for the last 5 years. His tenure included overseeing the recent changes to the Fringe's constitution. He announced yesterday that he is relinquishing the vice-chair role. Many thanks Pip for all your efforts in helping to ensure that the Fringe is in good health, particularly after the troublesome period in 2008. [Here is a nice article in stv.tv.](#)

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### **Edinburgh Fringe programme for 2013 officially launched**

posted May 30th, 2013.

Tickets have been on sale for an ever-increasing number of shows since January. A recent search indicated that there were 1,845 shows on the Fringe website before today's "official" launch of the 2013 festival. See the [pre-festival stuff page](#) for further information, including lots of statistics, and links to articles on the launch.

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### **Edinburgh Film Festival programme for 2013 announced**

posted May 29th, 2013.

After periodic pre-announcements the Edinburgh International Film Festival has finally announced the full programme for 2013. See the [pre-festival stuff page](#) for further information, including links to articles on the launch.

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### **Edinburgh Jazz & Blues Festival programme for 2013 launched**

posted May 21st, 2013.

The Edinburgh Jazz & Blues Festival launched its programme for the 2013 festival today. Information from the press release, links to the festival web site and initial articles on the programme can all be found on the [pre-festival stuff page](#).

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### **Made in Scotland Showcase 2013 announced**

posted May 15th, 2013.

The list of Fringe shows which constitute the [Made in Scotland Showcase for 2013 has been announced.](#) Made in Scotland is a curated showcase of some of the best dance, theatre and music productions from Scotland at the Fringe. It was originally set up to raise the international profile of Scottish dance and theatre, with music being added this year. It is a joint initiative between the Edinburgh Festival Fringe Society, Creative Scotland and the Federation of Scottish Theatre - supported by the Scottish Government's Edinburgh Festivals Expo Fund.

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### **Fringe defends early ticket sales**

posted May 10th, 2013.

[The Scotsman estimates that half the shows in this year's Fringe are already on sale](#) although the official launch is not until May 30th. The Fringe Society claims that this is in response to audience demand and requests from show producers and promoters. I believe the latter, particularly those who are in danger of losing money on shows in large venues. However, I have not spoken to any punter who is in favour of this slightly chaotic approach. Perhaps I just mix with the wrong sort of punter?

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## Fringe Society warning on venue licence fees

posted May 4th, 2013.

[The Scotsman reports](#) that the Fringe Society has warned the City Council that entertainment licence fees for venues are the highest in the UK with the attendant danger that producers may take shows elsewhere.

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## Topside - a new Fringe venue

posted May 3rd, 2013.

There is now a 200-seater performing space within the new rehearsal complex behind the Edinburgh Festival theatre. Topside, as it will be known at festival time, will be used as a Fringe venue this year under the Underbelly banner. [See the article in The Stage.](#)

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## Fountain Brewery to be used as a Fringe venue

posted April 26th, 2013.

[The Scotsman reports](#) that the site of the former Fountain Brewery in Fountainbridge will be used as a venue in August to stage [NoFit State Circus's production of Bianco](#) which is one of the shows in the [British Council's Edinburgh Showcase 2013](#).

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## British Council's Edinburgh Showcase 2013 announced

posted April 24th, 2013.

The Edinburgh Showcase is a biennial platform of contemporary UK drama and dance performance which is selected by the British Council for the Edinburgh Fringe. [The 2013 showcase has been announced.](#) An article on the announcement can be found in [The Guardian](#).

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## Deuchars IPA renews Fringe sponsorship

posted April 24th, 2013.

[It has been announced](#) that Caledonian Brewery, in the guise of its Deuchars IPA product, is to renew its sponsorship of the Fringe for a further three years. They provide Fringe venue boards and maps.

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## Edinburgh Magic Festival programme for 2013 launched

posted April 23rd, 2013.

The Edinburgh Magic Festival launched its programme for the 2013 festival today. Details of the press release, links to the festival web site and initial articles on the programme can all be found on the [pre-festival stuff page](#).

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## EIF appoints Director Designate

posted April 23rd, 2013.

The Edinburgh International Festival has [announced the appointment of Fergus Linehan as Director Designate](#). He will assume a part-time role on May 1st, 2013, eventually taking over the Director and Chief Executive role from Jonathan Mills on October 1st, 2014. He has been given a 5 year contract, taking him up to 2019. Articles can be found in various places, including [BBC News](#), [Joyce McMillan in The Scotsman](#) and [Phil Miller in The Herald](#).

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## Film Festival pre-announcements

posted April 15th, 2013.

The Edinburgh Film Festival continues to drip-feed items from the 2013 programme. [The latest crop](#) announces that the closing film will be NOT ANOTHER HAPPY ENDING and that there will be a retrospective of director Richard Fleischer. [A retrospective of Jean Grémillon](#) was previously announced back in February.

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## New home for Forest Fringe

posted April 6th, 2013.

[Forest Fringe has a new home in Edinburgh](#). The venue is the Out of the Blue Drill Hall, off Leith walk. Forest Fringe will be there with a full programme from August 16th to the 25th this year.

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## Edinburgh Art Festival programme for 2013 unveiled

posted April 4th, 2013.

The Edinburgh Art Festival unveiled its programme for the 2013 festival yesterday. Links to the festival web site and initial articles on the programme can be found on the [pre-festival stuff page](#).

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## Vision for cultural venues

posted April 1st, 2013.

Edinburgh City Council has produced a report on the potential development of cultural venues in the

future. This followed on from a meeting last November which was attended by venue managers, promoters and leaders of Edinburgh's cultural institutions. It should be noted that this is all a bit "blue sky thinking" - there are no firm plans at the moment. A summary of some of the possible options can be found in [this article in The Scotsman](#).

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## Film Festival funding

posted March 29th, 2013.

The Edinburgh Film Festival has [announced a grant of £110k from the Scottish Government's Expo Fund](#). This is part of a £250k funding package that also includes support from Creative Scotland, Creative Skillset and Creative England.

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## History of the Traverse Theatre

posted March 28th, 2013.

It appears that Joyce McMillan's excellent programme on [the history of the Traverse Theatre](#) on Radio 3 is to remain available on the BBC iPlayer for the foreseeable future. It is well worth a listen.

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## Spiegeltent on George Street

posted March 20th, 2013.

[The proposal to close part of George Street](#) during the festival again this year [has been given the green light](#) by Edinburgh Council. Despite the opposition of local traders permission has been given for the Spiegeltent and an outdoor bar to be sited in the middle of the street adjacent to the Assembly Rooms.

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## EIF 2013 programme launched

posted March 12th, 2013.

The Edinburgh International Festival launched the programme for the 2013 festival this morning. Links to the programme brochure, reports of the launch and early feedback on the programme from the critics can be found on the [pre-festival stuff page](#).

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## Virgin Money sponsorship of fireworks concert

posted March 10th, 2013.

[The Scotsman reports](#) that Virgin Money has agreed to extend its sponsorship of the Edinburgh International Festival's fireworks concert for a further two years. The concert has been bringing the festival to a close since 1982.

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## Council plans improvements to Royal Mile

posted February 22nd, 2013.

Edinburgh City Council planners have produced a variety of recommendations to improve the Royal Mile for residents and visitors alike. The council will consult with all interested parties before firming up the proposals. Articles can be found in [The Edinburgh Reporter](#) and [The Scotsman](#).

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## Book Festival sponsorship deal with Baillie Gifford

posted February 21st, 2013.

The Edinburgh International Book Festival [has announced](#) a three year sponsorship deal with investment managers Baillie Gifford. The Edinburgh-based partnership has been a supporter of the festival since 2001 but will now become the lead sponsor.

