EDINBURGH FESTIVALS 2022

Edinburgh is the world’s leading festival city and the month of August sees an explosion of arts events across the city. Within the thousands of performances, you’ll find a wide choice of creative ageing events and productions.

This list highlights the shows and events that we have identified which are presented by older artists or have themes connected to ageing, but it is not intended to be a list of recommendations.

Enjoy the festivals!

EDINBURGH FRINGE FESTIVAL

Cabaret and Variety

An Evening with Mr Noel Howard
William Roby stars as centenarian cabaret artist Mr Noel Howard in this solo show about a veteran performer who at a hundred-and-something is still performing.
https://tickets.edfringe.com/whats-on/evening-with-mr-noel-howard

Liz Lochhead with Steve Kettley on Sax: Back in the Saddle
50 years on from her first Fringe performance, our former Makar finds herself enjoying her veteran status as she shares some of the stuff that got her through lockdown.
Comedy

Ageing Folks Telling Jokes
With 50 being the new 30, expect tales of adventure, as we navigate luxury travel, vintage wine-tasting and later-life parenthood.
https://tickets.edfringe.com/whats-on/ageing-folks-telling-jokes

Anna Morris: Kid-Life Crisis
An honest, funny and uplifting show about turning 40, biological clocks and embracing 'otherhood'.

Anthony Jeannot: The Middle Bit
One day you're a student at a protest and the next you're a 30-something middle manager. The Middle Bit is a show about realising you've become an elder millennial.
https://tickets.edfringe.com/whats-on/anthony-jeannot-the-middle-bit

Bilal Zafar – Care
Edinburgh Fringe Best Newcomer nominee, Bilal Zafar returns with a brand-new show about how he spent a year working in a care home for very wealthy people.
https://tickets.edfringe.com/whats-on/bilal-zafar-care

Jason Byrne: The Paddy Llama – Shed Talks
Jason recently lost his father, Paddy Byrne. In this one-man play, he plays his dad, keeping him alive in stories full of laughter and tears.

Phil Differ: My Medical Hell
Fair Pley / The Stand Comedy Club
A celebration of reaching that age when all you have left to talk about are your ailments. How to cope with a catalogue of complaints as you fall apart in instalments.
https://tickets.edfringe.com/whats-on/phil-differ-my-medical-hell

The Fannies Big Night Out
Join Susan Morrison and Jojo Sutherland ripping their way through sex, drugs and rock'n'roll, although at their combined age, now it's specs, rugs and a bacon roll.
https://tickets.edfringe.com/whats-on/fannies-big-night-out

Geriatric Millennial (Work in Progress)
Weaving a little California sunshine into her stand-up, Liz Guterbock will explore ageing (dis)gracefully and whether it's possible to stay in love with life as we get old(er).
https://tickets.edfringe.com/whats-on/geriatric-millennial-work-in-progress
Nina Gilligan: Late Developer
Nina has never hit a single milestone and at 50 is still trying to grasp the complex rules of womanhood. She is certain only of one thing: she refuses to go on a cruise.
https://tickets.edfringe.com/whats-on/nina-gilligan-late-developer

Pam Ford: 24 and Counting!
If you want to feel young and useful, get a job in a care home. I’m middle-aged and they refer to me as ‘that loud funny girl.’ Pam's outlook is joyful and unusual.

Possibly the Last Chance to See Susan Morrison
Susan Morrison is at an age and stage to get some funny stuff off her chest. Mid-life crisis? Nah. This definitely isn’t the middle of her life, but she’s still having a laugh.
https://tickets.edfringe.com/whats-on/possibly-the-last-chance-to-see-susan-morrison

The Retirement Game
Jimmy has a debt he’ll do anything to pay off, a paranoid mystery caller and a smooth-talking gambling addiction that believes is trying to lure him back into the game.
https://tickets.edfringe.com/whats-on/retirement-game

Ryan Mold: Generation Gap (WIP)
In the 80s my grandparents become my guardians. Being guided through life by two 70-year-olds with no understanding of modern living was a mix of confusion and embarrassment.
https://tickets.edfringe.com/whats-on/ryan-mold-generation-gap-wip

