



EDINBURGH INTERNATIONAL FESTIVAL

Press Release

Full Details of *You Are Here* Programme Unveiled for Edinburgh International Festival 2019

Today Edinburgh International Festival announces full details for *You Are Here*, a programme of 14 main-stage performances across theatre, dance and music, featuring artists from around the world; a selection of in-depth professional development and community engagement projects; and unveils *The Departure Lounge*, a series of readings, discussions, informal performances and dinners.

Edinburgh in August is home to some of the world's most creative thinkers. *You Are Here* aims to harness this resource to offer impactful responses to issues from politics and gender to environmentalism and faith. *You Are Here* is an invitation to break bread, to shout from the rooftops and to encounter our world through the eyes of 265 artists and thinkers from Mali, Greenland, Lebanon, Scotland, the UK and beyond.

Through more than 80 events, *You Are Here* offers fresh thinking on class, gender, human rights, racism and climate crisis, probing the status quo and offering future paths. Works by spoken word artist Kate Tempest, choreographer Serge Aimé Coulibaly, author Jackie Kay, and new writing from the Royal Court Theatre light up stages across the city; *The Departure Lounge* hosts special performances by theatre companies such as Complicite, the Lyceum Theatre and Fuel; leading artists invite you for dinner, including composer Missy Mazzoli, poet and playwright Inua Ellams and performance artist Travis Alabanza; special seminars ask questions about the future of Festivals, the arts and the creative industries; and Edinburghers from 9 to 90 make their own unique creative contributions.

You Are Here combines four elements across three weeks of essential debate, action and change:

Main Stage Performances

An extensive programme of 14 main-stage performances from world-leading artists and companies offering extraordinary insight and comment on a local, global and human level. From the experiences of women in modern-day Nigeria to the very real consequences of globalisation for First Nations peoples, these performances will lay bare striking and personal stories that connect our everyday. These performances were launched in March 2019 with the full International Festival programme.

The Departure Lounge at The Lyceum Rehearsal Studio

A new series of informal performances, conversations, readings and fresh thinking, *The Departure Lounge* is where the public meet with writers, directors, musicians, choreographers and performers, sharing fresh perspectives and diverse insights shaped by who they are and where they're from.

Professional Development

A bespoke series of professional development programmes supporting emerging arts professionals and creatives from Scotland and around the world, to learn and exchange ways of working together.

Community Projects

A series of artist-led community projects connecting Edinburgh residents of all ages directly with the *You Are Here* programme, through working together with the extraordinary artists driving the conversation and engaging at a local and personal level with the crucial questions posed at its heart.

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Fergus Linehan, International Festival Director, said: “You Are Here is a remarkable alliance of artists, arts companies, academic institutions, government agencies and community organisations. At its heart is the newly created PLACE Fund, which was created by the City of Edinburgh Council, the Scottish Government - through Creative Scotland - and Edinburgh’s Festivals, to ensure the continued resilience and relevance of our Festival City. This fund opens our city up to a much wider international conversation while at the same time establishing new levels of engagement and connectivity at a local and national level.”

Kate McGrath, Curator, said: “You Are Here celebrates our presence in the world and invites you to join in a conversation with artists from all over the world about the big questions we’re all grappling with today: the climate emergency, the migrant crisis, class and social inequality, human rights, race and cultural identity, gender equality and fluidity. Come and experience fresh perspectives on the world we all live in together from world-class performance makers across theatre, music and dance.”

MAIN-STAGE PERFORMANCES

Music

Amadou & Mariam + Blind Boys of Alabama (Mali/USA) *Usher Hall, 7 Aug 8pm*
Marcel & Rami Khalife (Lebanon) *Usher Hall, 11 Aug 8pm*
Shooglenifty: East West (Scotland/Rajasthan/Galicia) *The Lyceum, 9 Aug 9pm*
Kate Tempest (England) *Leith Theatre, 9 Aug 8pm*

Theatre

HEAR WORD! Naija Woman Talk True (Nigeria) *The Lyceum 19 – 25 Aug, times vary*
Roots (England) *Church Hill Theatre 10 – 25 August (times vary)*
La Reprise (Belgium) *The Lyceum 3 – 5 Aug (times vary)*
Red Dust Road (Scotland) *The Lyceum 14 – 18 Aug (times vary)*
Total Immediate Collective Imminent Terrestrial Salvation (UK) *The Studio 7 – 25 Aug (times vary)*
Purposeless Movements (Scotland) *The Studio 19 – 24 Aug (times vary)*
Kiinalik: These Sharp Tools (Canada) *The Studio 2 – 5 Aug (times vary)*

Dance

Hard to be Soft: A Belfast Prayer (Northern Ireland) *The Lyceum 21 – 24 Aug (times vary)*
9 (Canada) *Church Hill Theatre 3 – 6 August (times vary)*
Kalakuta Republik (Burkina Faso) *The Lyceum 8 – 11 Aug (times vary)*

THE DEPARTURE LOUNGE

New information announced today includes full details for *The Departure Lounge*, curated by Kate McGrath of Fuel in collaboration with David Greig of the Royal Lyceum Theatre.