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## Annual review of Book Festival 2012 available

posted February 20th, 2013.

[The annual review of the Edinburgh International Book Festival 2012](#) can be downloaded from its website. It includes lots of statistics, including the total number of visitors which stood at 225,000.

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## McEwan Hall returns as Fringe venue

posted February 20th, 2013.

[The Scotsman reports](#) that the McEwan Hall will be used as a Fringe venue this year by Underbelly. It was last used in 2010 but has been unavailable since due to refurbishments.

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## Film Festival 2013 pre-announcement

posted February 13th, 2013.

The Edinburgh International Film Festival [has announced](#) that there will be a retrospective of Jean Grémillon during the 2013 festival. In addition, the Audience Award will be revived after a two year absence. The full festival programme will not be unveiled until May 29th, 2013.

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## Annual review of Fringe 2012 available

posted February 8th, 2013.

[The Fringe Society's Annual Review of 2012](#) can be downloaded from its website. It includes draft financial figures which show income for the year of circa. £3.4m against expenditure of £3.26m.

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## London showings for Fringe 2012 hits

posted February 8th, 2013.

Two of the best theatre shows from Fringe 2012 will be appearing in London over the forthcoming months. [Mies Julie](#) will be on at the Riverside Studios in Hammersmith (March 7 - May 19th) while [Bullet Catch](#) can be seen at the National Theatre (May 21 - June 1st). Both are well worth seeing.

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## News for would-be Fringe 2013 performers

posted January 22nd, 2013.

Venues typically have application packs available now for would-be Fringe 2013 performers. If you have not performed at the Fringe before then you might also like to listen to [the podcasts from Mark Fisher's show last August](#) where established performers, directors, producers, critics, the Fringe Society etc talked about their Fringe experiences. They are well worth listening to ... and as I have said before Mark's book [The Edinburgh Fringe Survival Guide: How to Make Your Show a Success](#) is well worth reading.

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## Fringe Society to reduce commission on ticket sales

posted January 16th, 2013.

[The Stage reports](#) that the Fringe Society is to reduce the commission that it charges companies and producers for tickets that it sells through its box office system from 6% to 4% from this summer.

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## 2013 Made in Scotland Showcase funding to include music

posted January 15th, 2013.

The Scottish government funded [Made in Scotland showcase is to include music shows for the first time in 2013](#). The deadline for applications from Scottish artists / companies seeking funding for their Fringe shows must be received by Friday February 15th, 2013.

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## Funding for National Theatre of Scotland

posted January 15th, 2013.

The Scottish government is to provide up to £2m to NTS towards its [proposed £5,5m project to bring staff and facilities under one roof](#). This does not include the provision of a performing space.

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## 2013 Edinburgh Art Festival submissions

posted January 9th, 2013.

Anybody who wishes to exhibit at the 2013 Edinburgh Art Festival, artists, curators et cetera, [can apply now](#). The closing date for submissions is February 11th, 2013.

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## Early New Year Snippets

posted January 9th, 2013.

Forest Fringe will be based at Out of the Blue in Leith this year ... IdeasTap (in collaboration with Underbelly and its performing arts partners which include Roundhouse, High Tide and The Bush Theatre) is asking for [submissions from performers for the 2013 Fringe](#). A total of £25k in cash funding is available to successful applicants ... [the Free Edinburgh Fringe Festival \(Laughing Horse\)](#) is accepting applications from performers for the 2013 festival.

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## Happy New Year

posted January 1st, 2013.

... to all festival punters. Let us hope that the 2013 festivals are at least as good as those in 2012. Happy 50th anniversary to the Traverse. Some early 2013 news ... [the Fringe has finalised dates for its roadshows and various deadline registration dates for shows](#) ... and [the Fruitmarket Gallery](#) will have an exhibition of the work of Mexican artist Gabriel Orozco at festival time.

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## The Traverse 50 announced

posted December 20th, 2012.

[The Traverse has announced the results of the competition to find 50 writers](#) who will work with the company over the coming year to help celebrate its 50th anniversary. [It has also announced its Spring season and some of the events over the full year](#).

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## Tiffany leaves NTS

posted December 20th, 2012.

[The List reports](#) that John Tiffany, associate director of the National Theatre of Scotland, is to step down to allow him to take up other directing opportunities. He directed the successful Black Watch production during his tenure. This news follows on from the imminent departure of artistic director, Vicky Featherstone.

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## Creative Scotland says sorry

posted December 9th, 2012.

In the wake of the CEO's resignation (see news item below) and its two day conference in Pitlochry, Creative Scotland has issued a mea culpa statement to the arts community and has promised change where artists will come first. The full text of the statement can be found [here](#). The Stage, among others, [reported the news](#). [The Herald comments](#). It remains to be seen if Andrew Dixon's departure is the only one that is acceptable.

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## CEO of Creative Scotland resigns

posted December 4th, 2012.

[The Scotsman reports](#) that the pressure which has been brought to bear on Creative Scotland by the arts community in recent months has led to the inevitable resignation of its CEO, Andrew Dixon. Relations had started to deteriorate when Creative Scotland changed the funding rules for medium-sized organisations earlier in the year. The struggle was put on a formal footing when 100 people in the Scottish arts world put their signatures to [a letter of complaint to Creative Scotland](#). Numerous articles, blogs and incessant tweeting have ultimately led to Dixon's resignation. It remains to be seen what other changes in personnel and processes may follow.

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## News for Fringe 2013 performers

posted December 4th, 2012.

The Edinburgh Festival Fringe has announced the dates of its international roadshows: January 12th in New York; and March 7th in Adelaide. UK roadshows will be held in Dublin, Cardiff, Manchester, London and Edinburgh from late January to the end of February. Dates will be announced shortly. Show registrations for Fringe 2013 will commence at the beginning of January. Deadline dates include: March 20th for reduced fee registration; and April 10th for inclusion in the printed programme brochure. All details can be found [here](#).

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## New Chairman for Film Festival

posted November 28th, 2012.

[The Scotsman reports](#) that Bob Last, producer of The Illusionist, has been appointed as chairman of the Edinburgh International Film Festival. He succeeds Leslie Hills who had been in the role for the last two years.

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## New EIF Operations Director

posted November 28th, 2012.

[The Stage reports](#) that independent producer Bob Luxford has been appointed as the new planning and operations director at the Edinburgh International Festival. He will take up his post in February 2013. He succeeds Alison Reach who has been in the post since 2007.

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## Previously ... Scotland's History Festival

posted November 13th, 2012.

[Previously ... Scotland's History Festival](#) takes place in Edinburgh this month (November 13th-30th). 200+ events will take place over 18 days across the city. This will be the second year for this festival which receives no public funding. [Tom Devine writes this interesting article](#) by way of a preview.

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## Progress report on refurbished Assembly Rooms

posted November 10th, 2012.

[The Edinburgh Evening News reports](#) on how the refurbished Assembly Rooms is getting on. It has so far attracted 200K+ visitors since it reopened in July. This includes 98,000 festival punters and 60,000 diners at Jamie Oliver's restaurant.

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## Meeting to discuss Edinburgh venues

posted October 26th, 2012.

[The Scotsman reports](#) that venue managers, promoters and leaders of Edinburgh's main cultural institutions are being invited to a one day meeting next month to discuss how the city is going to provide sufficient performing spaces to accommodate the expected growth in festivals and year-round events.

Ideas for an indoor concert arena, a medium-sized classical concert hall, a film festival complex and contemporary art galleries and museums will be among the discussions at the meeting which is being organised by the city council.