Still Got It
Come along to enjoy jokes, stories and craziness from four comedians whose total ages are well over 250 years!
https://tickets.edfringe.com/whats-on/still-got-it

Further Adventures in Dementia
Steve’s dad died of Alzheimer’s. There’s nothing else for it but to defy dementia, with music, songs and laughter.
https://tickets.edfringe.com/whats-on/further-adventures-in-dementia

Arthur Smith: My 75 Years at the Edinburgh Fringe
Recalling some of the triumphs, disasters, love affairs and arrests of his many Augusts in Auld Reekie. This is Arthur’s last-ever Edinburgh show so you had better be there.
https://tickets.edfringe.com/whats-on/arthur-smith-my-75-years-at-the-edinburgh-fringe
JoJo Sutherland: Growing Old Disgracefully
Life begins at 56 and 3/4s – having raised four kids and divorced twice, Jojo is starting life all over again with the emphasis on living and Don't Stop Me Now as her funeral music.
https://tickets.edfringe.com/whats-on/jojo-sutherland-growing-old-disgracefully

With All Jew Respect
My show is about growing up, getting old and having an 88-year-old Jewish mother (now with no filter) who is making me 'Jewrotic' (neurotic and Jewish.) And the family don't help!
https://tickets.edfringe.com/whats-on/with-all-jew-respect

Nina Hills: Peri-men... What Now?
Nina was going through life quite nicely, when – pow! Suddenly she wasn’t! Expect comedy, song, rap and even a bit of contemporary dance.

Dance, Physical Theatre and Circus

Closing Party (Arrivederci e Grazie)
Depicting the ups-and-downs of middle age, recasting completion and exhaustion as potential new beginnings; where intimate recollections and collective memory intertwine.

The Rest of Our Lives
A joyful morning dose of dance, theatre and circus from Jo Fong and George Orange. Two middle-aged lives in an eclectic, spontaneous, predictable and random decline.
https://tickets.edfringe.com/whats-on/rest-of-our-lives

Speaking From The Body
At 70 and plus-sized, Lucia August has freed herself from limitations and serves as an inspiration to others to continue making art for as long as they want.
https://tickets.edfringe.com/whats-on/speaking-from-the-body

Ageless
A joyful celebration of the dance of life, regardless of where you are on that road. Outstanding Scottish youth companies join Dance Base’s acclaimed elders’ company PRIME in a fearless, ageless and life-affirming showcase.
https://tickets.edfringe.com/whats-on/ageless
Worn
An exquisite dance production by White and Givan, exploring how the body is affected by time and space, and the marks and scars that become part of our history. Draws inspiration from the Japanese art of kintsugi, where broken pottery is mended with gold or silver.
https://tickets.edfringe.com/whats-on/worn

Spoken Word

Marginal Gains for Brighter Brains!
Join Professor Alan Gow (Heriot-Watt University and Luminate trustee) to explore what we know about how our thinking skills change as we age.
https://tickets.edfringe.com/whats-on/marginal-gains-for-brighter-brains

The Cabaret of Dangerous Ideas: Brighter Brains and Languages
Antonella Sorace and Alan Gow, CODI, The Stand Comedy Club
Hosted by comedian Susan Morrison, Professor Alan Gow (Heriot-Watt University and Luminate trustee) explores how to keep sharp as we age. And Professor Antonella Sorace (The University of Edinburgh) debates what it means to be a native speaker.

Kaye Adams – How to be 60: Live!
There isn't much that scares Kaye Adams. Approaching 60 though... that's terrifying! However, with the help of some well-known guests and most importantly, you, she might just learn... How To Be 60.
https://tickets.edfringe.com/whats-on/kaye-adams-how-to-be-60-live

This Is Not Therapy
Think you’re the only one who’s making it up as you go along? You’re not. Join Tina as she tackles her fifties with as much humour, grace and sensible footwear as she can muster.
https://tickets.edfringe.com/whats-on/this-is-not-therapy

