



EDINBURGH FESTIVALS 2025

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 INTERNATIONAL FESTIVAL

Dementia Friendly Concert

The Scottish Chamber Orchestra performs familiar repertoire for people with dementia and their loved ones. [Dementia Friendly Concert | Edinburgh International Festival](#)

EDINBURGH FESTIVAL FRINGE

Cabaret and Variety

Sings for Your Supper

Dementia-friendly interactive cabaret celebrating music and memories from musicals, film, the good old days of the dance hall and more!

[Sings for Your Supper | Edinburgh Festival Fringe](#)

Comedy

0-60 in 50 Minutes

A show for all generations that reflects on 60 years of enthusiastically growing up and reluctantly growing old.

[0-60 in 50 Minutes | Edinburgh Festival Fringe](#)

Ageing Disgracefully – A Glass Ceiling Smashing Comedy Showcase

A showcase show featuring some of the finest new acts who are over the grand old age of 35. The entertainment industry has artificial glass ceilings. Come along and help us smash it open...

[Ageing Disgracefully – A Glass Ceiling Smashing Comedy Showcase | Edinburgh Festival Fringe](#)

Broads in the Attic

A comedy variety show in search of a roommate! Celia and Mavis are two zany old NYC broads, who secretly live in an Edinburgh attic and maybe killed their husband. Now they're on the search for a third roommate.

[Broads in the Attic | Edinburgh Festival Fringe](#)

Comedy through the ages

Comedy Through the Ages brings you a hilarious lineup of stand-ups from every generation. From Zoomers to Boomers and everything in-between.

[Comedy Through the Ages | Edinburgh Festival Fringe](#)

Daisy Earl: Rattle

A show about ADHD, frenemies and sassy old ladies! Rattle is an uplifting hour of comedy about the toxicity of people pleasing.

[Daisy Earl: Rattle | Edinburgh Festival Fringe](#)

Geoff Alderman: Free Range

Free range proper jokes for those not easily offended. Geoff has reached the finals of Old Comedian and Silver Comedian of the Year.

[Geoff Alderman: Free Range | Edinburgh Festival Fringe](#)

Henry Churniavsky... Life Lessons from a Jewish Grandfather (Zaida)

Henry is bringing his life lessons to the next generation... his grandson. His parenting skills are still valid despite him getting older. His daughter may think differently but he won't be silenced. Listen to his top tips for life.

[Henry Churniavsky... Life Lessons from a Jewish Grandfather \(Zaida\) | Edinburgh Festival Fringe](#)

Kaye Adams – How To Be 60!

Join TV's Kaye Adams and her pal, Karen Mackenzie, as they discover How To Be 60. They've been at it for three years on their popular bi-weekly podcast and it's not about slowing down, it's about shaking things up, however you want to do it.

[Kaye Adams – How To Be 60! | Edinburgh Festival Fringe](#)

Mat Wills: My Wife Took My Dad to a Brothel (I Drove)

A brutally honest, yet heartwarming hilarious take on family, love, social taboos, the absurd realities of growing old and the lengths we go to for the people who matter most.

[Mat Wills: My Wife Took My Dad to a Brothel \(I Drove\) | Edinburgh Festival Fringe](#)

Sally-Anne Hayward: Older. Bolder.

This award-winning comedian tells tales of juggling lovers, dodging societal expectations and thriving without kids. Ageing isn't a crisis – it's an upgrade.

[Sally-Anne Hayward: Older. Bolder. | Edinburgh Festival Fringe](#)

Sam Michael: The World's Oldest Man

What advice did the Guinness World Records' Oldest Man have for Sam Michael and how did it change his outlook on life?

[Sam Michael: The World's Oldest Man | Edinburgh Festival Fringe](#)

Sarah Stenton's Middle Age Madness

Helping people navigate middle age and the menopause, using humour to push back against feral body hair, brain fog and her pelvic floor dropping out.

[Sarah Stenton's Middle Age Madness | Edinburgh Festival Fringe](#)

Sooz Kempner is Ugly

Award-winning comedian Sooz Kempner is back with a brand new show about beauty, ageing, trolling and Barbra Streisand.

[Sooz Kempner is Ugly | Edinburgh Festival Fringe](#)

Still Got It

Old and bold! A group of comedians with lots of life experience. With talk about the joy of travel, relationships, families, festivals and the latest technology!