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## New Artistic Director for National Theatre of Scotland

posted October 25th, 2012.

[Michael Billington in The Guardian](#), among others, brings news that Laurie Sansom is to succeed Vicky Featherstone as Artistic Director of the National Theatre of Scotland.

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## Edinburgh International Festival seeks new Artistic Director

posted October 24th, 2012.

Jonathan Mills will leave the EIF in 2014 after 8 years in the role of Artistic Director. [stv.tv](#), among others, reports that the EIF is commencing the search for his eventual replacement. Applications must be received by mid-January 2013 and the appointment of a director designate is planned for the middle of the year.

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## Edinburgh International Festival revises 2012 figures downwards

posted October 20th, 2012.

[The Scotsman reports](#) that the EIF has reduced its original figures for the 2012 festival. Tickets issued showed a 4% increase over 2011 rather than the 11% that was initially reported. Similarly, ticket revenue was up 7.9% and not 9%.

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## Revamp of cultural venues

posted October 19th, 2012.

"Museums and galleries in the heart of Edinburgh are to be overhauled as part of a blueprint to raise the profile of the Capital's world city of literature status" [reports The Edinburgh Evening News](#). Among the changes mentioned are: The Old City Observatory on Calton Hill will house The Collective Gallery which is moving from its longstanding Cockburn Street base; and a new permanent display area in The City Art Centre in Market Street for works that are currently held in storage.

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## Bongo Club move to Cowgate space

posted October 18th, 2012.

[The Edinburgh Reporter writes](#) that the Bongo Club, which is being ejected from its Holyrood Road home, has been granted a temporary licence from January 2013 until June 2014 to use the space underneath the Central Library which the Underbelly uses at festival time (and will continue to use). This presumably means that the Bongo Club will not be able to act as a festival venue in 2013?

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## Reprise of 2012 festival attendance figures

posted October 18th, 2012.

[The Scotsman summarises the figures from the council's annual audit of the summer festivals](#). The headline claims 4 million attended. I estimate that I am at least 32 of them!

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## Never too early to order your 2013 Fringe programme

posted October 11th, 2012.

I see that you can [pre-order your 2013 Fringe programme](#) already ... which I have done before I forget to do it.

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## Witter - tell us about revised running times

posted October 7th, 2012.

[Another of my occasional witters](#). Praise for the Traverse who gave us the actual running times of shows this year. One for the Fringe's suggestion box ... please tell punters of all those shows whose actual running times differ appreciably from the advertised times. We would be very grateful.

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## Queen's Hall fails in latest funding bid

posted October 3rd, 2012.

[The Scotsman reports](#) that the Queen's Hall's latest funding application to help finance its proposed refurbishment project has been turned down by Creative Scotland.

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## Website change

posted September 23rd, 2012.

The "Future Threats" page is now called "Witterings". It will continue to include the piece on possible future threats to the festival but it will also contain other occasional pieces. The first is my views on the current debate about the use of star-ratings in reviews.

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## Traverse Fifty

posted September 6th, 2012. updated September 7th, 2012.

2013 will mark the 50th anniversary of the Traverse Theatre. In celebration [the Traverse is offering 50 emerging writers the chance of a year-long attachment with the theatre](#). The selected writers will be invited to take part in a series of tailor-made writing events throughout 2013, including panel discussions, workshops and one-on-one dramaturgy. Plays by The Traverse Fifty will be performed on its stages. The attachment will culminate in a New Writing Festival featuring some of the work they have developed throughout the year. At the end of the process seed commissions will be offered to three of them. Applications can be made between Friday September 7th, 2012 and the deadline which will be noon on November 14th, 2012.

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## EIF 2012 punter figures & 2013 dates

posted September 3rd, 2012. updated September 6th, 2012.

The Edinburgh International Festival has reported that ticket sales this year were up by 11% and ticket revenue by 9% at £2.83m when compared with 2011. Further information can be found [in this article in The Stage](#). I have made a first stab at festival dates for 2013 on the home page. Details will be updated as and when further information becomes available.

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## A day in the life of Jonathan Mills

posted September 1st, 2012.

Claire Black from The Scotsman spends a day following Jonathan Mills, artistic director of the Edinburgh International Festival. [The article](#) makes for an interesting read.

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## 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.

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## 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.

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## 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.

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## 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.

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## 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.

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## 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.

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## 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.

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## 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](#).

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## 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.

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## 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.

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## 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.

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## 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.

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## 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.

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## 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.

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## 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.

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## 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.

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## 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.

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## 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.



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

## Pre-Festival Stuff for 2013

2010 [2011](#) | [2012](#)

This page is split into two halves. The top section covers the launch of each festival programme for 2013 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

It is Tuesday March 12th 2013 and it is cold, there is a biting wind with snow falling in various parts of the UK as winter stubbornly refuses to relax its grip. However, an inner warmth is felt by punters today as the 2013 programme for the Edinburgh International Festival is launched, heralding the start of the festival year for many.

The programme brochure can be [viewed online](#) or [downloaded in pdf format](#). The theme this year is technology and the arts. The use of themes is not universally welcomed among the EIF cognoscenti, as can be seen in [this article by Andrew Eaton-Lewis in The Scotsman](#).

Articles on the highlights of the programme can be found in [The Scotsman](#), [The List](#), [The Guardian](#), [The Stage](#) and [The Herald](#).

Early reactions from the critics can be found in [The Scotsman](#).

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**

I consider that both the Drama and Dance programmes are somewhat disappointing after the relative heights that were achieved in 2012. That said ... the following are on my current list of possibles: Grid Iron's Leaving Planet Earth and Beckett at the Festival (Drama); plus Scottish Ballet's Dance Odysseys and L.A. Dance Project (Dance). The EIF unfortunately insists on a Visual Arts programme again this year. Leonardo da Vinci: [The Mechanics of Man](#) at the Queen's Gallery (Palace of Holyroodhouse) must be a strong possibility for anybody who has not had a chance to see the exhibition at the Queen's Gallery (Buckingham Palace).

### **Susan's initial thoughts**

I persuaded my American friend Susan, who has been coming to the festival with her husband for over 30 years, to let me have her thoughts once again.

"I am afraid my thoughts on the 2013 EIF festival programme sound like a broken record. Interestingly, the arts section of The Washington Post yesterday was devoted to essays on technology and the arts. I very much have learned to appreciate the application of technology to the arts, especially to the visual ones. Interestingly the essay on the relationship with music wisely stated that technology at its best has been successfully used to reach out to and creatively communicate with new and existing audiences. In fact, one of the Canadian composers is repeating an exercise he did in Toronto at the Edinburgh Festival. However, I am wondering if the subject is worthy of a theme for the EIF, especially one which every year seems less devoted to maintaining or creating new audiences in the vocal arts and classical music in general. I would have hoped that the EIF would have acted more upon its own theme by demonstrating how using new technology has brought new and younger audiences to classical music and opera. Where are the young new artists at the EIF? Where are the exciting new artists from the el systema system as it has spread across nations? I still have problems also with calling the EIF an international festival anymore. Yes, there are performers from many nations represented at the EIF but there no longer is an international audience which has turned to other festivals to hear new and innovative ways to present classical music and the vocal arts. I still ask myself what are the reasons the EIF has changed so much from how it was before the stewardship of Jonathan Mills? Is it just his vision that is different? Is it pressure from those who fund the Festival and who seem to believe classical music is not democratic, despite the growth of el systemas all over the world? Is it that funding is so tight for the EIF and music groups in general that it is becoming impossible to have full blown festivals anymore (but then why are there even more excellent ones every year?) In truth, I think Jonathan Mills could have done a greater service focusing on a theme of the state of international festivals than technology and the arts, as the latter topic is hardly novel....."

