

MagicFest 2024 promises to blow you away

Edinburgh MagicFest takes place at the end of December, promising to wow audiences and brighten the darkest days and evenings of the year with some sparkling magic.

The programme, which will feature shows with tricks linked to the city and its 900th birthday, runs from 17 to 30 December.

The trio are Winner of The European Magic Championships and The Magic Circle Close-up Magician of the Year, Dr Will Houston, Magician, psychologist and writer, Professor Richard Wiseman, and Edinburgh-based magician scientist, Kevin Quantum. They will be joined by the Art of Illusion, Chris De Rosa and Michelle Ferguson. The hula hoop artist Daiquiri Dusk will also mesmerise audiences.

Professor Wiseman will present Edinburgh's History of Magic talking about a surprising part of Auld Reekie's past.

This year the performances will take place in Church Hill Theatre and also in the Carnegie Hall, Dunfermline.

Organiser and co-founder of MagicFest Kevin Quantum said: "This is our 15th MagicFest and it'll blow you away, with some of the finest magicians around, including some of the Magic Circle's finest.

"As ever it will be a brilliant way to brighten up December and bring an extra sense of joy and wonder to the festive season.

“As I was raised in Fife I’m especially delighted that we are going outside Edinburgh for the first time and presenting our Christmas Special at the Carnegie Hall – where I was always loved being in the audience for the Christmas shows as a boy.”

there will be an exhibition of mind-bending photographic illusions created by young people from Edinburgh Young Carers. This is supported by the National Lottery Community Fund, the Edinburgh 900 Civic Fund and Kiran’s Trust.

Kate Still, The National Lottery Community Fund Scotland Chair, said: “National Lottery players can take pride in knowing that their contributions have helped people across Scotland lead more fulfilling and connected lives.”

Highlights include:

- **Christmas Special:** A riotous full evening show on the big stage with new, unfiltered magic and spectacular stage illusions designed to blow your mind.
- **Edinburgh Magic:** Kevin Quantumunlocks hidden Edinburgh and presents the magic that’s fooled the greatest minds associated with the city, from Harry Houdini to King Charles. Objects float before your eyes, money multiplies, time stands still.
- **The Secret Room:** Intimate performances from some of Edinburgh’s finest mystery entertainers, in an elegant townhouse full of surprises. Featuring world-class card magician Lewis Barlow, astounding sleight-of-hand artist Tim Licata and captivating magician and mind-reader Lorenzo.
- **Dan Bastianelli, Deception:** Following sell-out runs at the Edinburgh Fringe, award-winning magician Dan Bastianelli brings his close-up magic experience to MagicFest.
- **Lorenzo, Oracle: Do You Want to See the Future?:** A jaw-dropping thought-reading experience that has audiences

grinning, scratching their heads and wondering if they have glimpsed their personal future. A premonition party.

- **Tim Licata. Close-Up & Personal:** A tale of magic, the mafia and delightful deception. Blending tricks and illusions with colourful storytelling as Chicago-born sleight-of-hand artist Tim Licata reveals his personal journey into the conjuror's craft.
- **Tricky Ricky, The After Christmas, Christmas Show:** Laugh your Christmas socks off with Scotland's "Children's Entertainer of the year" Tricky Ricky in this funny, punny magic show.
- **Will Houstoun and Richard Wiseman, Magic 101: A workshop:** Psychologist Richard Wiseman and sleight of hand expert Will Houstoun introduce you to the world of magic. Learn amazing tricks, explore psychology and performance skills, and discover how to astonish and entertain your friends and family. For ages 11+, family groups welcome, participants under 18s must be accompanied by a paying adult.
- **Dr Houstoun's Conjuring:** Discover the truth about incredible magicians of days gone by and share the doctor's fascination with the history of magic.
- **Richard Wiseman, The Invention of Magic:** Celebrating magic and with illusions crafted by an unknown master, this show explores the invention of the impossible. Peek into the secret world of magic and witness the world's greatest card trick.
- **Magic Bros, Tinsel and Tricks:** Step into a world of wonder with a captivating magic show presented by young, up-and-coming magicians, Logan Ford and Jamie Leonard who first appeared as part of the 2022 MagicFest Future Magicians initiative.
- **Virtual Magic School:** Learn to read minds, make objects appear and disappear, and other mysterious skills with a special eight-part virtual magic course from Kevin

Quantum.

www.magicfest.co.uk Phone 0131 226 0006 Booking lines are open till 21st December, Monday to Friday 10am – 5pm. During the holidays, email boxoffice@magicfest.co.uk



Ricky MacLeod.or Tricky Ricky



The Secret Room with Lewis Barlow



Kevin Quantum PHOTO by Geebz