

7 - 16 August 2026

PROGRAMME

*A celebration of deaf culture,
language and heritage.*

edinburghdeaffestival.com

EDINBURGH *Deaf* FESTIVAL



To view the brochure in BSL,
or to book tickets, scan the QR code
or visit edinburghdeaffestival.com



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Welcome to EDINBURGH Deaf FESTIVAL 2026

We're delighted to welcome you to the fifth Edinburgh Deaf Festival for ten days of deaf-led creativity, culture, language and connection.

Over the past five years, the festival has continued to grow, bringing more deaf artists, audiences and stories into the heart of Edinburgh's world-famous festival season. What began as a celebration of deaf culture has become an important space for representation, visibility and shared experiences across the city.

This year feels like an exciting step forward for the festival. We're proud to present one of our most ambitious programmes yet, showcasing a diverse range of deaf talent, new work and fresh experiences. From theatre and comedy to exhibitions, workshops, tours and community events, the programme reflects the creativity, energy and diversity of the deaf community.

This festival would not be possible without the support of our community, audiences, artists, volunteers, partners and supporters. Thank you for being part of this journey and for continuing to champion deaf talent and accessible arts.

Edinburgh Deaf Festival is about more than performance. It is about creating spaces where deaf people can come together, celebrate identity and language, and feel seen, valued and proud. It is also an invitation to hearing audiences to experience deaf culture in an open, welcoming and accessible environment.

We're grateful to our partners and supporters for their ongoing collaboration in helping make Edinburgh increasingly accessible for deaf audiences and artists year after year.

We hope you enjoy exploring the programme and discovering the incredible range of talent and events taking place throughout the festival.

Book your tickets at
edinburghdeaffestival.com

EDINBURGH *Deaf* FESTIVAL *Schedule*

Fri 7th August **Sat 8th August** **Sun 9th August** **Mon 10th August** **Tues 11th August** **Wed 12th August** **Thur 13th August** **Fri 14th August** **Sat 15th August** **Sun 16th August**

Book your own time The Scotch Whisky Experience 10am Yoga 11am Deaf families takeover day <i>National Museum of Scotland</i> 11am Bird and Bugs Workshop <i>Holyrood Park</i> 11am Finding Comedy in Life's Stories Workshop 12pm Deaf Makers Market 12:30pm Ceilidh Dancing Workshop 1pm Anne Hardy BSL Tour <i>Talbot Rice Gallery</i> 2pm Youth Boxing Session <i>Port O' Leith Boxing Club</i> 3:30pm Opening Party 5pm The Light of the Deep 7pm John Smith 9pm Sign Slam	Book your own time The Scotch Whisky Experience 9am BSL Park Run <i>Holyrood Park</i> 10am VW Workshop 10am Yoga 11am Sonic Patterns Workshop 11am The Potter Trail 12pm Directing Workshop 12:30pm Deaf Karaoke Workshop with Deaf Spice 12:30pm Edinburgh Deaf Church: 1818 to the Present 12:30pm Edinburgh Castle BSL Tour 2pm Deaf Makers Market 2pm Sonic Patterns Workshop (Youth & Family) 2pm BSL Tour Catherine Opie: To be Seen <i>Royal Scottish Academy</i> 5pm The Light of the Deep 7pm John Smith 9pm Sign Slam 10pm Deaf Karaoke hosted by Deaf Spice	Book your own time The Scotch Whisky Experience 10am Ecumenical Church Service 10am Yoga for ages 4-10 11am Art Workshop 12pm Deaf Makers Market 12pm Dose of Dandy Live Podcast 1pm A Wolf Shall Devour the Sun <i>Scottish Storytelling Centre</i> 2pm BSL Summer Garden Tour <i>Royal Botanic Garden Edinburgh</i> 3pm Yoga 5pm The Light of the Deep 7pm John Smith 9pm Sign Slam	Book your own time The Scotch Whisky Experience 4:30pm Art Presentation 7pm Pub Quiz 12pm, 2pm, 4pm Culture Workshop 5:30pm Dinner Party Debate: AI 7:30pm Sign Between the Lines: BSL Book Club	Book your own time The Scotch Whisky Experience 4:30pm Edinburgh Zoo BSL Tour <i>Edinburgh Zoo</i> 7pm BSL Film Club	Book your own time The Scotch Whisky Experience 11am Bingo 11am BSL Tour with Trudi Collier – Katie Paterson's Afterlife <i>Collective Gallery</i> 11:30am The Edwardians Tour <i>The King's Gallery</i> 2pm Giants BSL Tour <i>The National Museum of Scotland</i> 2:30pm Troubled Waters <i>Scottish Storytelling Centre</i> 6pm Ceilidh Dancing Workshop 8pm Scratch Night Hosted by Leah Francisco	Book your own time The Scotch Whisky Experience 11am A Deaf Journey on the Camino 11am, 12pm, 2pm, 3pm Lights & Lanterns 12pm Deaf Makers Market 12pm Thrive Live 1pm BSL Storytelling Workshop 2pm Deaf Karaoke Workshop with Mae Al-Kalamchi 2pm Boxing Session <i>Port O' Leith Boxing Club</i> 2pm BSL Tour: Museum of Scottish Fire Heritage 4:30pm Edinburgh Zoo BSL Tour <i>Edinburgh Zoo</i> 5pm The Librarians 7pm A Night in Sign 9pm Performance to be announced 10pm Deaf Karaoke hosted by Mae Al-Kalamchi	Book your own time The Scotch Whisky Experience 9am BSL Park Run <i>Holyrood Park</i> 10am Yoga 10am, 2pm Dungeons & Deaf Dragons 11am The Potter Trail 11am, 12pm, 2pm, 3pm Lights & Lanterns 12pm Deaf Makers Market 12:30pm Edinburgh Castle BSL Tour 1pm Queen Elizabeth II Private Apartments Tour <i>Palace of Holyroodhouse</i> 1pm Drag Workshop 2pm BSL Tour Catherine Opie: To be Seen <i>Royal Scottish Academy</i> 2:30pm Seabird Boat Tour <i>Scottish Seabird Centre</i> 5pm The Librarians 7pm A Night in Sign 9pm Performance to be announced 10pm Closing Party	Book your own time The Scotch Whisky Experience 10am Yoga 12pm Deaf Makers Market 2pm Earth Matters BSL Tour <i>Royal Botanic Garden Edinburgh</i> 5pm The Librarians 7pm A Night in Sign 9pm Performance to be announced
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There are a range of Youth & Family events throughout the festival. For more information, go to pages 13.

