

Assembly headlines big names this summer

Assembly Festival from 31 July to 26 August 2019 has a programme for 2019 full of big names, exceptional performances, ground-breaking new work, home-grown talent, breath-taking circus and dance, and hilarious children's theatre.

Theatre and comedy are at the heart of this year's programme, with over 235 shows programmed across six main venues, including **Sir Ian McKellen** returning to Edinburgh to celebrate his 80th (programmed by the EIF), **Eddie Izzard** presenting a work in progress of Charles Dickens' *Great Expectations*, legendary screenwriter **Russell T Davies** (*Doctor Who*, *Queer as Folk*), and author, actress and activist **Rose McGowan** making her Fringe debut.



In music there is *Friendsical: A Parody Musical About Friends* based on the TV hit show; *Cruel Intentions: The '90s Musical*; *Wannabe – The Spice Girls Show*; *Legally Blonde: The Musical*; *Musik* with Frances Barber as Billie Trix and six original songs by Pet Shop Boys; Fringe favourites **The**

Magnets returning with an unmissable showcase of everyone's favourite hits from the 90s; and new tap-dancing and beat-boxing spectacular **Noise Boys** from the producers of **Choir of Man**, which also returns this year.

Theatre highlights include Liz Lochhead's hilarious take on Moliere's **Tartuffe**; Cora Bissett's **What Girls Are Made Of**; Judith Thompson's riveting portrayal of a harrowing true story **Watching Glory Die**; **The Fishermen, Status**, and **The Believers Are But Brothers** (all part of the British Council's theatre showcase); **Fake News**; **Brendan Galileo for Europe**; and **(I)sland T(r)ap** – a reimagining of the Odyssey told through music and poetry which was a recent winner at the New Zealand Fringe Awards.

At Roxy there is **Disruption** – Assembly's new season of contemporary work co-curated with **HighTide**; and premiere this year's ART Award winner **Ane City** – a one woman show about an unforgettable night-out in Dundee.

This year's comedy line-up is packed with big names including US stars **Nick Offerman**, **Phoebe Robinson**, **Jena Friedman** and **Tom Lenk**, who join **Clive Anderson**, **Frank Skinner**, **Russell Howard**, **Jason Byrne**, **David O'Doherty**, **Nish Kumar**, **Stewart Francis**, **Jessie Cave**, **Arabella Weir**, new talent from Pinder Prize winners **Sam Taunton** and **Steph Tisdell** (as part of the **Aboriginal Comedy All-Stars**), plus many more.



Frank Skinner

In circus and cabaret Assembly showcases the UK premiere of **Flip Fabrique's *Blizzard***; the return of Fringe sell-outs ***My Land*** and ***Paris de Nuit***, ***360 Allstars***, ***Bromance***, ***Machine de Cirque's La Galerie***, ***The Atomic Saloon Show*** and the stunning voices of **Reuben Kaye**, **Melinda Hughes**, **Christina Bianco**, **Miss Hope Springs**, **The Divet Show**, and **Diane Chorley** bringing her 80s nightclub ***The Flick*** to the Underground in George Square.

Younger audiences will have plenty to keep them entertained with **Jarred Christmas and Hobbit's Beatbox Comedy Show**, **The Bubble Show**, **Morgan & West's Unbelievable Science** a brand new LIVE show from digital TV sensation **Little Baby Bum**, award winner at this year's Fringe World in Perth and the return of Fringe favourite **Monski Mouse**.



This year Assembly also hosts a new season of music and theatre from **Korea**, and for something completely different, there is a week long **WiFi Wars Video Game Takeover**, kinetic, physical comedy on the **Back of the Bus**, dance, songs and shameless gossip at **Pamela's Palace**, anonymous cult figure **West End Producer** who will be auditioning special guests from the audience for his 'Free Willy' musical, a comedic walking tour of Edinburgh with **Amy Gwilliam's** bulldozing and bamboozling Property Developer character, **Frankie Foxstone** and one-off comedy extravaganza and fundraiser **Stand up for Your Planet** raising awareness of one of the most pressing issues of our time.

Finally, for late-night comedy, cabaret and variety, new for 2019 is **Best of the Fest...Later**, Goose's **Quizzes vs The Fringe** which pits Goose and the audience against a different Fringe performer every night and **The Kaye Hole** – the Fringe's riskiest and most diverse acts hosted by cabaret icon **Reuben Kaye**.

William Burdett-Coutts Artistic Director of Assembly Festival said: "2019 is shaping up to be another fantastic year for Assembly Festival with the very best theatre and comedy at the

heart of our programme. I hope that our line-up will provide Edinburgh's audiences with an excellent selection of shows that are both memorable and entertaining."

Assembly's full programme is now available at www.assemblyfestival.com

