

Fringe 2026 Access & Enhanced Performance Guide

Who we are

2026 marks the 20th anniversary of the Scottish Storytelling Centre, a vibrant and welcoming space celebrating our shared cultural heritage through a programme of live storytelling, theatre, dance, music and workshops. We showcase the best in Scottish-based and international talent, building connections across cultures and art forms. We curate a Fringe programme reflecting the energy and variety of our year-round offer and are the hub for the [Scottish International Storytelling Festival](#) every October.

Accessibility at Fringe

We strive to make our space and our programme as accessible as possible to our many and varied audiences. There is a [full access guide](#) available on our website, where you can find information about how to find us, the physical accessibility of the building, hearing loops, lift access and more.

We also put together this Fringe Access and Enhanced Performance Guide, giving access information about each of our Fringe performances.

SSC is a small venue and compared to many other places on the Royal Mile is relatively calm even during the Fringe. While we have busy periods over lunchtime and when popular shows are about to start, we only have two performance spaces (99 capacity Netherbow Theatre and 30 capacity George Mackay Brown Library) so even at our busiest you can usually order at the cafe or use the toilets without too much of a wait.

Enhanced performances

Live storytelling by its nature is relaxed when compared to many theatre productions. There tends to be very little by way of lighting changes, amplified sound, distinctive smells, set or props. It is also well suited for those with visual impairments as it is almost entirely narrative-based, with descriptions of action and plot integrated into the very fabric of the show.

In general, rather than designating relaxed performances, SSC makes as much information as possible available to audiences ahead of time, including details of lighting, sound, dialogue and any content or trigger warnings. If a given show has designated a relaxed or chilled

performance and adapted appropriately, these details are available on Fringe platforms and in this guide.

Fringe 2026 Programme Access Guide

Access information for each performance can be found by scrolling or clicking the name of each show.

[A Wolf Shall Devour the Sun](#)

[Address to a Haggis](#)

[Aderyn/Bird](#)

[An American Love Letter to Edinburgh](#)

[Common Tongue](#)

[The Corpse Road](#)

[The Dark Pool](#)

[The Elves and the Shoemaker](#)

[The Flyting](#)

[Forge](#)

[Hamlet \(an experience\)](#)

[Iliad: The Song of Thetis](#)

[Irrational](#)

[Loud Poets](#)

[Marjolein Robertson: Shetland Folklore](#)

[The Ostrich Principle](#)

[Our Martin in the Background](#)

[Queer Folks' Tales](#)

[Romeo and Juliet for Bairns](#)

[Selkie: Past, Present, Future](#)

[Singing Willows and the Magical Bed](#)

[Spinster](#)

[Step One](#)

[Telling the Bees](#)

[Through the Shortbread Tin](#)

[Thunderstruck](#)

[Traditional Tales](#)

[Triptych for Our Times](#)

[Troubled Waters](#)

[When Billy Met Alasdair](#)

A Wolf Shall Devour the Sun

The show is performed by one storyteller and one musician who will also perform shadow puppetry at points. BSL

Enhanced performances

Sun 9 Aug - BSL interpreted. Interpretation by Sarah Forrester

Content warnings

None

Which of the following are contained in the show?	Yes/No
Total audience blackout	No
Flashing/strobe light	No
Loud/repetitive/high-pitched/unexpected or overlapping sound	No
Distinctive smells	No
Special effects (e.g. smoke/bubbles/pyrotechnics)	No
Latex balloons	No
Characters expressing anger	No
Heavily dialogue-driven scenes	Yes
Audience participation	Optional singing along

Address to a Haggis

Poem delivered by one performer. Mix of seating and standing space, unallocated.

Content warnings

None

Aderyn/Bird

The show is performed by two storyteller/musicians. The instruments are played acoustically. The lighting is simple and static.

Content warnings

- Brief mention of violence, described not depicted

Which of the following are contained in the show?	Yes/No
Total Audience blackout	No
Flashing/Strobed lighting	No
Loud/repetitive/high pitched/unexpected or overlapping sound	Yes
Distinctive smells	No
Special effects (e.g. smoke/bubbles/pyrotechnics)	No
Latex balloons	No
Characters expressing anger	Yes
Heavily dialogue-driven scenes	Yes
Audience participation	No

An American Love Letter to Edinburgh

The show consists of one performer without significant lighting changes or amplified sound.