"While I am saddened that this year there will hardly be any opera and none of the wonderful vocal arts performances of past years at Greyfriar's, there is much to be excited about. If I could attend the Festival the entire time, I would definitely go see Alexander Nevsky, the Bavarian Radio Symphony, Mitsuko Uchida, Les Musiciens du Louvre, the Chamber Orchestra of Europe, the Russian National Orchestra, the Royal Concertgebouw, the Tonhalle and The Sixteen. Also on my list for Queen's Hall would be Christian Gerhaher, Chiarusco Quartet, Nocolai Langansky, Andrea Haebinger, Christophe Rousset, Veronique Gens, Arditi, Zuckerman, Peirre-Laurent Aimard, and Quatour Ebene. And, of course, I would attend all the opera

performances. As I understand these events are selling very well, I can only hope the powers that be at the EIF are taking note and appreciating that musical and vocal art performances, with or without technology as a focus, are being greeted with enthusiasm and continue to be much in demand no matter the age of the audience."

## Edinburgh Fringe Festival

The 2013 programme was "officially" launched on Thursday May 30th, 2013. Tickets for a handful of shows were available as far back as January with the numbers increasing over time, resulting in 1,845 shows being on sale before the official launch. The super-venues were the ones who had pressed for this more relaxed system and they have been the ones who have made the most use of it. Venues such as the [Traverse](#) and [Summerhall](#) have kept by the old rules of not announcing their programmes until the official launch (the links take you to their announcements). [The Traverse also has an online brochure plus a pdf version that can be downloaded.](#)

No Fringe launch would be complete without a liberal ladling of statistics. The inexorable rise in the total number of shows continues. There are 2,871 this year, compared to 2,695 last year ... yet another world record. There will be an estimated 24,107 performers representing 41 countries. The mix across genres has changed slightly with comedy down from 36% of the overall programme last year to 33% this year; theatre up a smidge from 28% to 29%; and there are 713 registered free shows, down around 100 on 2012. Finally, there are 6 less venues in 2013. [Further details can be found on the Fringe Society's comprehensive launch document.](#)

The first (pre-written) article on the launch seemed to appear in [The Scotsman](#). This was followed later in the day by other media outlets, including [The Stage](#), [WhatsonStage](#), [The Guardian](#) and [BBC News](#). A few days later Andrew Eaton-Lewis in [The Scotsman](#) gave [his first impressions](#).

My programme brochure arrived in the post just after noon on launch day. It is 392 pages and weighs in at 605g. Arrange to get your copy now if you have not already ordered one.

As it takes everybody, critics and punters alike, time to get their heads round the full programme it may be a week or two before any recommendations appear. When they do they will appear in the [picks and previews section](#) at the bottom of this page. One very welcome piece of news for me and other Aurora Nova fans is that it has risen from the ashes and is acting as a production company. [Aurora Nova Productions](#) is behind seven shows on this year's Fringe.

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 initial thoughts**

I have completed my first look through the Fringe programme brochure and associated information. Can you believe it ... there is not a single production of *Antigone* this year?!

A browse through the [Traverse Theatre's online brochure](#) reveals a strong line-up. David Harrower's *Ciara* and David Greig's *The Events* are particular attractions while, as a supporter of *The Gate* in Notting Hill, *Grounded* must also be on my list ... not to mention *Quietly* (Abbey Theatre). In fact, the majority of the programme will find its way onto my shortlist.

At this early stage (June) I am simply trying to establish a solid foundation for my visit, concentrating mainly on curated shows (whether that is with a large or a small c). More speculative choices will come in August when I have more information to work with. Some places where I have been looking for inspiration include: [Northern Stage at St. Stephens](#), the [British Council Showcase](#), the [Made in Scotland Showcase](#), [Assembly](#) which has another South African season after last year's success, the [IdeasTap Underbelly award](#) and the [Summerhall](#) programme. Note that [EdinburghGuide.com](#) has a [comprehensive article on the Summerhall programme](#).

*Nirbhaya* is getting lots of exposure, in part due to the subject matter - it is based on the recent events in Delhi - and in part because Yael Farber, the director of last year's hit show *Mies Julie*, is directing. *Making News* is also getting reasonable publicity. This is a satire on how the BBC handles news like the Savile affair. The cast is comprised of comedians including Phil Jupitus. Other items on my initial drama

shortlist include Chalk Farm (ThickSkin), There Has Possibly Been an Incident (Royal Exchange) and Solomon and Marion (with Janet Suzman).

In Dance and Physical Theatre my initial shortlist includes Second Coming, HeLa, Missing, Ménage à Trois and Leo.

I am disappointed that there is not much poetry this year. However, I enjoyed Luke Wright two years ago and plan to see him again this year.

Finally, I have no particular thoughts on comedy at the moment although I will give Reginald D. Hunter a whirl, not having seen him for 3 or 4 years.

Obviously there is much more to do as we get closer to the festival ... but that is enough to be going on with. Good luck with your own trawling and decision making.

## Edinburgh International Book Festival

The programme for the 2013 Book Festival was launched on Thursday June 20th, 2013. The full launch document can be found at [the beginning of the press pack](#) while [the programme brochure can be downloaded](#) from the Book Festival website home page.

The theme is "30 years back, 30 forward". The first Edinburgh Book Festival was held back in 1983. The programme will include a number of debates in which leading thinkers will put forward their ideas for an improved life 30 years from now in the areas such as the environment, defence, mental health and the arts.

There will be a politician-free look at the independence debate where leading Scottish journalists will identify the key questions that Scots need to consider before casting their votes.

The programme consists of over 700 events with many of the great and the good from the world of books. A selection of the authors who will be present can be found in the various articles on the launch, viz. in [The Guardian](#), [The Scotsman](#), [stv.tv](#) and [BBC News](#).

The closing Sunday will feature an event in which crime novelist Ian Rankin and two more of Iain Banks' close friends, Val McDermid and Ken MacLeod, will discuss the work of the author who recently passed away.

## Edinburgh International Film Festival

The 2013 programme was launched on Wednesday May 29th, 2013. A [preview reel](#) of the programme can be viewed on the festival's website. There is an [online version of the brochure](#), as well as the normal printed version.

This is the 67th Edinburgh Film Festival and it will showcase 146 features from 53 countries, including 14 World premieres, 6 International premieres and 10 European premieres. Festival strands include "American Dreams" (American independent cinema), "New Realities" (documentary making) and "Not Another Teen Movie" (by 15-19 year-olds for their peers). Various items had been pre-announced, including Breathe In (opening night), Not Another Happy Ending (closing gala) and retrospectives of Richard Fleischer and Jean Grémillon.

Articles on the programme launch can be found in various places, including [Screen International](#), [The Scotsman](#), [The List](#), [EdinburghGuide.com](#) and [BBC News](#).

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](#).

## Edinburgh Art Festival

The 2013 programme was unveiled on Wednesday April 3rd, 2013.

Here are a few selected highlights from the programme. Sarah Kenchington will use Trinity Apse Kirk for

her [Wind Pipes for Edinburgh](#) exhibition which will feature 100 decommissioned organ pipes. [The Man Ray Portraits](#) exhibition, currently in London, will move to the Scottish National Portrait Gallery in June. An exhibition on [Mary, Queen of Scots](#) can be seen at the National Museum of Scotland while a major showcase of the Mexican artist, [Gabriel Orozco](#), will be on at the Fruitmarket Gallery. Finally, two items which seem to have appealed to the twitterati ... [Flags for Edinburgh](#) - Artist Peter Liversidge has invited anyone in Edinburgh with a flag pole to fly a white flag which bears the text: HELLO ... and [The Complaints Choir of Edinburgh](#) - Composers Daniel Padden and Peter Nicolson invite the people of Edinburgh to "come together and sing their complaints out loud." Further details of the 10 publicly sited works, known collectively as Parley, can be found in [this newsletter](#) from the Art Festival.