All events will be held at Deaf Action, 49 Albany Street, Edinburgh, EH1 3QY unless highlighted otherwise.



SIGN SLAM

Sign Slam is a lively improvisation show where participants create funny, imaginative stories inspired by projected images. Audience members vote for their favourites, making every performance unique. Fast-paced, interactive and full of visual humour, Sign Slam celebrates creativity, storytelling and audience participation.



Performance
7-9TH AUG



THE LIBRARIANS

Meet the wonderfully quirky Miss Book and Mr Page as stories burst to life from their magical library. Performed in BSL and English, this fun family show is followed by an interactive storytelling session where children can create and share stories through signing, speaking, writing or drawing.



Performance
14-16TH AUG



15+

JOHN SMITH:

PLANES, TRAINS & MISUNDERSTANDINGS

Award-winning comedian John Smith returns with a hilarious new show about life on the road as a deaf performer. From airport chaos and missed announcements to awkward encounters and cultural misunderstandings, John shares the funny, frustrating and unbelievable moments from his travels around the world.



Comedy
7-9TH AUG



PUB QUIZ

Come along to Deaf Action for a pub quiz! Mingle with Edinburgh's deaf community and test your knowledge. Accessible for both deaf and hearing people.



10TH AUG



DEAF KARAOKE

Deaf Karaoke returns for not one, but two nights at this year's festival! Join us for a fun filled evening of signing, singing and fun like no other. Everyone is welcome! Weekend one is hosted by the incredible Deaf Spice, with weekend two hosted by the talented Mae Al-Kalamchi.



8TH & 14TH AUG



OPENING PARTY

EDINBURGH DEAF FESTIVAL'S 5TH BIRTHDAY CELEBRATION

Help us kick off Edinburgh Deaf Festival 2026 in style. Join us as we celebrate the festival's 5th anniversary with a fun and welcoming gathering before the performances begin. Meet artists and audiences, enjoy the atmosphere and help us mark this special milestone together.



7TH AUG



A NIGHT IN SIGN

A Night in Sign is a vibrant BSL-led cabaret celebrating deaf and hard of hearing talent through comedy, music, poetry and performance. Hosted by Nadeem Islam and featuring Chris Fonseca, this energetic showcase brings together some of the UK's most exciting deaf creatives for an unforgettable night.



Performance
14-16TH AUG



THE LIGHT OF THE DEEP

The Light of the Deep is a visually striking physical theatre and Visual Vernacular (VV) performance from Canadian deaf artist Landon Krentz. Combining movement, puppetry and projection, the show follows two characters on a journey through wetlands, caves and the deep sea in pursuit of a mysterious light.



Performance
7-9TH AUG



SCRATCH NIGHT

Hosted by Leah Francisco

SCRATCH NIGHT

HOSTED BY LEAH FRANCISCO

Hosted by deaf comedian Leah Francisco, Scratch Night is an evening of fresh ideas, new work and creative experimentation. From comedy to performance, artists test new material in front of a live audience, with a headline comedy set bringing the evening to a memorable close.



13TH AUG



BSL PARKRUN

Come and join the Edinburgh BSL Running Group for your 5k fix. Walk, Jog, or run at your own pace and take in some of Edinburgh's hidden beauty spots. Afterwards, the group will head to a local café for the obligatory coffee and highly anticipated post-run nosh. So, what are you waiting for? Lace up your trainers and we'll see you on the start line!



8TH & 15TH AUG



18+

BINGO

Join us for a game of bingo! Mingle with Edinburgh's deaf community, win cash prizes, and enjoy friendly competition. Over 18s only.



13TH AUG



CLOSING PARTY

Join us for Edinburgh Deaf Festival's closing party! Get into the groove with renowned deaf DJ, DJ DefBeatz, as he guides you through a set of specially mixed house tracks to get the party started.



15TH AUG



SIGN BETWEEN THE LINES: BSL BOOK CLUB

Join Scotland's first BSL Book Club, Sign between the Lines, as we welcome Michael Fellowes, a deaf British Indian author who just published his exciting fantasy sci-fi novel, *Scarlet and the White*. A relaxed evening with the opportunity to engage through a Q&A session and explore a local bookshop's selection of literature available to purchase.



11TH AUG

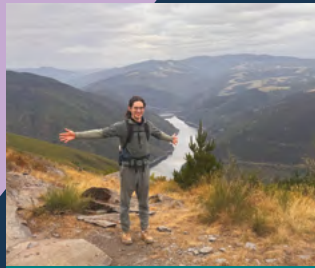


BSL FILM CLUB

An inclusive and accessible film club specifically designed for the deaf and hard-of-hearing communities and allies, offering films with subtitles and open discussions in BSL after the screening. Please refer to our website for full details of the screening and location.