Enhanced performance

Mon 24 Aug - Captioned. Open captioning by Claire Hill.

Content warnings

None

Which of the following are contained in the show?	Yes/No
Total audience blackout	No
Flashing/strobe light	No
Loud/repetitive/high-pitched/unexpected or overlapping sound	No
Distinctive smells	No
Special effects (e.g. smoke/bubbles/pyrotechnics)	No
Latex balloons	No
Characters expressing anger	Yes

Heavily dialogue-driven scenes	Yes
Audience participation	No

Common Tongue

The show consists of one performer. No amplified sound, lighting changes throughout.

Content warnings

- Strong language/swearing

Which of the following are contained in the show?	Yes/No
Total audience blackout	Yes
Flashing/strobe light	No
Loud/repetitive/high-pitched/unexpected or overlapping sound	Yes
Distinctive smells	No
Special effects (e.g. smoke/bubbles/pyrotechnics)	No
Latex balloons	No
Characters expressing anger	Yes
Heavily dialogue-driven scenes	Yes
Audience participation	Some, optional

The Corpse Road

The show consists of one storyteller and one musician. Voice unamplified, some amplification for the instrument(s).

Enhanced performance

Sat 22 Aug - Captioned. Open captioning by Claire Hill.

Content warnings

- Distressing or potentially triggering themes
- Discussion of death and grief

Which of the following are contained in the show?	Yes/No
Total audience blackout	Yes
Flashing/strobe light	No
Loud/repetitive/high-pitched/unexpected or overlapping sound	Yes
Distinctive smells	No
Special effects (e.g. smoke/bubbles/pyrotechnics)	No
Latex balloons	No
Characters expressing anger	No
Heavily dialogue-driven scenes	Yes
Audience participation	Some, optional

The Dark Pool

The show consists of one performer, voice unamplified.

Content warnings

- Distressing or potentially triggering themes

Which of the following are contained in the show?	Yes/No
Total audience blackout	No
Flashing/strobe light	No
Loud/repetitive/high-pitched/unexpected or overlapping sound	No
Distinctive smells	No
Special effects (e.g. smoke/bubbles/pyrotechnics)	No
Latex balloons	No
Characters expressing anger	No
Heavily dialogue-driven scenes	No
Audience participation	No

The Elves and the Shoemaker

Show performed by one storyteller/puppeteer with minimal lighting changes. There is some amplified music at the start and end of the show. All children are welcome, ideally suited for 3 years and above.

Content warnings

None

Which of the following are contained in the show?	Yes/No
Total audience blackout	Yes
Flashing/strobe light	Yes
Loud/repetitive/high-pitched/unexpected or overlapping sound	Yes
Distinctive smells	No
Special effects (e.g. smoke/bubbles/pyrotechnics)	No
Latex balloons	No
Characters expressing anger	No
Heavily dialogue-driven scenes	No
Audience participation	Yes, child-friendly

The Flyting

Show consists of one storyteller/musician. Lighting remains stable throughout. Some of the instruments may be amplified.

Content warnings

None

Which of the following are contained in the show?	Yes/No
Total audience blackout	No
Flashing/strobe light	No
Loud/repetitive/high-pitched/unexpected or overlapping sound	No
Distinctive smells	No

Special effects (e.g. smoke/bubbles/pyrotechnics)	No
Latex balloons	No
Characters expressing anger	No
Heavily dialogue-driven scenes	Yes
Audience participation	No

Forge

The show consists of one performer. Some amplified instruments/sound and voice recordings played throughout.

Content warnings

None

Which of the following are contained in the show?	Yes/No
Total audience blackout	No
Flashing/strobe light	No
Loud/repetitive/high-pitched/unexpected or overlapping sound	No
Distinctive smells	No
Special effects (e.g. smoke/bubbles/pyrotechnics)	No
Latex balloons	No
Characters expressing anger	No
Heavily dialogue-driven scenes	No
Audience participation	No

Hamlet (an experience)

The show consists of one performer and the audience. Participation throughout. Lighting simple and static, no amplified sound.