Initial articles on the programme can be found in [ArtLyst](#) (the most comprehensive), [The Scotsman](#), [wow247](#) and [Culture 24](#).

Note - mention should be made of the Leonardo da Vinci exhibition [The Mechanics of Man](#) at the Queen's Gallery (Palace of Holyroodhouse) which is part of the EIF Festival.

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](#).

## Edinburgh Jazz & Blues Festival

The 2013 programme was launched on Tuesday May 21st, 2013. Jools Holland, Tia Fuller, Champion Fulton and the Three B's are among the names who will be appearing at the festival which will consist of 146 concerts spread over the 10 days. Mardi Gras will take place on Saturday July 20th and the festival carnival will be on Sunday July 21st. The Tron Kirk will act as the festival hub this year. Full details of the programme can be found on the [Edinburgh Jazz & Blues website](#).

Articles on the launch can be found in [The Scotsman](#), [BBC News](#), [stv.tv](#) and the [Edinburgh Reporter](#).

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](#).

## Forest Fringe

[Forest Fringe announced details of the programme for its 2013 Edinburgh presence](#) on Monday June 10th, 2013. It will run from August 16th to the 25th, and it will be based at Out of the Blue Drill Hall in Leith this year, its first home since the Forest Cafe became unavailable at the end of 2011. In a packed programme Tim Crouch and Andy Smith will perform what happens to the hope at the end of the evening, a show which will premiere at The Almeida in July, and there is a day-long collaboration with Northern Stage called Make. Do. and Mend. Forest Fringe expresses its gratitude for the generous support of the Jerwood Charitable Foundation and the University of Chichester.

## Edinburgh Magic Festival

The 2013 programme was launched on April 23rd, 2013. Full details can be found on the [Magic Festival website](#). The launch was reported in [stv-tv](#) and the [Edinburgh Reporter](#). The press release follows ...



As the fourth **EDINBURGH INTERNATIONAL MAGIC FESTIVAL** casts its spell across the Capital, from 28 June - 5 July 2013, audiences are invited to immerse themselves in the surreal magical world between fact and fiction.

Breath-taking illusions and awe inspiring magic from performers across Europe and as far afield as Australia will once again take you to the fun fringes of reality. Classic meets close-up, mindreading defies illusion, cabaret clashes with comedy and levitation renders the impossible possible.

The Magic and Variety Gala Show transforms the beautiful Royal Lyceum Theatre into world of unreality. Compered by **THE COLOUR HAM**, the finest award winning magicians from around the world are joined by a dragon, a dule of doves and the world's first magic performing Chihuahua! The Great Lafayette Award makes its third appearance; this year's recipient is anyone's guess in what bodes to be a superb evening of contemporary, cutting edge magic.

Speaking ahead of the launch MagicFest Artistic Director, Kevin McMahon said: "The Gala Opening is one of the highlights of MagicFest and I'm really looking forward to welcoming the best, progressive home-grown and international performers here to Edinburgh. Most of the acts are making their Scottish debut."

Portuguese duo, **TA NA MANGA**, open the Gala with their multi-awarding winning act; integrating theatre and magic, music and comedy. Frenchman **JEROME HELFENSTEIN**'s shadow act is filled with subdued, refined, poetic beauty; an emotive journey to new destinations. Spain's stylish showman and master manipulator, **CHARLIE MAG** presents his award winning act with live doves making them appear as if from thin air. Imagine Jack Dee in a dragon suit, performing jaw dropping magic, with a cute sidekick and you have **PIFF THE MAGIC DRAGON** and Mr Piffles the Chihuahua! International street performer and winner of last year's 'War of the Wizards', Aussie **TONY ROBERTS**, makes his MagicFest debut performing his straight jacket escape. Last, but by no means least, are dashing duo of deception and plucky Victorian prestidigitators **MORGAN & WEST** who travel through time to complete the bill. Once again you can enjoy the Gala afternoon preview show for just £10.

No MagicFest would be complete without its annual intake of budding wizards and wizardesses. **MAGIC SCHOOL** (aged 7-10) wizardry workshops have attracted pupils from as far afield as Norway, France and across the UK, all keen to learn, create and perform their own magic. Enrol now for the brand new 2.5 hour workshops or 5-day course with fun show for parents. **STREET MAGIC MASTERCLASS** offers 11-14 years olds the chance to learn some mind-blowing techniques and the secrets behind sleight-of-hand from magic masters **FRITZ ALKEMADE** from the Netherlands and **LUKE EATON** from the UK.

MagicFest are delighted to bring one of the most polished and intriguing mind readers to Capital; **LUKE JERMAY**. Having spent the last 3 years headlining the Las Vegas Strip, Luke was the creative consultant to Derren Brown and the man credited with inspiring CBS' multi-awarding winning show 'The Mentalist'.

An adventurous evening out, a delicious three course meal and an immersive magical show are on the **MAGIC DINNER** menu, once again at the lavish Royal Scots Club in Edinburgh. Wonderland characters bring everyday objects to life, help to find your muchness and promise at least six impossible things before dessert!

Enter the **THE SECRET ROOM** at Lauriston Castle and travel back in time to a world of clandestine laboratories and hidden passages. The finest Scottish magicians animate the castle's mysterious past with stories, performances and illusions related to the history of Lauriston and her intriguing owners.

Are you ready to be conned? The master of scams, **PAUL WILSON**, is back with one of the most immersive, engaging and personal ways to experience magic. Enter the set of BBC's Real Hustle and prepare to blown away by one of the world's most respected performers of close-up, sleight-of-hand magic.

Returning to Edinburgh after 3 years absence, pioneer of the alternative magic scene, **ALI COOK**, brings the WOW factor with his big illusions and beautiful girls. Star of Penn & Teller: Fool Us, Dirty Tricks, Monkey Magic, Psychic Secrets Revealed with Derren Brown and Jerry Sadowitz's Jerry@Trick sketch show, Ali's hugely impressive show is a spectacle to behold.

Kevin added: "For our fourth year we're really happy to increase access to MagicFest with a series of free events in the line-up. We've also launched a Patron's Programme this year allowing magic lovers to get even closer to the festival without revealing all the secrets!"

Immerse yourself in the surreal magical world between fact and fiction and have fun at the fourth Edinburgh International Magic Festival from the 28 June – 5 July.