[Still Got It | Edinburgh Festival Fringe](#)

Dance, Physical Theatre and Circus

DOUBLE TAKE

Dance Base's in-house companies – youth company LYDC and over 60s company PRIME - showcase new work in a double-bill.

[DOUBLE TAKE | Edinburgh Festival Fringe](#)

PRIME at 10

Celebrating their 10th anniversary year, Dance Base's in-house company for over 60s will showcase a new commission *Ten* by Robbie Synge alongside a revival of Steinvör Palsson's *Carry on Dancing* which premiered in 2016.

[PRIME at 10 | Edinburgh Festival Fringe](#)

These Mechanisms

In her eightieth year, Christine wondered if she might create her first show. Who says an octogenarian shouldn't be working with stepladders, electronics... and water? A performance of persistence and joy, celebrating the beautiful functions and limits of a human body and the desire to make things happen. Christine Thynne is a Luminate older artist bursary recipient.

[These Mechanisms | Edinburgh Festival Fringe](#)

Tales From Your Queer Elder

This plus-sized, 72-year-old lesbian shares intimate stories celebrating inclusivity and pursuing our dreams. Lucia August weaves together personal narratives drawn from decades of queer experience, creating a powerful testament to living authentically.

[Tales From Your Queer Elder | Edinburgh Festival Fringe](#)

Wee Man

Powerful intergenerational dance theatre piece by Glasgow-based Barrowland Ballet, performed by professional and community performers.

[Wee Man | Edinburgh Festival Fringe](#)

Exhibitions

Victoria Crowe at 80 – Decades

Celebrating Victoria Crowe's 80th year, a collection of paintings reflects over six decades of Crowe's working career. By weaving together the strands of memory, place and emotional depth, *Decades* looks back to move forward.

[Victoria Crowe at 80 | Decades | Edinburgh Festival Fringe](#)

Musicals and Opera

Doing Time With Lavinia

Lavinia Draper, alcohol-soaked performer of a certain age, maintains her dream despite the struggle.

[Doing Time With Lavinia | Edinburgh Festival Fringe](#)

Sense – A New Musical About Dementia

Sense is a musical journey through time and memory: an intimate and moving story about the power of family, love and loss. With a powerful Belgian cast and original songs, it's a warm, hopeful, unforgettable experience.

[Sense – A New Musical About Dementia | Edinburgh Festival Fringe](#)

Spoken Word

The Provocateurs: take top academics, some thought-provoking ideas, add one comedian.... Join us for a spirited debate with some of Scotland's sharpest intellects.

Brain Health Roulette – Prof Alan Gow from Heriot-Watt University on stacking the odds in favour of a brain-healthy older age.

[The Provocateurs: Forensic Jewellery / Brain Health Roulette | Edinburgh Festival Fringe](#)

[The Provocateurs: Urban Camping / Brain Health Roulette | Edinburgh Festival Fringe](#)

Other People - Dr Mhairi Bowe (Heriot-Watt University) asks if other people are slowly killing you or the secret to long and happy lives?

[The Provocateurs: Useful Languages / Other People | Edinburgh Festival Fringe](#)

[The Provocateurs: Bad Therapy / Other People | Edinburgh Festival Fringe](#)

Joyful Singing – Luminate's community music consultant, Stephen Deazley, explores how inclusive singing in education creates joyful wellbeing.

[The Provocateurs: A Grumpy Robot / Joyful Singing | Edinburgh Festival Fringe](#)

[The Provocateurs: Get in the Zone / Joyful Singing | Edinburgh Festival Fringe](#)

Theatre

A Gambler's Guide to Dying

Gary McNair's intergenerational story of one boy's grandad who won a fortune betting on the 1966 World Cup and, when diagnosed with cancer, gambles it all on living to see the year 2000.

[A Gambler's Guide to Dying | Edinburgh Festival Fringe](#)

Ah-Ma

Ah-Ma – Fujianese for grandmother. Ten years ago, Ah-ma was diagnosed with dementia. A lyrical, poignant tale of resilience, faith and humanity. A story of memories slipping away – only to be gently reclaimed.

