

Five things you need to know today



Festivals – Out of the Blue Arts Market – Police Boxes – Diamond Jubilee – Circus

The Edinburgh International Film Festival has launched its programme this week with 150 films to be viewed in just 12 days. The Festival Fringe launched its programme yesterday and the figures are impressive reading:-

The Edinburgh Festival Fringe 2012 features 42,096 performances of 2,695 shows in 279 venues.

- **Comedy** makes up 36%
- **Theatre** makes up 28%
- **Music** makes up 13%
- **Musicals and Opera** makes up 4%
- **Children's Shows** make up 4%
- **Dance & Physical Theatre** makes up 4%
- **Events** make up 4%
- **Cabaret** makes up 4%
- **Spoken Word** makes up 1%
- **Exhibitions** make up 2%

An estimated **22,457** performers will take to the stage in Fringe 2012. There are **814** free shows, **1,418** world premieres and **47** different countries represented.

We were at the Fringe Festival Launch and have our own [introduction to this year's offerings here](#). We also attended the Traverse launch and [the details of that are here](#).

The next festival to be launched is the Mela Festival and that takes place next Thursday. By then we might be a bit too tired to actually go to the Festivals!

Out of the Blue Drill Hall were missed off our list of [Sixty things to do in Edinburgh during the Jubilee Weekend](#). So what we have to tell you is that the fantastic art space has loads on this weekend. In particular on Saturday 2 June they have an Arts Market with the work of about 50 artists on sale. Actually Arts Crafts and Fudge! And North Edinburgh News has some [Jubilee news here](#).

The Scotsman reports that over 100 bids have been received for the 22 police boxes it is selling. [More details here](#).

[And the Council news blog](#) reminds you that you can join in all the Jubilee pageantry from the Big Screen in Festival Square, and remember that [we have made our own suggestions for you](#) for the upcoming weekend. Have a Diamond time!

[The BBC](#) reports the story that charities are calling for the boycotting of the circus which comes to Ingliston next week on the basis that the owners are about to appear in court charged with causing suffering to an elephant...