## Picks and Previews for 2013

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

Date posted	Item Details
March 12th 2013	<a href="#">Initial reaction on the EIF programme from The Scotsman's critics</a>
June 1st 2013	<a href="#">Initial "10 must-see Fringe shows" from The Scotsman</a>
June 7th 2013	<a href="#">Comprehensive set of Fringe top tips from Lyn Gardner in The Guardian</a>
June 11th 2013	<a href="#">The List - 5 reasons to see films in the Richard Fleischer retrospective at EIFF 2013</a>
June 13th 2013	<a href="#">Film Festival Preview by Alistair Harkness in The Scotsman</a>
June 17th 2013	<a href="#">Preview of Man Ray exhibition at the Scottish National Portrait Gallery in The Scotsman</a>
June 19th 2013	<a href="#">Top 10 to see at the Film Festival in stv.tv</a>
June 24th 2013	<a href="#">Preview of Man Ray exhibition at the Scottish National Portrait Gallery in Art Daily</a>
June 24th 2013	<a href="#">Preview of Mary, Queen of Scots exhibition at the National Museum in The Scotsman</a>
July 16th 2013	<a href="#">The Guardian critics' picks for the Edinburgh Festival</a>
July 17th 2013	<a href="#">Dance and Physical Theatre recommendations from Katie Columbus in The Stage</a>
July 17th 2013	<a href="#">Cross The Tracks strand of the Edinburgh Jazz &amp; Blues Festival</a>
July 17th 2013	<a href="#">Top ten comedy shows on The Fringe in The Scotsman</a>
July 17th 2013	<a href="#">Article by Mark Fisher in The List on Fringe shows about prominent women in Eastern Europe</a>
July 21st 2013	<a href="#">20 best shows across the Edinburgh Festival in The List</a>
July 21st 2013	I tend not to provide links to previews of individual shows. The best place to find them this year is <a href="#">The List</a> .
July 22nd 2013	<a href="#">Edinburgh Festivals: 50 must-see events in The Scotsman</a>
July 22nd 2013	<a href="#">Duke Ellington's Sacred Concerts in The Scotsman</a>
July 22nd 2013	<a href="#">Video: Mary Queen of Scots exhibition in The Scotsman</a>
July 23rd 2013	<a href="#">Our top picks for the Fringe and EIF in Whatsonstage.com</a>
July 24th 2013	<a href="#">Fringe top ten music acts in the Edinburgh Evening News</a>
July 24th 2013	<a href="#">Programme highlights from 2013 Edinburgh Book Festival in The List</a>
July 24th 2013	<a href="#">Children's event highlights at 2013 Edinburgh Book Festival in The List</a>
July 24th 2013	<a href="#">Dance highlights at the 2013 Edinburgh Festival in The List</a>
July 26th 2013	<a href="#">10 top comedians to catch at Edinburgh Fringe 2013 in The Scotsman</a>
July 26th 2013	<a href="#">Preview of Witches and Wicked Bodies at the Modern Art Gallery in The Scotsman</a>
July 26th 2013	<a href="#">Article on artist Peter Doig in the NY Times</a>
July 26th 2013	<a href="#">Preview of Mary Queen of Scots exhibition at the National Museum in Artdaily.org</a>
July 26th 2013	<a href="#">Fringe theatre highlights in Timeout</a>

July 27th 2013	<a href="#">Preview and picks in The Independent</a>
July 28th 2013	<a href="#">Various short articles on Fringe comedy in Chortle</a>
July 28th 2013	<a href="#">Latest tips from Lyn Gardner in The Guardian</a>
July 29th 2013	<a href="#">A music guide to Edinburgh during the Festival in the Pop Cop</a>
July 29th 2013	<a href="#">10 children's shows to keep kids entertained at the Edinburgh Festival in The Scotsman</a>
July 29th 2013	<a href="#">Preview of Gabriel Orozco's exhibition at the Fruitmarket Gallery in The List</a>
July 30th 2013	<a href="#">Sketch-based comedy by Julian Hall in The List</a>
July 31st 2013	<a href="#">Preview of Leonardo Da Vinci: The Mechanics of Man at the Queen's Gallery Holyrood in The Telegraph</a>
July 31st 2013	<a href="#">Edinburgh music scene on the Fringe in The Scotsman</a>
Aug 1st 2013	<a href="#">Flavours of the Edinburgh International Festival in The Skinny</a>
Aug 1st 2013	<a href="#">Day planner for Edinburgh Free Fringe 2013 in The List</a>
Aug 1st 2013	<a href="#">The Good Word: Edinburgh International Book Festival 2013 in The Skinny</a>



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## Info on Reviews of Shows at the 2013 Festival

[2012](#) | [2011](#) | [2010](#)

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 2013 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.

Some of the following links change from year to year. I will make any necessary corrections as soon as I can.

[Scotsman](#)  
[The List](#)  
[The Guardian](#)  
[The Stage](#)  
[EdinburghGuide.com](#)  
[Chortle \(comedy\)](#)  
[Fest](#)  
[Whatsonstage.com](#)  
[BritishTheatreGuide](#)  
[The Herald](#)  
[The Telegraph](#)  
[The Independent](#)  
[FringeReview](#)  
[ThreeWeeks](#)  
[OnstageScotland](#)  
[BroadwayBaby](#)

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.

For tweeters here are a few to follow.

@lyngardner  
@EdinburghStage  
@MarkFFisher  
@ThomDibdin  
joycemcmillan  
Julian Hall

## Most Critically Acclaimed Shows (Fringe and EIF)

There are simply too many shows on the Edinburgh Fringe and the Edinburgh International Festival and far 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 2013 they will be based on the star ratings in reviews from 10 sources, varying from mainstream media outlets to established festival websites.

The subject of using star ratings, particularly the dislike of them by some actors, directors and many critics, was bashed around last year. I see them as a necessary evil for festival punters during August. If you are interested, [here is my witter on the subject](#) along with lots of links to other contributions on the subject.

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 second and final iteration of the 2013 list, posted at 5pm on Friday August 30th, 2013.**

**Drama.** I'll Go On, Grounded, Quietly, Hamlet (EIF), The Ballad of The Burning Star, Credible Likeable Superstar RoleModel, Fleabag, Nirbhaya, Circa: Wunderkammer, The Radicalisation of Bradley Manning, Rites: A Children's Tragedy, The Boadicea of Britannia Street, Each of Us, From Where I'm Standing, It's Dark Outside, Titus, The Events, Long Live The Little Knife, Ciara, Banksy: The Room in The Elephant, Major Tom, Dark Vanilla Jungle, Our Glass House, Eh Joe, These Halcyon Days, Howie The Rookie, There Has Possibly Been An Incident, Tourniquet 2013, Missing, Solomon and Marion, Our Fathers, Stuart: A Life Backwards, We Will Be Free, Bunker Trilogy: Agamemnon, Solfatara, The Boss Of It All, Preen Back Yer Lugs, Mammoth and Captain Amazing.

**Comedy.** Red Bastard, BLAM!, Aisling Bea, Bo Burnham, Gyles Brandreth, The Wrestling II, Hannah Gadsby, The Pajama Men, David Baddiel, Ian Cognito, Eric And Little Ern, Liam Williams, Richard Herring, Nick Helm, Henson Alternative's Puppet Up - Uncensored, The Play That Goes Wrong, Jamie Demetriou, John Robins, Max and Ivan, John Lloyd: Liff of QI, Mark Thomas, Bridget Christie, Glenn Wool, Arthur Smith, David Morgan, Felicity Ward, Mike Wozniak, Tony Law, Andrew Maxwell, Rachel Parris, Brendon Burns, Sara Pascoe, Brett Goldstein, Adrienne Truscott, WitTank presents The School, Carey Marx and Gary Delaney.

**Dance and Physical Theatre.** Bianco, A Simple Space, Dance Odysseys, HeLa, LA Dance Project, Smashed, Missing, Don Quichotte Du Trocadero and Fleurs de Cimetiere / Age Freckles.

**Cabaret.** Die Roten Punkte and Lady Rizo.

**Music.** EIF Opening Concert, Bavarian Radio Orchestra, Mitsuko Uchida, The Sixteen, Russian National

Orchestra and The Soil.

**Spoken Word.** Luke Wright.

**Children's Shows.** The Adventure.

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*.

For your information - [The List is also collating star ratings](#). I will watch with interest. Perhaps I will be able to give up this task next year?!