Theatre

Age is a Feeling
Inspired by hospices, mystics and trips to the cemetery, Age Is a Feeling wrestles with our endless chances to change course while we’re alive.
https://tickets.edfringe.com/whats-on/age-is-a-feeling
Birthday Girl
Birthday Girl confronts fears of the future and how scary it can feel to grow older. Mixing various anecdotes of birthdays past, it highlights how important these milestones are.
https://tickets.edfringe.com/whats-on/birthday-girl

Activities of Daily Living
When her Medicare card arrives with a special old-age invisibility cloak, one woman decides to fight back. Veteran actor Joanna Lipari writes and performs.
https://tickets.edfringe.com/whats-on/activities-of-daily-living

The Anniversary
It's Mr Bean meets The Shining! Don't be fooled – Jim and Barb are no ordinary older couple. Leave your preconceptions at the door and expect the unexpected.
https://tickets.edfringe.com/whats-on/anniversary

Baxter vs The Bookies
The fluctuating fortunes of an ageing, old-fashioned, horse-racing tipster, pitting himself against the firepower of the Bookies.
https://tickets.edfringe.com/whats-on/baxter-vs-the-bookies

The Chairs Revisited
An ancient couple, living in isolation, throws a lockdown party, inviting many imaginary guests.
https://tickets.edfringe.com/whats-on/chairs-revisited

The Collie’s Shed
Follow four retired miners as they discover how a review of the mining strikes in the 80s suddenly affects them, their friendships and their relationships.
https://tickets.edfringe.com/whats-on/collie-s-shed

Dorian
A striking and stylised imagining of Oscar Wilde’s gothic masterpiece: the picture of Dorian Gray transforms into a malevolent horror as its inspiration remains untouched and beautiful.
https://tickets.edfringe.com/whats-on/dorian

Invisible Mending
In the summer of 2020 as a pandemic raged, Yoshika Colwell was processing the death of her beloved grandmother, Ann. A show about love, grief and knitting.
https://tickets.edfringe.com/whats-on/invisible-mending
Learning to Fly
The remarkable, uplifting and hilarious story of a friendship James Rowland made with an old lady when he was a lonely, unhappy teenager. It's about connection, love's eternal struggle with time and the old lady's last wish: to get high once before she died.
https://tickets.edfringe.com/whats-on/learning-to-fly

Love You More
'Perspectives. Changes everything.' Megan and Charlie meet at Tonners Green School and, years later, reminisce and reflect on the path their friendship has taken.
https://tickets.edfringe.com/whats-on/love-you-more

Man Shed
Can a man find purpose when he grows older and major life events come thick and fast? Should he retire to The Shed and escape from the world, or get out and try something new? Inspired by the work of the Scottish Men's Sheds Association.
https://tickets.edfringe.com/whats-on/man-shed

Miss Lindsay's Secret
Created Maria MacDonell, an older artist previously supported by Luminate. A museum curator finds hidden letters binding Glenesk to Canada’s Klondike gold rush. But should she tell their intimate secrets?
https://tickets.edfringe.com/whats-on/miss-lindsay-s-secret

The Not So Ugly Duckling: A Play for Grownups
We think we know this story. But when two older women retell a familiar tale, they find dark places and unanswered questions. Writer and performers Maria MacDonell and Jo Clifford, and Director Ian Cameron are all older artists previously supported by Luminate.
https://tickets.edfringe.com/whats-on/not-so-ugly-duckling-a-play-for-grownups

See You Later Mum
Family Production Company
A play about love transcending separation. The story spans three generations and the performers share the role of Jennifer as the times change and Jennifer ages.
https://tickets.edfringe.com/whats-on/see-you-later-mum

The Great Almighty Gill
Written and performed by Daniel Hoffmann-Gill whose Dad, Dave, died in 2015 of complications related to dementia. Experience the legendary life and times of Dave through a tour-de-force autobiographical performance. Contains strong language.
https://tickets.edfringe.com/whats-on/great-almighty-gill
Banana Crabtree Simon
Banana Crabtree Simon is an intimate and emotionally honest journey of one man’s struggle with early onset dementia.
https://tickets.edfringe.com/whats-on/banana-crabtree-simon