[Ah-Ma | Edinburgh Festival Fringe](#)

Auntie Empire

Auntie is a sweet old dear and a jolly good raconteur. All she wants to do is regale us with tales of dear old Blighty – but her body is falling to bits. Oh dear.

[Auntie Empire | Edinburgh Festival Fringe](#)

Batty!

Join Batty and her companion Wildthing for gossip, gay abandon, exquisite tenderness and raucous stories (with a side order of ranting), as they explore the magic and power of ageing.

[Batty! | Edinburgh Festival Fringe](#)

Baxter vs The Bookies

A one-man play recounting the fluctuating fortunes of an ageing horse-racing tipster adrift in the modern world of technology.

[Baxter vs The Bookies by Andy Linden | Edinburgh Festival Fringe](#)

Ben Target: LORENZO

Ben Target is an acclaimed performance artist and comedian, but in 2020 he gave this up to become the live-in carer for an irascible octogenarian prankster. A life-affirming story about death.

[Ben Target: LORENZO | Edinburgh Festival Fringe](#)

Broads in the Attic

Celia and Mavis are two zany old NYC broads, who secretly live in an Edinburgh attic and maybe killed their husband. Now they're on the search for a third roommate.

[Broads in the Attic | Edinburgh Festival Fringe](#)

Chatterbox

Chatterbox is about the power of language, words and the impact of labels. Who get listened to and who doesn't. Created and performed by Lubna Kerr, an Edinburgh-based artist who has been part of Luminate's older emerging artists' programme.

[Chatterbox | Edinburgh Festival Fringe](#)

Consumed

A 90th birthday party that no one seems to want. Four generations of Northern Irish women, reunited under one roof. A pitch-black and twisted tale of dysfunctional family dynamics, generational trauma and national boundaries.

[Consumed | Edinburgh Festival Fringe](#)

Don't Stop Me Now

Don't Stop Me Now challenges the taboos surrounding ageing and is a celebration of the superb stories and lives of The Flames until this moment in time. The Flames are Glasgow-based Tricky Hat's 50+ company.

[Don't Stop Me Now | Edinburgh Festival Fringe](#)

Luminate, Scotland's creative ageing organisation
Scottish charity number SCO44652

www.luminatescotland.org
0131 668 8066

Drinking with Grandma

Grandma was complicated. She presented as a sweet, innocent old lady, but inside, she was manipulative and conspiracy-peddling. She was also my drinking buddy during my formative years who taught me how to show up for family and live a life of love.

[Drinking With Grandma | Edinburgh Festival Fringe](#)

Eight Storeys of Love and Heartbreak

The lift of eight-storey Carnaby House is "out of order", and the residents come together to create a community carry to enable octogenarians, Harry and Mabel, to reach their top floor flat.

[Eight Storeys of Love and Heartbreak | Edinburgh Festival Fringe](#)

Help! I'm Trapped in a One-Woman Show

Alone in the world Broadway actor, Kate Skinner's moving journey through love, loss and online dating at 70. Wickedly funny and deeply poignant.

[Help! I'm Trapped in a One-Woman Show | Edinburgh Festival Fringe](#)

In the Land of Eagles

Her and Grandpa are different. When Grandpa asks to go home, he doesn't mean his semi-detached down the road. Albania is far and he can't venture there alone. How far will we go to make amends for the mistakes of our past?

[In the Land of Eagles | Edinburgh Festival Fringe](#)

Jello Brain

One-woman show walks the audience through a mother's transition to memory care as she and her daughter cope with the realities of early-onset Alzheimer's. Created and performed by young artist Natalie Grove, who was her mum's care partner.

[Jello Brain | Edinburgh Festival Fringe](#)

King Lear

King Lear is mad. Who would have thought that dividing your kingdom between three daughters, based on how much they love him, would have caused so many problems? At Lear's age he could do without the hassle.

[King Lear | Edinburgh Festival Fringe](#)

Life

Estelle models for The Artist, but despite decades of experience, she has never sat for a session like this. LIFE is set in a drawing class, and the audience is invited to draw or doodle during the show. A new work from Maria MacDonell, who has been part of Luminate's older emerging artists' programme.