## 2013 Awards

There are a growing number of awards which will be mentioned in this section as they are announced. The Scotsman Fringe Firsts (40th anniversary this year) and The Bank of Scotland Herald Angels which started in 1955 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](#). The winners are Quietly, Fionnuala, Grounded, Feral, Kiss Me Honey Honey, Ciara, The Events and Nirbhaya. [The week two award winners](#) are Fleabag, These Halcyon Days, Dumbstruck, Dark Vanilla Jungle, Theatre Uncut and Water Stain. [The final week 3 award winners](#) are For Their Own Good, Gardening For The Unfulfilled and The Alienated, Credible Likeable Superstar RoleModel, Choose Your Own Documentary, Mercy Killers and Freeze!

**The Bank of Scotland Herald Angel Awards.** The article on the week 1 awards can be found [here](#). The winners are Ciara, Nirbhaya, One Step Before The Fall, Sandpits Avenue and Sean Hughes. [The week 2 award winners](#) are The Wooster Group (Herald Archangel), Lea McGowan (Little Devil), Circa Wunderkammer, Patti Smith, The Wau Wau Sisters and Mirenka Cechova. The week 3 award winners are Brand New Ancients, Smashed, Rant, Christine Tobin (British Vocal Jazz Festival), Christophe Rousset (Les Talens Lyriques) and Hag (Little Devil award).

**The Stage Awards for Acting Excellence at the Fringe:** **best actor** - Patrick O'Kane for Quietly at Traverse; **best actress** - Robyn Scott for London Road at Assembly; **best ensemble** - Theatre Ad Infinitum for Ballad of The Burning Star at Pleasance; and **best solo performer** - Phoebe Waller-Bridge for Fleabag at Underbelly.

**Foster's Edinburgh Comedy Awards:** best comedy show - Bridget Christie with A Bic For Her; best newcomer - John Kearns with Sight Gags for Perverts; panel prize - Adrienne Truscott.

**Amnesty International Freedom of Expression award:** Nirbhaya at Assembly Hall. Special commendation to Our Glass House at Summerhall.

**The Carol Tambor Edinburgh to New York award:** The Events at The Traverse.

**Arches Brick award for emerging talent:** Sh!t Theatre's JSA (Job Seekers Anonymous) 2013 at Gryphon Venues (The Point Hotel) and Credible Likeable Superstar Rolemodel at Pleasance Dome.

**Jack Tinker Spirit of the Fringe award:** The Bloody Great Border Ballad Project at Northern Stage at St. Stephens.

**Holden Street Theatres award:** Bitch Boxer at Pleasance Courtyard.

**Malcolm Hardee comedy awards:** **comic originality** - Adrienne Truscott; **best publicity stunt** - Barry Ferns; **pound of flesh** - Gareth Ellis (and Richard Rose).

**Total Theatre awards:** **work by emerging artist / company** - Sh!t Theatre's JSA (Job Seekers Anonymous) 2013 at Gryphon Venues (The Point Hotel); **physical / visual and devised performance** - the joint winners were Crying Out Loud presents Flown by Pirates of the Carabina at Underbelly and L'Après-midi d'un Foehn - Version 1 by Company Non Nova at Summerhall; **innovation, experimentation & playing with form** - the three winners were Bonanza by Berlin, Big in Belgium, Richard Jordan Productions, Drum Plymouth, Summerhall at Summerhall, Have I No Mouth by Brokentalkers at The Traverse and The Worst of Scottee by Scottee Inc. at Assembly George Square.

**Brighton Fringe Emerging Talent Award at The Edinburgh Festival Fringe:** The Bloody Ballad at Assembly Roxy.

**Fringe Review Outstanding Theatre Awards.** The Inventor and The Escort.

**Dave's Funniest Joke of The Fringe.** Rob Auton won with this one .. "I heard a rumour that Cadbury is bringing out an oriental chocolate bar. Could be a Chinese Wispa.". Top ten jokes can be found [here in The Telegraph](#).

Other awards include [So You Think You're Funny](#), [Three Weeks Editors' Awards](#), [Mervyn Stutter's Spirit of the Fringe Award](#) and the [Allen Wright Awards](#) (for young journalists).

## Punter's 2013 Visit

Overall, the 2013 festival was equally as good as 2012. And once again, we were lucky with the weather.

We managed 24 shows, 3 art exhibitions and a visit to the Mary, Queen of Scots exhibition at the National Museum during our one week visit to Edinburgh.

**Best drama.** The best play was the Abbey Theatre's production of **Quietly** at the Traverse. It is an understated but very powerful story about violence and forgiveness, written by Owen McCafferty. The direction and acting were also excellent. It was one of a very small number of plays that I have attended where the audience was absolutely still - no coughing, no rustling, no mobile phones going off, nothing.

**Best one-man shows (well one-woman shows actually).** There were three superb performances: **Blythe Duff in Ciara**; **Lucy Ellinson in Grounded**; and **Isobelle Stoffel in The Surrender**. It is very difficult to choose between them. If I had to go for one then it would have to be Blythe Duff, if only for David Harrower's excellent writing.

**Other drama of note.** **Nirbhaya**, centred on the New Delhi rape case, was extremely moving. From a theatrical perspective it smacked of verbatim theatre, relating the various forms of abuse that were suffered by five other Indian women in addition to the story of the New Delhi rape.

**Comedy.** **The Three Lions**, written by William Gaminara, was very enjoyable. It was based around the team of Cameron, Beckham and Prince William who unsuccessfully tried to get the 2018 football World Cup hosted by England.

**Physical Theatre.** Gecko's **Missing** was extremely well staged. I particularly liked their use of windows to frame various scenes. **Leo** was very enjoyable. It is difficult to describe it in a few words ... "the anti-gravity show" as the marketing blurb says will have to do.

**Poetry.** There has been very little of it about on the Fringe in recent years. This is a sad state of affairs.

We went to **Luke Wright's show** and enjoyed it very much. He and other poets need our support.

**Visual Arts.** An average sort of year. We had already seen the Da Vinci exhibition in London and so gave that a miss. We managed **Man Ray Portraits, Doig: No Foreign Lands** and **Gabriel Orozco: Thinking Circles**. I probably most enjoyed the Man Ray Portraits.

**Disappointments.** None to speak of.

## Post-mortem on 2013 Edinburgh Summer Festivals

The woes that are being suffered within the media industry are manifesting themselves in reduced coverage of the festivals year on year at the moment. This is particularly noticeable among the smaller festivals, in the general lead up to August, and from the moment that the Fringe ends on the late August Bank Holiday. One exception this year has been the BBC whose TV coverage was better this year, despite the fact that some of the programmes were hiding on the "Red Button". Fortunately, this reduced coverage does not appear to be affecting punter numbers as far as I can see. The good weather (for Edinburgh) undoubtedly helped.

The major point of discussion on the **Edinburgh Festival Fringe** this year has been the call to tackle the spiralling costs to artists and performing companies of putting shows on in Edinburgh. This was brought up at the Fringe's AGM. The influence of the Free Fringe is gradually getting stronger as participants look at ways and means of limiting the costs of appearing. This is most noticeable in the area of comedy. On the artistic front it was another good festival year. Drama is in rude health, the Traverse leading the way with a very strong programme while comedy continues to attract large numbers of punters.

If the "bums on seats" figure is to be believed (11% increase in tickets issued) **the Edinburgh International Festival (EIF)** appears to have had a successful year. Media coverage continues to decline, particularly in the final week when it is mainly left to the local outlets. The drama programme was heading for a poor rating overall, when it was arguably rescued by the mini-Beckett festival late in the day. Dance had an OK sort of year. Meanwhile, the music programme continued to provide the solid cornerstone on which much of the EIF's reputation is based.