Content warnings

- Strong language/swearing

Which of the following are contained in the show?	Yes/No
Total audience blackout	No
Flashing/strobe light	No
Loud/repetitive/high-pitched/unexpected or overlapping sound	No
Distinctive smells	No
Special effects (e.g. smoke/bubbles/pyrotechnics)	No
Latex balloons	No
Characters expressing anger	No
Heavily dialogue-driven scenes	Yes
Audience participation	Yes

Iliad: The Song of Thetis

The show consists of two performers who will switch roles and characters throughout. Instruments are played acoustically, song and voice is unamplified.

Content warnings

- Distressing or potentially triggering themes
- Scenes of a sexual nature

Which of the following are contained in the show?	Yes/No
Total audience blackout	No
Flashing/strobe light	No
Loud/repetitive/high-pitched/unexpected or overlapping sound	Yes
Distinctive smells	No
Special effects (e.g. smoke/bubbles/pyrotechnics)	No

Latex balloons	No
Characters expressing anger	Yes
Heavily dialogue-driven scenes	No
Audience participation	No

Irrational

The show consists of one performer. Lighting is basic and remains static throughout. No amplification.

Content warnings

None

Which of the following are contained in the show?	Yes/No
Total audience blackout	No
Flashing/strobe light	No
Loud/repetitive/high-pitched/unexpected or overlapping sound	No
Distinctive smells	No
Special effects (e.g. smoke/bubbles/pyrotechnics)	No
Latex balloons	No
Characters expressing anger	Yes
Heavily dialogue-driven scenes	Yes
Audience participation	Some, optional

Loud Poets

The show features a number of poets performing individually and collectively. The lighting is simple with some changes throughout. Performers will use a microphone. The musician will use an amplifier. Some of the poems performed may contain sensitive or triggering subject matter.

Enhanced performance

Thu 27 Aug - BSL interpreted. Interpretation by Sarah Forrester.

Content warnings

- Strong language/swearing
- Distressing or potentially triggering themes

Which of the following are contained in the show?	Yes/No
Total audience blackout	No
Flashing/strobe light	No
Loud/repetitive/high-pitched/unexpected or overlapping sound	Yes
Distinctive smells	No
Special effects (e.g. smoke/bubbles/pyrotechnics)	No
Latex balloons	No
Characters expressing anger	No
Heavily dialogue-driven scenes	No
Audience participation	No

Marjolein Robertson: Shetland Folklore

The show consists of one performer, voice unamplified.

Content warnings

None

Which of the following are contained in the show?	Yes/No
Total audience blackout	No
Flashing/strobe light	No
Loud/repetitive/high-pitched/unexpected or overlapping sound	No

Distinctive smells	No
Special effects (e.g. smoke/bubbles/pyrotechnics)	No
Latex balloons	No
Characters expressing anger	No
Heavily dialogue-driven scenes	No
Audience participation	No

The Ostrich Principle

The show consists of two storyteller/musicians. Lighting stable throughout. No amplification.

Content warnings

- Distressing or potentially triggering themes

Which of the following are contained in the show?	Yes/No
Total audience blackout	No
Flashing/strobe light	No
Loud/repetitive/high-pitched/unexpected or overlapping sound	No
Distinctive smells	No
Special effects (e.g. smoke/bubbles/pyrotechnics)	No
Latex balloons	No
Characters expressing anger	Yes
Heavily dialogue-driven scenes	Yes
Audience participation	No

Our Martin in the Background

The show is performed by one actor. There is no amplification. There are some lighting changes throughout.

Content warnings

- Sex references
- Homophobia

Which of the following are contained in the show?	Yes/No
Total audience blackout	No
Flashing/strobe light	No
Loud/repetitive/high-pitched/unexpected or overlapping sound	No
Distinctive smells	No
Special effects (e.g. smoke/bubbles/pyrotechnics)	No
Latex balloons	No
Characters expressing anger	No
Heavily dialogue-driven scenes	No
Audience participation	No

Queer Folks' Tales

The show features a number of storytellers, musicians, poets and other artists performing individually. There is no amplified sound apart from amplification for instruments and no significant lighting changes. Due to the nature of the mixed bill performance, detailed content warnings are not possible. Some of the performances may include sensitive or triggering subject matter. Readmittance is permitted throughout.