12TH AUG



A DEAF JOURNEY ON THE CAMINO

Join Billy-Jack Gerrard as he shares stories, photographs and reflections from his journey along the Camino de Santiago. Discover the history of this famous pilgrimage route, learn what life on the trail is really like, and be inspired by an unforgettable adventure.



14TH AUG



ECUMENICAL CHURCH SERVICE

Join us for a welcoming ecumenical church service bringing together deaf and hearing communities in reflection, celebration and connection during Edinburgh Deaf Festival. Open to people of all faiths and backgrounds, the service will be held in BSL and offers a space for community, inclusion and shared experience.



9TH AUG



EDINBURGH DEAF CHURCH: 1818 TO THE PRESENT

John A Hay examines the history of religious services for Deaf worshippers being held in Edinburgh over 200 years. Find out more about pioneering Deaf Christians of the 19th century and locations of the services being held right to the present venue being The New Town Church in George Street. The lecture is held in the Church, consecrated in December 1890.



8TH AUG



DUNGEONS & DEAF DRAGONS

Step into a world of fantasy and adventure with Dungeons & Deaf Dragons. Using BSL as the primary language, players will explore mysterious worlds, solve challenges and shape the story through their choices. Open to both beginners and experienced players, with characters provided.



15TH AUG



DINNER PARTY DEBATE: AI

Join us for our Dinner Party Debate as we explore the impact of artificial intelligence on deaf people and deaf communities. Share perspectives, challenge ideas and join the conversation in a relaxed and welcoming environment. Expect lively discussion, food for thought and plenty to debate.



11TH AUG



THRIVE LIVE

Thrive Live returns to the Edinburgh Deaf Festival for a special one-off event, marking Episode 5 of Series 2. Hosted at the Blackwood Bar and streamed live online, four deaf women come together to share fresh conversations, with a new topic for 2026, celebrating deaf perspectives in BSL.



14TH AUG



A DOSE OF DANDY LIVE PODCAST

A Dose of Dandy is the debut podcast from Nathan Rollinson and Nicolas Fairford. A celebration of friendship and the elegance of life, it invites you into a world of beauty and refinement, all with a dose of humour and fun.



9TH AUG



ART PRESENTATION

Discover a collection of original artwork from deaf artists, featuring pieces by Trudi Collier and Rubbena Aurangzeb-Tariq. This presentation celebrates creativity, expression and diverse artistic perspectives from across the deaf community.



10TH AUG



SCOTTISH DEAF ARCHIVES

Discover stories from the past through the Scottish Deaf Archives, exploring the rich history, experiences and contributions of deaf communities across generations. Learn more about deaf heritage, historical collections and the importance of preserving deaf stories for the future.



7, 8, 14 & 15TH AUG



DEAF MAKERS MARKET

Discover and support deaf-owned businesses, artists and creators at our Deaf Makers Market. Browse a range of handmade products, artwork, crafts and unique creations while meeting the talented makers behind them. A welcoming community space celebrating deaf creativity, small businesses and independent talent.

7-9TH & 14-16TH AUG

WORKSHOPS, TOURS, EXHIBITIONS

Join us for a variety of events throughout the festival.
Detailed information can be found at edinburghdeaffestival.com

WORKSHOPS

FINDING COMEDY IN LIFE'S STORIES

Join comedian, actor and BSL teacher **John Smith** for an interactive workshop exploring storytelling, improvisation and comedy through personal experiences and everyday life. Through playful exercises, character work and audience interaction, participants will build confidence, creativity and communication skills in a supportive and welcoming environment. A fun and engaging session celebrating humour, connection and self-expression.

7TH AUG

YOGA

Take time to relax, unwind and reconnect in this welcoming yoga session. Suitable for all experience levels, the class offers a calm and supportive environment focused on movement, balance and wellbeing. Everyone is welcome to come along and take part at their own pace.

7 – 9TH, 15 & 16TH AUG

CEILIDH DANCING WORKSHOP

Join us for a fun and energetic ceilidh dancing workshop where you can learn traditional Scottish dances in a welcoming and accessible environment. Whether you're completely new to ceilidh dancing or already know the steps, everyone is welcome to come along, get involved and enjoy the experience together.

7 & 13TH AUG

SONIC PATTERNS WORKSHOP

Explore sound, rhythm and creativity in the Sonic Patterns Music Workshop. Through interactive activities and creative experimentation, participants will discover new ways of experiencing and creating music together in an accessible and welcoming environment.

8TH AUG

CULTURE WORKSHOPS & LUNCH

Explore different cultures through a series of engaging one-hour workshops celebrating traditions, food and communities from around the world. Each session offers a chance to learn, share experiences and connect with others in a welcoming environment. Between workshops, enjoy a freshly prepared lunch made by our deaf chef.

11TH AUG

DIRECTING WORKSHOP

Facilitated by Benedetta Zanetti, Associate BSL Director of The Singer. This is a practical directing workshop introducing participants to the fundamentals of directing theatre. This will include visual storytelling and staging, working with deaf and hearing performers, developing scenes, directing actors and creative decision making through rehearsals. This workshop is for young people aged 12-21.

8TH AUG

Solar Bear

DEAF KARAOKE WORKSHOP

Thinking about taking part in our popular Deaf Karaoke night but feeling a little nervous? This fun and supportive workshop will help build your confidence and give you the chance to practise performing in a relaxed environment. The first weekend workshop will be led by **Deaf Spice**, with the second weekend hosted by **Mae Al-Kalamchi**.