**The Edinburgh International Book Festival** had an excellent year with visitor numbers and book sales both up by 6% when compared with 2012. It was celebrating 30 years of the festival by looking back, and indeed forward to what the coming 30 years may bring. Charlotte Square was also the place to be for lively debates on the Scottish Independence Referendum.

**The Edinburgh International Film Festival** continued its steady recovery under Chris Fujiwara's stewardship after the 2011 disaster. However, there is a growing chorus of opinion that late June is not the time of year which is likely to allow the festival to grow. Many seek the return of the festival to August despite the obvious competition from other festivals,

**The Edinburgh Jazz & Blues Festival** had another quiet but successful year. It continues to struggle to get adequate media coverage.

**The Edinburgh Art Festival** had an average sort of year. Peter Doig's retrospective "No Foreign Lands" at the National Gallery of Scotland cornered the majority of media coverage. Popular exhibitions which were not part of the festival included Leonardo Da Vinci: The Mechanics of Man at HolyroodHouse (under the EIF banner) and Mary, Queen of Scots at the National Museum of Scotland.

**The Edinburgh Military Tattoo** remains as popular as ever, recovering from the slight blip last year which was probably largely due to the Olympics.

**The Magic Festival** now has three good festivals under its belt but it remains the Cinderella of the summer festivals. I feel sorry for it as it struggles against lack of interest in the media. Even Festivals Edinburgh whose role in life is to market festivals fails to recognise it!

I have managed to locate one article which reflects on the 2013 festival. Richard Jordan, the producer, [wrote this piece in The Stage](#). If I come across any others I will add them here.

**Posted on September 3rd, 2013. Updated on September 4th, 2013.**

## Edinburgh Art Festival

Links to selected reviews:

Date Posted	Review
June 24th 2013	<a href="#">Man Ray Portraits in EdinburghGuide.com</a>
July 10th 2013	<a href="#">Man Ray Portraits in The List</a>
Aug 3rd 2013	<a href="#">Visual art reviews: Edinburgh Art Festival in The Scotsman</a>
Aug 3rd 2013	<a href="#">Peter Doig: a taste for the tropics by James Campbell in The Guardian</a>
Aug 6th 2013	<a href="#">Edinburgh art festival round-up in The Observer</a>
Aug 11th 2013	<a href="#">Witches and Wicked Bodies in The Observer</a>

## Edinburgh Jazz & Blues Festival

Links to selected reviews:

Date Posted	Review
July 23rd 2013	<a href="#">Fapy Lafertin Trio in The Scotsman</a>
July 23rd 2013	<a href="#">Tia Fuller in The Scotsman</a>
July 23rd 2013	<a href="#">Tim Kliphuis Tribute to Stephane Grappelli in The Scotsman</a>
July 24th 2013	<a href="#">Snarky Puppy in The Scotsman</a>
July 24th 2013	<a href="#">Darius Brubeck Quartet in The Scotsman</a>
July 24th 2013	<a href="#">Malcolm MacFarlane in The Scotsman</a>
July 25th 2013	<a href="#">Duke Ellington's Sacred Concert in The Scotsman</a>
July 25th 2013	<a href="#">Eric Burdon &amp; The Animals</a>
July 26th 2013	<a href="#">Steve Riley and the Mamou Playboys in The Scotsman</a>
July 27th 2013	<a href="#">Kekko Fornarelli Trio / Espen Erisken &amp; Gunnar Halle in The Herald</a>
July 29th 2013	<a href="#">Malene Mortensen in The Scotsman</a>
July 29th 2013	<a href="#">Stone Islands in The Scotsman</a>
July 29th 2013	<a href="#">Champion Fulton Tro in The Scotsman</a>
July 29th 2013	<a href="#">Mud Morganfield in The Scotsman</a>
July 30th 2013	<a href="#">Phil Bancroft Quartet</a>

## Edinburgh Film Festival

Links to selected reviews:

Date Posted	Review
June 19th 2013	<a href="#">The Deep in Front Row Reviews</a>
June 19th 2013	<a href="#">When Night Falls in Front Row Reviews</a>
June 19th 2013	<a href="#">Taboor in Front Row Reviews</a>
June 20th 2013	<a href="#">Breathe In - Scotsman</a>
June 21st 2013	<a href="#">The East in stv.tv</a>
June 21st 2013	<a href="#">A Long Way From Home in Screen Daily</a>
June 21st 2013	<a href="#">I am Breathing in EdinburghGuide.com</a>
June 21st 2013	<a href="#">The Complex in HeyuGuys</a>
June 21st 2013	<a href="#">Lunarcy in Front Row Reviews</a>
June 21st 2013	<a href="#">The Colour of The Chameleon in Front Row Reviews</a>
June 22nd 2013	<a href="#">Frances Ha in Den of Geek</a>
June 22nd 2013	<a href="#">Days of Grace in Den of Geek</a>
June 22nd 2013	<a href="#">Shooting Bigfoot in Den of Geek</a>
June 22nd 2013	<a href="#">Roland Hassel in Front Row Reviews</a>
June 23rd 2013	<a href="#">The Swimming Pool in Front Row Reviews</a>
June 24th 2013	<a href="#">Sanctuary in Front Row Reviews</a>
June 24th 2013	<a href="#">Kiss The Water in Screen Daily</a>
June 25th 2013	<a href="#">Mister John in Screen Daily</a>
June 25th 2013	<a href="#">For Those in Peril in Front Row Reviews</a>
June 26th 2013	<a href="#">The Berlin File in stv.tv</a>
June 26th 2013	<a href="#">Oh Boy in stv.tv</a>
June 26th 2013	<a href="#">uwantme2killhim in Den of Geek</a>
June 26th 2013	<a href="#">The Great Hip Hop Hoax in The Scotsman</a>
June 27th 2013	<a href="#">The Battle of the Sexes in stv.tv</a>
June 27th 2013	<a href="#">Penumbra in Front Row Reviews</a>
June 27th 2013	<a href="#">Not Another Happy Ending in What Culture!</a>
June 27th 2013	<a href="#">Monsters University in HeyuGuys</a>

June 27th 2013	<a href="#">Comrade Kim Goes Flying in The List</a>
June 27th 2013	<a href="#">From Tehran to London in The List</a>
June 27th 2013	<a href="#">Leviathan in The Scotsman</a>
June 28th 2013	<a href="#">The Sea in The List</a>

The 2013 Film Festival awards included: the Michael Powell award for best British feature film - Leviathan; The Audience Award - Fire in the Night; The Award for Best Performance in a British Feature Film to Jamie Blackley and Toby Regbo, both for [uwantme2killhim?](#); the Award for Best Film in the International Competition to A World Not Ours; The Student Critics' Jury Award - Celestial Wives of the Meadow Mari; The MacLaren Award for New British Animation - Marilyn Myller by Mikey Please; The Award for Best Short Film - GHL by Lotte Schreiber; The Award for Creative Innovation in a Short Film - Doll Parts by Muzey Quawson; The Award for Outstanding Individual Contribution to a Short Film to Josh Gibson, Director of Photography for Light Plate. Details of all the awards can be found [here](#).

Postmortems on the film festival have appeared in [The Scotsman](#) and [stv.tv](#).

## Edinburgh Magic Festival

Links to selected reviews:

Date Posted	Review
July 4th 2013	<a href="#">MagicFest Opening Gala in Thom Dibdin's All Edinburgh Theatre</a>
July 4th 2013	<a href="#">Luke Jermay: 6th Sense by Paul Johnson in All Edinburgh Theatre</a>

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