Audience participation consists of submitting a written micro-story of your own at the interval (optional, no speaking or performing).

Content warnings

- Strong language/swearing
- Distressing or potentially triggering themes

Which of the following are contained in the show?	Yes/No
Total audience blackout	No
Flashing/strobe light	No
Loud/repetitive/high-pitched/unexpected or overlapping sound	No
Distinctive smells	No
Special effects (e.g. smoke/bubbles/pyrotechnics)	No
Latex balloons	No
Characters expressing anger	Yes
Heavily dialogue-driven scenes	Yes
Audience participation	Yes, optional

Romeo and Juliet for Bairns

The show is performed by one storyteller and is designed for babies and toddlers so all performances will be relaxed and feature engagement with the performer and permission to move around and make noise.

A trainee BSL interpreter will be in attendance at both performances Fri 21-Sun 23 Aug and will offer some BSL interpretation suitable for very young children, i.e. not sufficient for d/Deaf adults.

Content warnings

None

Which of the following are contained in the show?	Yes/No
Total audience blackout	No
Flashing/strobe light	Yes
Loud/repetitive/high-pitched/unexpected or overlapping sound	No
Distinctive smells	No
Special effects (e.g. smoke/bubbles/pyrotechnics)	Yes, bubbles
Latex balloons	No

Characters expressing anger	No
Heavily dialogue-driven scenes	No
Audience participation	Yes, child-friendly

Selkie: Past, Present, Future

The show features a storyteller and a musician. Voice and instrument will be unamplified. There will be some lighting changes throughout.

Enhanced performances

Fri 21 Aug - BSL interpreted. Interpretation by Sarah Forrester

Sat 22 Aug - Captioned. Open captioning by Claire Hill

Content warnings

- Distressing or potentially triggering themes
- Reference to homophobia and transphobia

Total audience blackout	No
Flashing/strobe light	Yes
Loud/repetitive/high-pitched/unexpected or overlapping sound	No
Distinctive smells	No
Special effects (e.g. smoke/bubbles/pyrotechnics)	No
Latex balloons	No
Characters expressing anger	Yes
Heavily dialogue-driven scenes	Yes
Audience participation	No

Singing Willows and the Magical Bed

The show consists of four performers. Will have set and lighting changes throughout.

Enhanced performances

All performances feature integrated BSL and are suitable for d/Deaf audiences.

Content warnings

None

Which of the following are contained in the show?	Yes/No
Total audience blackout	No
Flashing/strobe light	Yes
Loud/repetitive/high-pitched/unexpected or overlapping sound	No
Distinctive smells	No
Special effects (e.g. smoke/bubbles/pyrotechnics)	Yes
Latex balloons	No
Characters expressing anger	No
Heavily dialogue-driven scenes	No
Audience participation	Yes, child-friendly

Spinster

The show consists of one performer, voice unamplified. Lighting remains static throughout.

Content warnings

None

Which of the following are contained in the show?	Yes/No
Total audience blackout	No

Flashing/strobe light	No
Loud/repetitive/high-pitched/unexpected or overlapping sound	No
Distinctive smells	No
Special effects (e.g. smoke/bubbles/pyrotechnics)	No
Latex balloons	No
Characters expressing anger	No
Heavily dialogue-driven scenes	No
Audience participation	No

Step One

Participatory performance featuring the artist and one audience member. Participation inherent.

Content warnings

None

Which of the following are contained in the show?	Yes/No
Total audience blackout	No
Flashing/strobe light	No
Loud/repetitive/high-pitched/unexpected or overlapping sound	No
Distinctive smells	No
Special effects (e.g. smoke/bubbles/pyrotechnics)	No
Latex balloons	No
Characters expressing anger	No
Heavily dialogue-driven scenes	No
Audience participation	Yes

Telling the Bees

Show consists of one performer, voice unamplified. Some lighting changes throughout.