[LIFE | Edinburgh Festival Fringe](#)

Living on the Moon

After experiencing her mother's demise from Alzheimer's, writer-performer Molly McFadden learns how to face the truth and let go in this poignant yet humorous one-woman show told with music, puppetry and love.

[Living on the Moon | Edinburgh Festival Fringe](#)

Lost Lear

A moving and darkly comic remix of Shakespeare's play told from the point of view of Joy, a person with dementia who is living in an old memory of rehearsing King Lear.

[Lost Lear | Edinburgh Festival Fringe](#)

Lunchbox

Lunchbox is about the impact of bullying, through the eyes of a troubled Scottish boy, Steven and Pakistani girl, Lubna. Created and performed by Lubna Kerr, an Edinburgh-based artist who has been part of Luminate's older emerging artists' programme.

[Lunchbox | Edinburgh Festival Fringe](#)

Ma Joyce's Tales from the Parlour

The story of a mixed-race Liverpoolian great-grandmother of Nigerian and Irish heritage celebrating her birthday, recalling a rollercoaster of memories. You think you know Scouse, well you've never tasted it like this before!

[Ma Joyce's Tales from the Parlour | Edinburgh Festival Fringe](#)

Margolyes and Dickens: More Best Bits

Having sold every ticket in 2024, Miriam Margolyes returns with more – more characters, more Dickens and more fascinating stories about the man behind the classics. At 84, Miriam's energy and passion are undimmed.

[Margolyes and Dickens: More Best Bits | Edinburgh Festival Fringe](#)

Motorhome Marilyn

Michelle Collins makes her Fringe debut as Denise, an aspiring actress with an obsessive relationship with Marilyn Monroe. The play reveals the toll of living in the shadow of an icon, exploring failure, ageing, and the heartbreaking cost of unattained dreams.

[Motorhome Marilyn | Edinburgh Festival Fringe](#)

Neil Frost: The Door

Neil Frost brings old photos taken in front of his Nan's kitchen door to life, unravelling the stories behind them with masterful silliness. A nostalgic, poignant comedy about living with your grandparents in 80's Britain.

[Neil Frost: The Door | Edinburgh Festival Fringe](#)

Pandora's Bowl

A play about a woman's survival and a bowl called Pandora. Told through memories of childhood, and the experience of motherhood, as a daughter, mother and grandmother, our story will resonate with people of all ages.

[Pandora's Bowl | Edinburgh Festival Fringe](#)

Scaramouche Jones

A 100-year-old clown comes offstage after his final performance to tell the story of his life: epic, hilarious and tragic. Performed by Thom Tuck who plans to revive the piece every decade as he approaches the age of the character.

[Scaramouche Jones | Edinburgh Festival Fringe](#)

The Nature of Forgetting

Theatre Re returns with its joyous five-star hit about what is left when memory is gone. Tom is living with early onset dementia. We meet him as he prepares for his 55th birthday party and past memories come flooding back.

[The Nature of Forgetting | Edinburgh Festival Fringe](#)

The Old Man and the Old Moon

The old man has kept his post as the sole caretaker of the moon for as long as he or his wife, the old woman, can remember. When she is drawn away, the old man must decide between duty and routine, and love and adventure.

[The Old Man and the Old Moon | Edinburgh Festival Fringe](#)

Watch It!

Masterful storytelling, daring dance and subversively stupid conversations from this unstoppable artist. Wendy Houston has been making work since 1980, and has warned that this may be her last show.

[Watch It! | Edinburgh Festival Fringe](#)

EDINBURGH INTERNATIONAL BOOK FESTIVAL

Bee Wilson: The Stories in Our Kitchen

Why does a chipped old mug or plate passed on to us by a loved one hold such special appeal? Bee Wilson draws on experiences of divorce, dementia and loss of home to examine why we find such an emotional connection with our favourite kitchen objects.

[Bee Wilson: The Stories in Our Kitchen | What's On | Edinburgh International Book Festival](#)

David Baddiel: A Family Affair

A frank, very funny look at Baddiel's middle-class Jewish upbringing in London, including his mother's decades long affair with a golfing memorabilia salesman and the poignancy of his father's dementia.

[David Baddiel: A Family Affair | What's On | Edinburgh International Book Festival](#)

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Devi Sridhar: Health For All

What's the key to a longer, healthier life? Is the answer in self-help books or should we be holding governments to account for their policies on everything from pandemic preparedness to water treatment? Edinburgh University's Personal Chair of Global Health Devi Sridhar believes it's the latter.