Morning Manifesto

11am Mon - Fri from 5 to 23 Aug Lyceum Rehearsal Studio FREE

From Monday – Friday each morning of the Festival, writer and director David Greig and playwright Sara Shaarawi invite audiences to gather and respond to manifestos for the future, written by different

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writers from around the world. What needs to change? What must we strive to preserve? How can we create the world we want our children's children to inherit? Where should we begin? Participating artists include Michael Morpurgo, Maya Zbib, Raja Shehadeh, Laakkuluk Williamson Bathory, Emma Dabiri and Javaad Alipoor.

Call and Response

2pm Lyceum Rehearsal Studio £12

A series of intimate performance in an informal setting offering audiences a chance to delve deeper and join in a conversation about the ideas explored in the *You Are Here* programme.

5 -7 Aug *Lament for Sheku Bayoh* by Hannah Lavery (Lyceum Theatre Work in progress)

8 -10 Aug *Summit* by Andy Smith (Fuel)

12 - 14 Aug *H2* by Hema Palani & Hetain Patel (Fuel Work in progress)

15 - 17 Aug *The Happy Tragedy of Being Woke* by Clint Dyer (Complicite Work in progress)

19 - 21 Aug *So Many Reasons* Racheal Ofori (Fuel)

22 - 24 Aug *Osoyebon* by Anonymous (Fuel Work in progress)

Breaking Bread

6pm Lyceum Rehearsal Studio £15

A series of dinners hosted by artists performing across the International and Fringe Festivals, including Evalyn Parry, Greg Hill, Serge Aimé Coulibaly, David Loumgair, Hema Palani, Paul Barritt, Sarah Rose Graber, Scottee, Inua Ellams, Seeta Patel, Lina Limosani, Ifeoma Fafunwa, Missy Mazzoli, Oona Doherty, Travis Alabanza and a creative team from the Edinburgh Futures Institute. Each artist begins the meal with a provocation, performance, or question, inviting audiences to engage in conversations about a range of ideas that consider where we are now, and where we're going.

Saturday Sessions

11am Saturdays FREE

10 Aug *Common People: Class, Community and the Arts* (The Lyceum Rehearsal Studio)

A call to action; a commitment by organisations to creating meaningful and sustainable change to ensure that arts and culture truly is accessible to everyone. Co-curated with David Loumgair of COMMON with artists Scottee and Bryony Kimmings.

17 Aug *Climate, Culture and Creativity* (The Lyceum Rehearsal Studio)

What is the role of artists today in the light of the Climate Crisis? How is culture responding? A conversation focused on action with provocations from speakers including Sam Knights (Extinction Rebellion) and Isabela de Menezes (In Transition, Brazil).

24 Aug *Power, Gender and the Arts* (The Lyceum Theatre)

Speakers including Catherine Mayer (Primadonna Festival), Emma Gladstone (Dance Umbrella) and Joyce Rosario (PuSh International Performing Arts Festival). Presented in association with the Edinburgh International Book Festival, Edinburgh Festival Fringe, Edinburgh Art Festival and Edinburgh International Film Festival. Supported by Edinburgh Trade Unions Council and Scottish Trade Unions.

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The R.A.P. (Rhythm and Poetry) Party

9pm 16 Aug Book Festival Speigeltent FREE

A vibrant live literature event inspired by hip-hop culture, hosted by poet, playwright and performer Inua Ellams, featuring local spoken word artists. Presented in collaboration with Edinburgh International Book Festival.

PROFESSIONAL DEVELOPMENT

Other events announced today include full details of Professional Development Programmes and Community Projects:

Royal Court Theatre International Climate Crisis Residency

12 noon 13 - 17 August Festival Theatre Studio FREE

The Royal Court Theatre returns to the Edinburgh International Festival for a major new residency that will culminate in a week of lunchtime performances of new short plays written by some of the most significant international new voices. The five writers from Brazil, China, India, South Africa and Syria will share urgent perspectives from across the world on the global climate crisis through plays specially commissioned to premiere at the Festival. This project is curated in partnership with and supported by the British Council. Each reading is open to the public and free to attend.