Opal Fruits
Opal Fruits is about class, nostalgia and five generations of women from one council estate in South London.
https://tickets.edfringe.com/whats-on/opal-fruits

Doris Does The Edinboiger Fridge
She’s not your average little old lady. Yes, she’s little (at least vertically). She's old (70 and counting). However, Doris is adept at things not associated with her generation.
https://tickets.edfringe.com/whats-on/doris-does-the-edinboiger-fridge

A Non-Emergency
This dark comedy reveals what actually takes place in the back of non-emergency ambulances. After two very difficult years, it’s time to showcase the strength of our older population and our healthcare workers.
https://tickets.edfringe.com/whats-on/non-emergency

Pauline
A new comedy drama about finding your nan’s suicide note. Pauline is the brutally honest and joyfully hilarious story of three generations of women in one family – and of writer Sophie Bentinck who went digging through secrets in order to bring them all on stage.
https://tickets.edfringe.com/whats-on/pauline

The Rain Men
Wullie and Harry are two ageing comedians who were once a popular Scottish music hall comedy act known as The Rain Men. They parted ways on unfriendly terms and now, 20 years later, their agent is trying to get them to revive the double act for a TV special.
https://tickets.edfringe.com/whats-on/rain-men

Tickbox
How did a Pakistani family cope when arriving in cold and wet Scotland? Like many migrants they used food to make friends. But when no one had heard of a samosa, how could the barriers be broken down? Lubna Kerr is an older writer previously supported by Luminate; known as an actor, this is Lubna’s first play.
https://tickets.edfringe.com/whats-on/tickbox
**Time’s Plague**
David Hayman returns as everyman Bob Cunninghame. Bob’s in hospital. He’s broken, like the world around him. No way Bob’s going gently into that good night, he'll burn and rave at close of day, raging against the dying of the light.
[https://tickets.edfringe.com/whats-on/time-s-plague](https://tickets.edfringe.com/whats-on/time-s-plague)

**The Transfiguration of Mrs Lamen**
**PegPenProductions**
Mrs Lamen, an ageing dame, readies herself for an upcoming pantomime. With each layer of make-up and costume she adds, a new layer of life is peeled away.

**Twinkle**
Underneath a stage, an ageing pantomime dame prepares to perform whilst reminiscing of bygone days and plotting to commit a dark deed.
[https://tickets.edfringe.com/whats-on/twinkle](https://tickets.edfringe.com/whats-on/twinkle)

**Val from Anfield**
After months of fighting to save her home from developers, Val has finally conceded. She takes a comically poignant trip down memory lane as she packs her life away.
[https://tickets.edfringe.com/whats-on/val-from-anfield](https://tickets.edfringe.com/whats-on/val-from-anfield)

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**EDINBURGH INTERNATIONAL BOOK FESTIVAL**

**Georgi Gospodinov: Time is Out to Get Us**
Award-winning Bulgarian author of *Time Shelter*, translated into English by Angela Rodel, in which people living with dementia are offered the opportunity to be transported to another decade. A meditation on memory and its influence on the present.
[https://www.edbookfest.co.uk/the-festival/whats-on/georgi-gospodinov-time-is-out-to-get-us](https://www.edbookfest.co.uk/the-festival/whats-on/georgi-gospodinov-time-is-out-to-get-us)

**Geoff Dyer: The Sense of an Ending**
Dyer discusses *The Last Days of Roger Federer*, and sets his own encounter with middle age against the last days and works of artists and sports people who have mattered to him.
[https://www.edbookfest.co.uk/the-festival/whats-on/geoff-dyer-the-sense-of-an-ending](https://www.edbookfest.co.uk/the-festival/whats-on/geoff-dyer-the-sense-of-an-ending)

**Richard Holloway with Alison Watt: This One’s from the Heart**
Holloway talks about life, inspiration and mortality with his friend, the artist Alison Watt.
[https://www.edbookfest.co.uk/the-festival/whats-on/richard-holloway-with-alison-watt-this-one-s-from-the-heart](https://www.edbookfest.co.uk/the-festival/whats-on/richard-holloway-with-alison-watt-this-one-s-from-the-heart)

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Luminate, Scotland’s creative ageing organisation  
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