8 & 14TH AUG

ART WORKSHOP

Join renowned Deaf artist **Rubben Aurangzeb-Tariq** for a special art presentation exploring creativity and culture through a Deaf perspective. Discover more about her artistic practice, inspirations and creative process in this engaging and accessible session celebrating Deaf art and expression.

14TH AUG

BSL STORYTELLING WORKSHOP

An introduction to BSL storytelling, exploring what makes visual storytelling unique compared to spoken narratives. The workshop will introduce key elements such as Visual Vernacular, motifs, archetypes, and visual techniques, and give you a hands-on taster of telling a story in BSL. Led by **Tania Allan**.

14TH AUG

LIGHTS & LANTERNS

Roll up, roll up! Step into a world of light and shadow with Spectroscope. Try a 130-year-old magic lantern, design your own glass slide, and explore shadowgraphy inspired by Harry Ash and Harry Bow. Led by David Ellington and Ciaran O'Brien, create stories using hands, movement and silhouette.

14 & 15TH AUG

Spectroscope

BOXING WORKSHOP

Expect a relaxed and welcoming atmosphere as you learn the basics of boxing, get moving, hit the pads and challenge yourself in a fun and supportive environment.

Led by coaches from Port O' Leith Boxing Club, this energetic and accessible workshop is suitable for all experience levels. Everyone is welcome to come along and give it a try.

14TH AUG

Port O' Leith Boxing Club

VV WORKSHOP

Discover the art of Visual Vernacular in this creative and expressive workshop exploring storytelling through movement, facial expression and visual performance techniques. Suitable for all experience levels, this session offers a chance to develop confidence, creativity and performance skills in a welcoming environment. Led by **Landon Krentz**.

8TH AUG

DRAG WORKSHOP

Step into the world of drag in this fun, creative and confidence-building workshop led by **Bea Webster**. Explore performance, character creation, self-expression and stage presence in a welcoming and supportive environment.

15TH AUG

BIRDS AND BUGS WORKSHOP

A look at the birds and bugs that live in the parks of Edinburgh, and how they find food. Plus, an opportunity to meet some creatures from all over the world!

7TH AUG

BSL TOURS

THE SCOTCH WHISKY EXPERIENCE, NEXT TO EDINBURGH CASTLE

The perfect journey through the world of Scotch whisky. We are storytellers, passionate about sharing our love of Scotch whisky and Scotland. Whether new to whisky or already experienced, visitors are warmly welcomed on our tours, supported by multimedia guides in 21 languages including BSL, ASL and International Sign.

Visit us to discover more, explore flavours and create whisky tasting memories. For your online listing, we can dive deeper into the whole process and make it absolutely clear how the experience would work for deaf visitors.

BSL TOUR - ANNE HARDY AT TALBOT RICE GALLERY

Join us for a British Sign Language (BSL) tour led by Trudi Collier of Anne Hardy's immersive exhibition at Talbot Rice Gallery. In this unique event, Trudi will guide you through the transformed gallery space, exploring the artist's large-scale, dynamic environment.

7TH AUG

Talbot Rice Gallery

THE POTTER TRAIL

If you're into real life magic, or you still need to find out which of the Hogwarts houses you truly belong to, this is the tour for you! Grab your wand and join us in the old town for this magical BSL tour!

8 & 15TH AUG

Greyfriars Place

EDINBURGH CASTLE BSL TOUR

Set in the heart of Scotland's historic capital city, Edinburgh Castle is sure to capture your imagination.

8 & 15TH AUG

Edinburgh Castle

BRITISH SIGN LANGUAGE (BSL) TOUR CATHERINE OPIE: TO BE SEEN

Join us for a free deaf-led tour in British Sign Language at the National (Royal Scottish Academy). Experience the power of the portrait in this first solo exhibition of Opie's work in Scotland and consider what it is to be seen. Led by Trudi Collier, you will have the chance to socialise, explore art together and share your ideas.

8 & 15TH AUG

Royal Scottish Academy

SUMMER BSL GARDEN TOUR

Discover the Royal Botanic Garden Edinburgh in British Sign Language (BSL). Explore some seasonal autumn highlights, diverse Living Collection and inspiring stories and history of the Garden in these BSL tours. This tour is led by Barbara Brown.

9TH AUG

Royal Botanic Garden Edinburgh

EDINBURGH ZOO TOUR IN BSL

Join Edinburgh Zoo this August as they run two British Sign Language tours delivered by RZSS Trustee John Denerly, written and supported by our Discovery and Learning Team. Discover the heart and purpose of zoos with stories about some of their most popular animals. From breeding programs to exciting conservation and research projects, you will learn how zoos are saving species from the brink of extinction and how we can all make a difference.

12 & 14TH AUG

Edinburgh Zoo

EXHIBITION TOUR WITH TRUDI COLLIER: KATIE PATERSON'S AFTERLIFE

Join us for a BSL Tour of Katie Paterson's solo exhibition Afterlife. This Deaf-led tour will be hosted by Trudi Collier and will offer BSL visitors the opportunity to learn more about the exhibition. We will have refreshments to wrap up the session, with time to discuss the exhibition with Trudi, the Programme Team, and other attendees.

13TH AUG

Collective Gallery

BSL INTERPRETED TOUR: THE EDWARDIANS

As part of the Edinburgh Deaf Festival 2026, join our British Sign Language Interpreted tour of The Edwardians: Age of Elegance at The King's Gallery, Edinburgh.

13TH AUG

The King's Gallery

BSL TOUR: GIANTS

Meet the colossal creatures that lived after the dinosaurs on a Deaf-led tour of Giants.

