

Festival booking opens 24 March



Hot Stuff – Festival 2012

Tickets go on sale for Edinburgh International Festival 2012 this Saturday and organisers recommend Festival fans act quickly to secure tickets to unmissable shows this August.

Tickets are available from 10am on Saturday 24 March online at eif.co.uk, by phone on + 44 (0)131 473 2000, or in person at Hub Tickets, Castlehill, Edinburgh, EH1 2NE.

Almost 3000 artists from 47 nations will gather in the Scottish capital this year for Edinburgh International Festival 2012 (Thursday 9 August to Sunday 2 September) to share the live experience of theatre, dance, opera and music with audiences from approximately a third of the world's nations.

Among those shows tipped to be the hottest this summer are:

Maestro Valery Gergiev leading the **Mariinsky Ballet** and orchestra for **Prokofiev's Cinderella** choreographed by the dance world's man-of-the-moment **Alexei Ratmansky**. Festival 2012's Opening Concert, Delius's vast masterpiece **A Mass of Life** conducted by Sir Andrew Davis and performed by the Royal Scottish National Orchestra.

Thousands of walkers form the participatory audience for **NVA's**

Speed of Light, joining thousands of runners to bring Edinburgh's iconic city centre mountain **Arthur's Seat** to life over the three and a half weeks of the Festival. The vitality and astonishing technique of **Juilliard Dance** from New York, who can be seen for the first time in the UK at Festival 2012.

The European premiere of **Deborah Colker Dance Company's *Tatyana*** where Hot Brazilian moves meet Russian passion. A new production of Janáček's ***The Makropulos Case*** by **Opera North** with acclaimed director Tom Cairns and an exceptional cast of soloists.

Three productions by legendary European directors at **Royal Highland Centre's Lowland Hall**: **Grzegorz Jarzyna's** visceral and multi-media version of Macbeth, ***2008: Macbeth***. Legendary French director **Ariane Mnouchkine's** epic and witty production ***Les Naufragés du Fol Espoir (Aurores)***; and **Christoph Marthaler's** very funny adaptation of *My Fair Lady*, ***Meine faire Dame – ein Sprachlabor***.

The Usher Hall programme this year includes the great partnership of **Valery Gergiev** and the **London Symphony Orchestra**, and the globally acclaimed ensemble of young musicians, **Gustav Mahler Jugendorchester**.

And bringing Festival 2012 to a spectacular close, the ever popular ***Virgin Money Fireworks Concert*** this year celebrates the best of British, and the Queen's Jubilee, with famous tunes by Walton and Vaughan Williams.

Details for all shows, preview films and photos are available at eif.co.uk. The free Festival brochure can be picked up from The Hub and venues across the UK and beyond. The brochure is also available, with an extended venue and access guide, in audio and Braille formats.



Ticket prices remain great value starting at just £6.

From 24 March, under-18s and students in full time education can buy any ticket at 50% off on selected performances. More great discounts become available in the run up to the Festival.

People with a disability can buy the seats most suited to them for the lowest (unrestricted view) ticket price for that performance. Their companion's ticket will be free.

Jackie Westbrook, Marketing and Communications Director, Edinburgh International Festival, said: 'With some of the greatest artists in the world appearing at the Festival this year alongside exciting new names, there is a fantastic range of shows to look forwards to. So please don't wait too long to get your tickets. We look forward to seeing you at Festival 2012.

Jamie Snelgrove, Ticket Services Manager at Hub Tickets added: 'As well as securing the tickets for your "must see" show this year, why not try something new or different. Our box office staff love this year's programme and can't wait to talk to people about it, and maybe give a few tips.'