HOT TICKETS FOR THE FESTIVAL

Edinburgh International Festival tickets have been on sale since late March.

Festival fans can book their seats for this year's performances online at www.eif.co.uk, on the phone (0131 473 2000) or in person at The Hub, Castlehill, Edinburgh.

Early indications are that the European premiere of Opera Australia's Bliss, the Royal Concertgebouw Orchestra from Amsterdam, colourful music theatre spectacular from New York The Gospel at Colonus, National Theatre of Scotland's world premiere of Darien venture play Caledonia, sexy and energetic Brazilian dance troupe Grupo Corpo and Opéra de Lyon's sensational production of Porgy and Bess will be among this year's hottest tickets.

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In a packed Festival 2010, the Edinburgh International Festival has shifted its focus away from Europe to the diverse cultures of North, Central and South America and Australasia.

Jonathan Mills, Festival Director, says: 'I think this year's programme is an exciting mix of energetic celebration and thought provoking work. The mix of high profile events, artists unfamiliar to the UK, world premieres, commissions and international partnerships we bring together continues to contribute to the unique appeal of the Edinburgh International Festival. We've had a great response so far to the launch of the programme, and I look forward to meeting ticket buyers at The Hub on Saturday.'

The Festival remains highly affordable with tickets to performances starting at just £8, and a large range of discounts available. Young people aged 18 or under and students can buy any ticket at 50% off from this Saturday.

Customers aged 26 and under also have access to £8 on-the-day tickets during August and September.