13TH AUG

National Museum of Scotland

MUSEUM OF SCOTTISH FIRE HERITAGE BSL TOUR

Join BSL guide Babs Brown for a guided tour of their collections, exploring the story of firefighting in Scotland. The tour will last around one hour, with a chance to independently explore the museum space afterwards.

14TH AUG

Museum of Scottish Fire Heritage

BSL INTERPRETED TOUR- QUEEN ELIZABETH II PRIVATE APARTMENTS TOUR

To mark the centenary of Queen Elizabeth II's birth, don't miss the chance to step inside her private apartments at the Palace of Holyroodhouse, which are being opened to visitors for the first time. In the company of an expert guide, you will discover the history of the rooms and learn how they were used by Queen Elizabeth II and Prince Philip, Duke of Edinburgh, during her 70-year reign.

15TH AUG

Palace of Holyroodhouse

BSL TOUR - EARTH MATTERS

See soil through art. Earth Matters marks 300 years since the birth of James Hutton, the Edinburgh-born geologist, farmer and thinker who revolutionised our understanding of the ground beneath us. Inspired by Hutton and subsequent trailblazers, 30 artists delve into this living ecosystem to reveal its brilliance, beauty and fragility. This exhibition tour is in British Sign Language (BSL), led by Trudi Collier.

16TH AUG

Royal Botanic Garden Edinburgh

SEABIRD BOAT TOUR

A one-hour catamaran boat trip around Craigleith and the Bass Rock. Please note, you must organise your own travel to/from the harbour. Please refer to our website for full details.

15TH AUG

Scottish Seabird Centre



EXHIBITIONS

TRUDI COLLIER

Explore a special exhibition by deaf artist Trudi Collier showcasing creative work inspired by identity and deaf culture. Presented as part of Edinburgh Deaf Festival, the exhibition invites audiences to experience art through a unique deaf perspective.

7-16TH AUG

RUBBENA AURANGZEB-TARIQ

Discover a vibrant exhibition from renowned deaf artist Rubbena Aurangzeb-Tariq featuring visually striking work exploring creativity, expression and lived experience through art. Presented throughout Edinburgh Deaf Festival, the exhibition celebrates deaf creativity and visual culture.

7-16TH AUG

LUMOTV AT EDINBURGH DEAF FESTIVAL

As Edinburgh Deaf Festival's official Media Partner, LumoTV will be bringing a programme of screenings, panel discussions and special events exploring deaf-led television, film and media. Join industry professionals, creatives and audiences for conversations about storytelling, representation and the future of deaf broadcasting.

For full event details and updates, visit edinburghdeaffestival.com.



YOUTH & FAMILY @ EDINBURGH Deaf FESTIVAL

Most of our Youth & Family events are either free or Pay What You Can and can also be booked separately on our website.

DEAF FAMILIES TAKEOVER DAY AT THE NATIONAL MUSEUM OF SCOTLAND

FAMILIES W/ CHILDREN (0-11)
11AM | 7TH AUGUST

In partnership with National Museums Scotland, the National Museum of Scotland will host a special Deaf Families Takeover Day as part of Edinburgh Deaf Festival. Designed for families with children aged 0-11, the day will feature a range of free activities for different age groups, including sensory play, crafts, object handling, creative activities and family-friendly experiences inspired by the museum's collections. The event will also include accessible family activities, BSL-supported sessions and opportunities for families to explore the museum in a welcoming and inclusive environment. Refreshments will be available throughout the day.

BIRDS AND BUGS WORKSHOP

ALL AGES | 11AM | 7TH AUGUST

A look at the birds and bugs that live in the parks of Edinburgh, and how they find food. Plus, an opportunity to meet some creatures from all over the world!

SONIC PATTERNS WORKSHOP

YOUNG PEOPLE & FAMILIES W/ CHILDREN
(0 - 18) | 2PM | 8TH AUGUST

Explore sound, rhythm and creativity in the Sonic Patterns Music Workshop. Through interactive activities and creative experimentation, participants will discover new ways of experiencing and creating music together in an accessible and welcoming environment.

DIRECTING WORKSHOP

Solar Bear

12 - 21 YEARS | 12PM | 8TH AUGUST

Facilitated by Benedetta Zanetti, Associate BSL Director of The Singer

This is a practical directing workshop introducing participants to the fundamentals of directing theatre. This will include visual storytelling and staging, working with deaf and hearing performers, developing scenes, directing actors and creative decision making through rehearsals.

YOUTH BOXING SESSION

8-15 YEARS | 2PM | 7TH AUGUST

Expect a relaxed and welcoming atmosphere as you learn the basics of boxing, get moving, hit the pads and challenge yourself in a fun and supportive environment.

Led by coaches from Port O' Leith Boxing Club, this energetic and accessible workshop is suitable for all experience levels. Everyone is welcome to come along and give it a try.

YOGA

FAMILIES W/ CHILDREN (4 - 10)
10AM | 9TH AUGUST

Join Sasha Malinsky for a playful yoga session designed for ages 4-10. Through movement, storytelling and animal-inspired poses, children can explore creativity, balance and mindfulness in a fun and engaging environment.

THE LIBRARIANS

FAMILIES W/ CHILDREN (ALL AGES)
5PM | 14-16TH AUGUST

Step into a world where books burst into life! Meet the wonderfully quirky Miss Book and Mr Page as they discover the adventures hidden in their library of old books. Everyone enjoys their hilarious antics together in this magical show performed in BSL and English. But it doesn't stop there!

After the show, your child becomes the star of the show, creating and sharing their own story on stage through speaking, signing, writing, or drawing.