Content warnings

None

Which of the following are contained in the show?	Yes/No
Total audience blackout	No
Flashing/strobe light	No
Loud/repetitive/high-pitched/unexpected or overlapping sound	No
Distinctive smells	No
Special effects (e.g. smoke/bubbles/pyrotechnics)	No
Latex balloons	No
Characters expressing anger	No
Heavily dialogue-driven scenes	No
Audience participation	Yes, child-friendly

Through the Shortbread Tin

The show consists of multiple performers and a significant set. Lighting will change throughout.

Enhanced performances

Thu 13 & Sat 22 Aug - Captioned. Open captioning.

Tue 25 & Sat 29 Aug - BSL interpreted.

Fri 14 & Mon 24 Aug - Audio Described

Thu 20 & Sun 30 Aug - Chilled

For details about the adaptations for the Chilled performances, please contact Reception reception@scottishstorytellingcentre.com.

Content warnings

- Strong language/swearing

Which of the following are contained in the show?	Yes/No
--	---------------

Total audience blackout	No
Flashing/strobe light	No
Loud/repetitive/high-pitched/unexpected or overlapping sound	No
Distinctive smells	No
Special effects (e.g. smoke/bubbles/pyrotechnics)	No
Latex balloons	No
Characters expressing anger	No
Heavily dialogue-driven scenes	Yes
Audience participation	No

Thunderstruck

The show is performed by one storyteller/musician with musical accompaniment from a backing band. The performer embodies a number of characters.

Content warnings

- Very strong language
- Themes of homophobic bullying, violence and alcohol misuse
- Optional audience interaction
- Loud live music

Which of the following are contained in the show?	Yes/No
Total audience blackout	Yes
Flashing/strobe light	Yes
Loud/repetitive/high-pitched/unexpected or overlapping sound	Yes
Distinctive smells	No
Special effects (e.g. smoke/bubbles/pyrotechnics)	No
Latex balloons	No
Characters expressing anger	Yes

Heavily dialogue-driven scenes	No
Audience participation	Yes, optional

Traditional Tales

The show is performed by one storyteller, a different one every day. There is no amplified sound and no lighting changes.

Which of the following are contained in the show?	Yes/No
Total audience blackout	No
Flashing/strobe light	No
Loud/repetitive/high-pitched/unexpected or overlapping sound	No
Distinctive smells	No
Special effects (e.g. smoke/bubbles/pyrotechnics)	No
Latex balloons	No
Characters expressing anger	No
Heavily dialogue-driven scenes	No
Audience participation	Some interaction

Triptych for Our Times

Bonnie Fechtens, Gie's Peace & The Sound of My Own Voice

Three performances will all feature one performer who will use a microphone. There will be some lighting changes throughout.

Content warnings

- Strong language/swearing
- Distressing or potentially triggering themes

Total audience blackout	No
Flashing/strobe light	No

Loud/repetitive/high-pitched/unexpected or overlapping sound	No
Distinctive smells	No
Special effects (e.g. smoke/bubbles/pyrotechnics)	No
Latex balloons	No
Characters expressing anger	No
Heavily dialogue-driven scenes	Yes
Audience participation	No

Troubled Waters

The show consists of one performer, voice unamplified. Lighting remains stable throughout.

Enhanced performance

Thu 13 Aug - BSL interpreted. Interpretation by Sarah Forrester.

Content warnings

None

Which of the following are contained in the show?	Yes/No
Total audience blackout	No
Flashing/strobe light	No
Loud/repetitive/high-pitched/unexpected or overlapping sound	No
Distinctive smells	No
Special effects (e.g. smoke/bubbles/pyrotechnics)	No
Latex balloons	No
Characters expressing anger	No
Heavily dialogue-driven scenes	No
Audience participation	No

When Billy Met Alasdair

The show is performed by one actor embodying the characters of Billy Connolly and Alasdair Gray.

Content warnings

- Distressing or potentially triggering themes
- Strong language/swearing

Which of the following are contained in the show?	Yes/No
Total audience blackout	No
Flashing/strobe light	No
Loud/repetitive/high-pitched/unexpected or overlapping sound	No
Distinctive smells	No
Special effects (e.g. smoke/bubbles/pyrotechnics)	No
Latex balloons	No
Characters expressing anger	No
Heavily dialogue-driven scenes	No
Audience participation	No