Tue 13 Aug *This Liquid Earth: A Eulogy in Verse* by Amy Jephtha (South Africa)

Wed 14 Aug *The Abyss* by Ghiath Mhithawi (Syria)

Thu 15 Aug *Ocean Hotpot* by Chen Si'an (China)

Fri 16 Aug *Climate Crisis Killjoy Quiz* by Luanda Casella (Brazil)

Sat 17 Aug *Akhrot* by Swati Simha (India)

As part of the Climate Crisis Residency, the writers will spend two weeks forging new relationships with other international artists in Edinburgh and collaborators from across the UK. Taking part in the *You Are Here* programme, including *The Departure Lounge* strand.

Each artist's residency will also involve a visit to another partner organisation across the UK, who has supported the development of their work. These include HighTide Festival, Leeds Playhouse, Live Theatre in Newcastle and the Royal Exchange Theatre Manchester. This project is curated in partnership with and supported by the British Council

Cross Currents

19-24 Aug *The Hub*

A specially tailored professional exchange and development programme brings Scottish practitioners together with their international counterparts. Responding to a need for support and development opportunities for arts creatives, *Cross Currents* will provide time and space in an invigorating environment for creative producers and artists to refresh their current practice, share, network, play and consider their future potential. *Cross Currents* is delivered in partnership with University of Edinburgh, Royal Conservatoire of Scotland and Federation of Scottish Theatre.



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COMMUNITY ENGAGEMENT

Projects created in collaboration with artists, arts organisations and local communities.

My Festival – My Story in collaboration with 1927

A project for Primary 6 pupils that will explore what it takes to create folktales and bring these stories to life at the Church Hill Theatre where 1927 present their new work *Roots*.

The Sugar Army - in collaboration with Prime Cut Productions

Choreographer Oona Doherty will work with 12 young female dancers from House of Jack, a Leith based hip-hop collective to explore the themes and context behind her work *Hard to be Soft*, creating The Sugar Army that will perform in *Hard to be Soft* at The Lyceum.

Cardiff & Miller in partnership with Fruitmarket Gallery

An intergenerational project working with young people in Wester Hailes whose community was relocated from Edinburgh's Old Town in the 1960s and older communities currently living within the Old Town.

Red Dust Road in partnership with National Theatre of Scotland

This project will work with two communities across Scotland and both will have the opportunity to explore creative writing, diaries, and digital dramaturgy.

Fergus Linehan, International Festival Director, said: *“You Are Here is a remarkable alliance of artists, arts companies, academic institutions, government agencies and community organisations. At its heart is the newly created PLACE Fund, which was created by the City of Edinburgh Council, the Scottish Government - through Creative Scotland - and Edinburgh's Festivals, to ensure the continued resilience and relevance of our Festival City. This fund opens our city up to a much wider international conversation while at the same time establishing new levels of engagement and connectivity at a local and national level.”*

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Full details about *The Departure Lounge* and wider *You Are Here* season are available [here](#) and at eif.co.uk. Images are available at this [link](#).

Tickets for all events announced today are on sale from Thursday 20 June and available from The Hub on 0131 473 2000 or at eif.co.uk. All previously announced events are on sale now.

ENDS

Notes to Editor



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You Are Here Programme

You Are Here is funded by the PLACE Programme, a partnership between the Scottish Government – through Creative Scotland – the City of Edinburgh Council and the Edinburgh Festivals. The PLACE Programme supports Festival activity across three years, leading up to the Festival's 75th anniversary in 2022.

You Are Here is a strategic partnership with the British Council and the Edinburgh Futures Institute at the University of Edinburgh. The British Council was one of the founding partners of the Edinburgh International Festival and has unparalleled experience working with creative sectors from across the world. The Edinburgh Futures Institute brings expertise from across the University of Edinburgh and beyond, helping to ensure that Edinburgh and Scotland can benefit from the ideas developed through the partnership.

The Departure Lounge has been produced in collaboration with Fuel and Royal Lyceum Theatre.

You are Here is curated by Kate McGrath of Fuel. Fuel is a leading independent producing company that produces an adventurous, playful and significant programme of work engaging with the big questions of our times.

About Edinburgh International Festival

Edinburgh International Festival is an unparalleled, city-wide, celebration of the performing arts for three weeks each August in Scotland's capital. Created in 1947 to celebrate the human spirit and bring people together through art, the International Festival remains dedicated to creative excellence and as a point of annual cultural exchange for a global audience exceeding 400,000 per year.

Committed to virtuosity and innovation, the International Festival presents some of the finest performers and ensembles from the worlds of dance, opera, music and theatre. It also connects with local artists and communities through a range of programmes year-round. The 2019 International Festival runs 2-26 August.