A celebration of everyone's stories!

LIGHTS & LANTERNS

FAMILIES W/ CHILDREN (6+)
11AM, 12PM, 2PM & 3PM | 14 & 15TH AUGUST

Step into a world of light and shadow with Spectroscope. Explore storytelling, movement and silhouette inspired by deaf Victorian artists Harry Ash and Harry Bow in this playful and immersive workshop suitable for both adults and families.

THE LIGHT OF THE DEEP

FAMILIES W/ CHILDREN (ALL AGES)
5PM | 7-9TH AUGUST

The Light of the Deep is a deaf-led physical theatre and Visual Vernacular performance combining movement, puppetry and projection to tell a visually rich story of two characters chasing a mysterious light through wetlands, caves and the deep sea.

This imaginative performance explores connection, discovery and the question of whether light is meant to be kept or shared.

The Edinburgh Festival Fringe is one of the world's largest arts festivals, bringing thousands of performances and artists to Edinburgh every August.

This year, there are more accessible Fringe events for deaf audiences than ever before, including BSL interpreted performances, captioned shows and accessible street events across the city.

Edinburgh Deaf Festival is proud to continue working alongside the Fringe to help improve access for deaf audiences and create more opportunities to experience the wider festival season.

Alongside accessible performances already programmed by venues and companies, deaf audience members can also request a BSL interpreter for selected Fringe performances that are not yet accessible.

Whether you're discovering a new comedy show, theatre performance, family event or street act, there are more ways than ever to experience the Fringe accessibly.

BSL AT THE FRINGE STREET EVENTS

The Fringe Street Events are one of the most iconic parts of Edinburgh's festival season, bringing huge crowds to the Royal Mile to experience the atmosphere, creativity and energy of the Fringe.

Enjoy a packed programme of world-class street performers, including comedy, circus acts, acrobatics, music, dance and live entertainment throughout the day. On selected dates, the full programme at West Parliament Square will be interpreted in BSL, helping deaf audiences experience one of the Fringe's most popular attractions accessibly.

We are proud to deliver BSL interpretation for the Fringe Street Events in partnership with Edinburgh Festival Fringe Society.

9TH AUG | 12.45PM – 7PM

15TH AUG | 11AM – 7PM

20TH AUG | 11AM – 7PM

West Parliament Square, Royal Mile

REQUEST A BSL INTERPRETER FOR A FRINGE SHOW

Want to attend a Fringe show that is not currently accessible?

This year, deaf audience members can request a BSL interpreter for selected Edinburgh Festival Fringe performances through Edinburgh Deaf Festival.

To help make the scheme fair and accessible to as many people as possible, requests are limited to two performances per person. Requests must be made by a deaf audience member and the performance must be a registered Fringe show.

We will do our best to fulfil all requests, however, please note that requests are subject to interpreter availability and cannot be guaranteed.



To request an interpreter:

1. Scan the QR code
2. Download or log in to the SignPort app
3. Submit your interpreter request through the app with the performance details

You can also contact us directly at:
festivalbookings@deafaction.org

We are proud to deliver the Fringe Interpreter Request Scheme in partnership with Edinburgh Festival Fringe Society.



For full information and booking, visit: edfringe.com



BSL & CAPTIONED Fringe highlights

Alongside the Fringe Street Events and Interpreter Request Scheme, there are also a wide range of BSL interpreted and captioned performances already taking place across the Fringe this summer. Here are just some accessible highlights to explore during August.

BSL INTERPRETED PERFORMANCES

SHIPS

Leith Arches

12TH AUG | 6PM

DETECTIVE HEARTBREAK

theSpace @ Niddry St

14TH AUG | 3:45PM

OWL AT HOME – THEATR IOLO

Gilded Balloon Teviot

22ND AUG | 10:30AM

A BETTER MEMORY

Pleasance Courtyard

13TH AUG | 6:30PM

FISCHY MUSIC CHRISTIAN ALL-AGE CONCERT

Stockbridge Church

8TH AUG | 11AM

CAPTIONED PERFORMANCES

REEL TO REAL

theSpaceTriplex

10–15TH AUG | 12:15PM

DYSTOPIA 26: THE ROCK OPERA

Bedlam Theatre

7–29TH AUG | 5:15PM
(EXCLUDING 10, 17 & 24 AUG)

STOP PLAYING JACOB'S LADDER WITH MY SPINE

ZOO Southside

7–30TH AUG | 9:35PM
(EXCLUDING 17, 24 & 31 AUG)

SHOWSTOPPER! THE IMPROVISED MUSICAL

Pleasance Courtyard

17TH AUG | 5:20PM

SOPHIE DUKER: HOT BEEF INJECTION

Pleasance Courtyard

13TH AUG | 8:30PM

TARTAN RIBBON COMEDY BENEFIT

Pleasance Courtyard

18TH AUG | 7:30PM

Edinburgh
fringe



BEST of the FESTS

ACCESSIBLE EVENTS ACROSS EDINBURGH

Edinburgh's festival season extends far beyond Edinburgh Deaf Festival and the Fringe, with accessible events taking place across the city throughout August.

From theatre and literature to visual art, music and talks, more festivals, venues and cultural organisations than ever before are making commitments to accessibility for deaf audiences through BSL interpreted and captioned events.

We're proud to work alongside a growing number of partners across Edinburgh's festival landscape who are helping create a more accessible and inclusive city for deaf audiences, artists and visitors.

We'd like to thank the festivals, venues and organisations featured in these pages for their continued collaboration and commitment to improving access year after year.

Here are just some accessible highlights taking place across Edinburgh this summer.