[Devi Sridhar: Health For All | What's On | Edinburgh International Book Festival](#)

Fresh Words: Jenny Brown – Debut Writers Over 50

Be the first to discover the literary stars of the future. In partnership with the Jenny Brown Associates Debut Writers Over 50 Award, the event features Susan Kemp, Margherita Still, Caroline Grebbel, Jade Mitchell and Robbie MacLeòid.

[Fresh Words: Jenny Brown Debut Writers Over 50 | What's On | Edinburgh International Book Festival](#)

James Runcie & Fenella Humphreys: Life After Love, Love After Love

After his wife – theatre director and radio producer, Marilyn Imrie – died, author James Runcie wrote an intensely moving memoir. To mark the fifth anniversary of her passing, Runcie offers his reflections on loss, memory, and what it means to love again.

[James Runcie & Fenella Humphreys: Life After Love, Love After Love | What's On | Edinburgh International Book Festival](#)

Jenny Colgan: Coming Back Home

Home may be where the heart is - but what happens when that home is invaded by your unemployed 30-year-old kid? Jenny Colgan's *Meet Me at the Seaside Cottages* explores the ever-evolving relationship between a mother and her adult daughter.

[Jenny Colgan: Coming Back Home | What's On | Edinburgh International Book Festival](#)

Malachy Tallack: That Beautiful Atlantic Waltz

Tallack's novel tells the story of Jack, a Shetlander growing steadily old inside the cottage where he's always lived. The book is uniquely accompanied by an album of evocative songs, 'written' by Jack.

[Malachy Tallack: That Beautiful Atlantic Waltz | What's On | Edinburgh International Book Festival](#)

James Rebanks: Living on the Edge

Rebanks takes us to the Vega archipelago off the coast of Norway, and a season spent learning lessons in self-sufficiency from an older woman living at the edge of the world.

[James Rebanks: Living on the Edge | What's On | Edinburgh International Book Festival](#)

Richard Holloway: The Grace in Uncertainty

Richard Holloway shares his new memoir, *Last Words*, which he says will be his final book. Holloway reflects on a long life defined by great faith and grave doubt, and relates how he's found a gentle path between the two.

[Richard Holloway: The Grace in Uncertainty | What's On | Edinburgh International Book Festival](#)

Stories and Scran

Celebrates work created by communities across Edinburgh, including the Book Festival's own Adults Writing Group and Citizen Collective, plus a special performance from Dance Base's 60 company, PRIME.

[Stories and Scran | What's On | Edinburgh International Book Festival](#)

Who Will be Remembered Here

2025 marks 30 years since the first major Pride event in Scotland, yet queer histories have existed for as long as Scotland has. A discussion of how we reconsider the stories of the past, and what it means to 'remember into the future'.

[Who Will Be Remembered Here | What's On | Edinburgh International Book Festival](#)

Children and families

Pretty Painted Pebbles with Jarvis, for 3-5 year olds

Jarvis shares his beautiful story, *Our Pebbles*, all about a boy, his Grandad, and the pebbles they collect and paint together. Learn all about how the objects we collect with our loved ones can hold memories that last a lifetime.

[Pretty Painted Pebbles with Jarvis | What's On | Edinburgh International Book Festival](#)

EDINBURGH INTERNATIONAL FILM FESTIVAL

Walk With Me

When life gets thrown off its axis by her husband's diagnosis with dementia, one filmmaker is determined to capture it and treasure it all the same.

[Walk With Me - Edinburgh International Film Festival](#)

Animation Shorts

Includes *Wednesdays With Gramps*; a teenager discovers he has more in common with Gramps than he thought.

[Animation Shorts - Edinburgh International Film Festival](#)

Bridging the Gap Shorts

Includes *Community Theatre*; a local community theatre group dramatises the intergenerational stories of a quiet Scottish town.

[Bridging the Gap Shorts - Edinburgh International Film Festival](#)

Out of Competition Shorts

Includes *The Second Time Around*; while closing a café for the night, a waitress is confronted by a mysterious older woman.

[Out of Competition Shorts - Edinburgh International Film Festival](#)