Edinburgh
fringe

EAF26

**EDINBURGH
INTERNATIONAL
FESTIVAL**

**Edinburgh
International
Book Festival**

SUMMERHALL



•PLEASANCE•

EDINBURGH INTERNATIONAL BOOK FESTIVAL

**LOUD POETS
GRAND SLAM**
*Edinburgh Futures
Institute – Venue T*
15TH AUG | 3:30PM
CC

**YOU ARE READY!
WITH JODIE
OUNSLEY**
*Edinburgh
Futures Institute –
Spiegeltent*
22ND AUG | 10:30AM
BSL CHILDREN

**MYTHS AND
MAGIC WITH
CARLOS SÁNCHEZ**
*Edinburgh Futures
Institute – Venue B*
20TH AUG | 5:30PM
BSL YOUNG ADULT

**THE FRONT LIST:
MEL GIEDROYC**
McEwan Hall
26TH AUG | 1PM
BSL

For full information and to book, visit:
www.edbookfest.co.uk

EDINBURGH INTERNATIONAL FESTIVAL

[SEAGULL]
Studio Theatre
Performed in Flemish
Sign Language with
creative captions
7TH AUG | 4PM
8TH AUG | 7:30PM
BSL

CLOWN SHOW
King's Theatre
29TH AUG | 8PM
BSL

**NYO2: FAMILY
CONCERT**
Usher Hall
16TH AUG | 1PM
BSL

EXXY
King's Theatre
23RD AUG | 7:30PM
BSL

For full information and to book, visit:
www.eif.co.uk

SCOTTISH STORYTELLING CENTRE

**A WOLF SHALL
DEVOUR THE SUN**
9TH AUG | 1PM
BSL

**AN AMERICAN
LOVE LETTER TO
EDINBURGH**
14TH AUG | 1PM
CC

THE CORPSE ROAD
22ND AUG | 8:30PM
CC

SINGING WILLOWS AND THE MAGIC BED
22, 23, 29 & 30TH AUG | 11AM
BSL

For full information and to book, visit:
www.scottishstorytellingcentre.com

**TROUBLED
WATERS**
13TH AUG | 2:30PM
BSL

**SELKIE: PAST,
PRESENT, FUTURE**
21ST AUG 6:40PM
22ND AUG 6:40PM
BSL CC

LOUD POETS
27TH AUG | 8:30PM
BSL

EDINBURGH ART FESTIVAL

**GLASGOW
LEATHERDYKES:
FROM HISTORY
TO TODAY**
Custom Lane
21ST AUG | 12PM
BSL

For full information and to book, visit:
www.edinburghartfestival.com

**BSL TOUR: SADA
HASEGAWA +
TRANS MASC
STUDIES**
Custom Lane
22ND AUG | 12PM
BSL tour led by
Bea Webster

There's more to see
on the next page

Accessibility: full accessibility information can be found online, check websites above

Captioned CC British Sign Language / Interpreted BSL

PLEASANCE THEATRE

A BETTER MEMORY
Pleasance Courtyard
13TH AUG | 6:30PM
BSL

MAYFLIES
Brown's of Leith
8, 13 & 29TH AUG | 6:30PM
BSL
19 & 22ND AUG | 4PM
CC

MORE TALES FROM YOUR QUEER ELDER
Greenside @ George Street
21ST AUG | 4:05PM
BSL

SPENCER JONES: DOGS
Pleasance Dome
21ST AUG | 8:15PM
CC

For full information and to book, visit:
www.pleasance.co.uk

SUMMERHALL

TETHER
Main Hall
6-31ST AUG | 4:30PM
CC
19TH AUG | 4:30PM
BSL

THE WRECK
Summerhall
6-31ST AUG | 10:30AM
Excluding 18 & 25th Aug
CC

WE WILL HEAR THE ANGELS
Summerhall
6-30TH AUG | 4:30PM
Excluding 17, 24 & 31st Aug
CC

14, 21 & 28TH AUG
4:30PM
BSL

TRANSMISSION
Summerhall
18, 19, 21, 22 & 23RD AUG | 7:15PM
BSL

For full information and to book, visit:
www.summerhall.co.uk

Accessibility: full accessibility information can be found online, check websites above

Captioned CC British Sign Language / Interpreted BSL

MEET THE Interpreters & Captioners

Accessibility is at the heart of Edinburgh Deaf Festival. Throughout the festival, our interpreters and captioners help make performances, discussions, workshops and events accessible to a wide range of audiences.

We're proud to work with experienced communication professionals who support access across the festival and wider Edinburgh events throughout August.



PASCALE MARONEY
BSL/English Interpreter

Pascale is a registered BSL/English interpreter with a background in attending festivals, interpreting at festivals & coordinating teams to provide access at festivals. She loves the arts and endeavours to provide access for deaf and hearing audiences to experience and share cultural, art & live events.



TESSA SLAUGHTER
BSL/English Interpreter

Tessa is a registered BSL interpreter with over 26 years' experience interpreting in a variety of domains including the arts sector. She has interpreted all the Edinburgh Deaf Festivals to date, and is always popular with hearing audiences for her work interpreting deaf performer's signing into expressive English.



MEGAN FRICKLETON
BSL/English Interpreter

Megan is Deaf Action's Interpreting Team Leader and has been part of Edinburgh Deaf Festival since the very beginning. She enjoys working across arts, cultural and community events, and is passionate about creating accessible and inclusive experiences that bring deaf and hearing people together.



EMMY KAULING
BSL/English Interpreter

Emmy is a registered BSL/English interpreter originally from the Netherlands and now based in Edinburgh. She has been interpreting since 2010 and has a particular passion for festivals and live events. Her motto is "communication in collaboration", believing the best experiences happen when people work together.



ABBIE TODD
BSL/English Interpreter

Abbie is a member of Deaf Action's in-house interpreting team and this year marks her third Edinburgh Deaf Festival. She enjoys working across arts and cultural events and is passionate about creating accessible, inclusive experiences that enable deaf and hearing audiences to share and enjoy live performances together.



CLAIRE HILL
Captioner

Claire has been working at the Fringe since 2017, live-captioning stand-up comedy, improv shows, and Fringe Central events. Throughout the rest of the year, she splits her time between author talks on London's South Bank and the comedy circuit, touring with James Acaster and Sarah Millican.

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Discover alerting devices, assistive technology, TV and listening solutions, workplace equipment and more.

www.ihear.co.uk



SignPort

The app for booking interpreters

www.signport.com



Download the app now

FESTIVAL Information

We're looking forward to welcoming audiences, artists and visitors to Deaf Action and venues across Edinburgh throughout the festival.

Most festival events take place at:

**Deaf Action, 49 Albany Street,
Edinburgh, EH1 3QY**

unless otherwise stated within the event listing.

Tickets for festival events
can be booked online at:

edinburghdeaffestival.com

Edinburgh Deaf Festival welcomes
both deaf and hearing audiences,
with BSL interpreted and captioned
events taking place throughout the
programme.

Festival Box Office and information
support will be available daily
throughout the festival.

✉ festival@deafaction.org

☎ 0131 556 3128

☎ 07775 620 757

Please note that tickets are non-refundable
unless an event is cancelled.

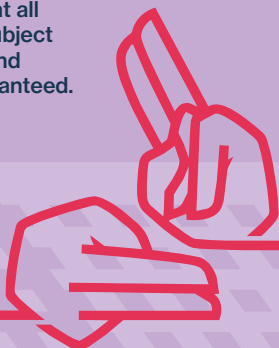
INTERPRETER & CAPTIONER REQUEST SERVICE

Want to attend a performance
that isn't part of our festival
or the Fringe?

We can help source BSL
interpreters or captioners
for selected events across
Edinburgh's wider festival season.

To make a request, please email:
festivalbookings@deafaction.org

Please note that all
requests are subject
to availability and
cannot be guaranteed.



GETTING HERE

Deaf Action is located a short
walk from Edinburgh Waverley
Station, St Andrew Square
tram stop and several major
bus routes.

ACCESSIBILITY



Wheelchair access
throughout the building



External lift access
into the venue & lift access
to festival spaces inside



Accessible toilets



Hearing loop systems
in selected spaces



BSL, interpreted, and
captioned events
throughout the festival.



PLAN *Your* VISIT

**Deaf Action is located in the heart of
Edinburgh's city centre.** Throughout
the festival, the building becomes a
welcoming hub for performances,
workshops, exhibitions, social events
and community gatherings.

Some events and tours also take place
at venues across Edinburgh. Please
check individual event listings for
venue information before travelling.

FESTIVAL SPACES AT DEAF ACTION

GROUND FLOOR

- Box Office & Reception
- Princess Joanna Suite
- The Church
- The Garden

FIRST FLOOR

- Blackwood Café & Bar
- Brennan Library
- Accessible toilets

Accessible via lift or stairs.

BASEMENT FLOOR

- Geikie Suite
- Accessible toilets
- Baby change

Accessible via lift or stairs.



Deaf Action is a deaf-led charity supporting and celebrating deaf people across Scotland and the South of England. Founded in 1835, we are proud to be the oldest deaf charity in the world.

Our work is centred around empowering deaf people to achieve their potential and fully participate in society with equality of rights, access and opportunity.

Alongside Edinburgh Deaf Festival, our services include social care and support services, wellbeing services, interpreting and translation, digital skills, training, specialist equipment and community activities.

To find out more about Deaf Action, visit:

www.deafaction.org

THANKS TO OUR *Funders & Supporters*

Edinburgh Deaf Festival is made possible thanks to the continued support of our funders, sponsors, partners and supporters.

We would like to thank everyone who helps us celebrate deaf creativity, culture, language and community, while continuing to improve access and opportunities for deaf audiences and artists across Edinburgh's festival season.



Blackwood Bar

by Deaf Action

*The social heart of
Edinburgh Deaf Festival.*

Join us throughout the festival at Blackwood Café & Bar for food, drinks, conversation and community in our deaf-led café and bar space.

From post-show discussions and relaxed catch-ups to Deaf Karaoke and late-night events, Blackwood Café & Bar is the perfect place to continue the festival atmosphere beyond the performances.

Open throughout the festival with a range of hot food, snacks and drinks available daily. Everyone is welcome.



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NEXT TO EDINBURGH CASTLE

For over 35 years, we've helped the world fall in love with Scotch whisky!

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🍷 **AMBER RESTAURANT:** Whisky & Scottish cuisine

🍷 **WHISKY BAR:** Explore 600+ Scotch whiskies

🍷 **WHISKY SHOP:** Take home your favourite new dram



We are a professional membership association and support network for British Sign Language (BSL) Interpreters and Translators in the UK.

Visit us at
www.asli.org.uk
to learn more.

BSL SCAN HERE





EDINBURGH *Deaf* FESTIVAL

7 - 16 August 2026

Edinburgh Deaf Festival is brought to you by
Deaf Action. Registered company no. SC396876.
Registered charity no. SC009898. Registered
address, 49 Albany Street, Edinburgh, EH1 3QY

edinburghdeaffestival.com

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