

Family Events in Edinburgh's festivals August 2010

We've looked at the programmes and here are a few of our favourites:

The Book Festival

The theme of the RBS Children's Programme this year is Blast Off to Adventure. With a focus on young adult fiction, John Green, Michael Grant, Patrick Ness and Louise Rennison will be attending, together with Robert Muchamore who brings an exclusive preview of his new book. All in the tents in Charlotte Square. But do check availability of tickets as many shows sell out immediately the programme is announced. www.edbookfest.co.uk

14 Aug: Garth Nix - Hear all about the engaging Australian fantasy writer's The Keys to the Kingdom series. Age 9 – 12. 10am

15 Aug: Are Friends Electric? - Biologists have claimed we can only deal with a certain number of close friendships. Facebook's 400 million active users average 130 friends each. With this much information and this many people, are we emotionally and personally connected, or just sharing information? For older teens. 6pm .

28 Aug: Young Sherlock with Andrew Lane - What was the greatest-detective-in-the-world-ever like as a teenager? Well... he was busy uncovering his first murder and dealing with his eccentric family. Age 10+. 10am

29 Aug: Julia Donaldson launches Cave Baby, a hairy mammoth tale with a cheeky baby who takes a thrilling ride through a moonlit landscape populated by a sabre-toothed tiger, a leaping hare, a laughing hyena and a big brown bear. Age 5+ 10am

30 Aug: Catherine Rayner – Meet the 2009 Greenaway medal winner's newest additions. Norris, the bear who shared, is joined by the adorable Tulip and Violet in this endearing tale of sharing and friendship. Explore the story then create your own pictures. Age 3-5. 2pm

The Fringe

The Fringe 2010 features 40,254 performances of 2,453 shows in 259 venues and children's shows make up 4% of the programme. When we searched for children's shows we found 95, so if you want the full lowdown, go to the Fringe website. In the meantime here are a few of the ones which took our fancy. www.edfringe.com

6-30 Aug: The Red Bus - In its first Fringe appearance the Red Bus will be in the Meadows with 30 min shows by storytellers and puppeteers for under 8s on the top deck. Activities for children outside and rides to and from the Meadows each day.

6-30 Aug: Wee Willie Gray lives in a book, an old book, a book that no one has read for a very long time. Join Robert Burns' celebrated character for wee ones as he sets off on a fantastic journey through the magical musical museum with Foolish Notion. Over 4s. Scottish Storytelling Centre. 10.30am

8-29 Aug: Baby Loves Disco - The original dance party for children and parents with real DJs spinning classic disco - guaranteed to get those little booties moving and grooving. Plus chill-out zone, face painting, bubble machines. Edinburgh Corn Exchange. 2pm. Sundays

9-14 Aug: CeilidhKids at the Fringe - Scottish dancing, fun and fitness for you and your child. Very simple child-friendly dances to traditional Scottish music. Hugely popular with local families; now it's your turn. Edinburgh Academy

9-28 Aug: Family Fringe Fun - Enjoy a taste of what the Fringe has to offer, and discover which shows are age-appropriate for your family. Each day something different, with a mixture of children's shows, comedy, music and theatre. theSpaces @ Surgeons Hall. 12:40, 1:40pm

9-29 Aug: Bobby and the Grave Robbers - Scabby dug and mair cadavers than you kin shake a shovel at! Dinnae believe a that tourist nonsense, gie yer bairns a wee taste o whit wis really gaun on. Alba Flamenca. 11am.

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SkootKidz: The guide for families in and around Edinburgh www.SkootKidz.com

Details correct at time of going to press. Please check with venue or organiser for latest details.
Email your events to skootevents@btinternet.com

12 Aug: The BIG Sing-a-long - Fun for all the family. Lift the roof at this interactive sing-a-long show. Learn pop hits, action/world songs, body percussion, and more from the BIG Project's children's choir, with a professional band. The Queen's Hall. 2pm

18-30 Aug: Dr Bunhead is Volcano Head - TV's most extreme scientist reveals nature's most spectacular science: volcanoes, tornadoes, thunder, and lightning... live on stage. Expect huge bangs, giant clouds, fire, tornadoes, floods and more. C plaza. 11am

Royal Botanic Garden, Inverleith, EH3 5LR. 0131 248 2968 www.rbge.org.uk

9-14 Aug: Buzzing!

Award-winning multimedia eco-show with live music, glorious wildlife images and fun poems celebrating the tiny world of garden creepy crawlies. Performed by Anneliese Emmans Dean and John Rayson.

15-22 Aug: Albert & Friends Instant Circus

The magical world of Albert & Friends Instant Circus returns for 15th year with hilarity and mayhem. 1pm. Free.

21-25 Aug: Enso

LaNua present a dance piece in installation inspired by Haiku poems and circle calligraphy inspired by nature, our relationship to nature, and the way nature influences our inner experiences and psyche. 2pm Age: 8+

National Museum of Scotland, Chambers Street, EH1 1JF. 0131 225 7534

www.nms.ac.uk/fringe

9-28 Aug: Fringe Music - Enjoy the music of some of Scotland's most talented musicians.

Drawing on the Lewis Chessmen for inspiration, the programme stretches from Norway to the shores of Lewis. From fiddles and flutes to ballads and brass 12:45 Free

29 Aug: Fringe Finale Ceilidh - Local ceilidh band the Canongate Cadgers round off our annual Fringe programme in traditional style. All are welcome to come and clap along, learn some steps and enjoy a good shindig. 2pm. Free

The Pleasance, Pleasance Courtyard, EH8 9TJ www.pleasance.co.uk/edinburgh

There are more than a dozen children's productions at the Pleasance Courtyard. Most run between 4 Aug and 29 Aug. There is also a crèche for 3 to 8s; open 10am-6pm.

Long Nose Puppet Making Workshop - Long Nose is an exciting award-winning Brighton based puppet company. They create inspiring, inventive and colourful puppet shows for the very young. Help make puppets out of anything and everything: latex, wood, found objects and all things sparkly.

Charlie and Lola's Best Bestest Play - Everyone's favourite brother and sister are in Scotland for the first time with their extremely ever-so wonderful stage show! A magical mix of puppets, live action and music, adapted from some of the freshest and funniest episodes of the hit TV series. Will Lola ever tidy her messy room? Can Charlie get Lola to go to sleep, even though she is not sleepy and will not go to bed?

The List Operators for Kids - A cool show for anyone. Guaranteed not educational and more fun than a Wii.

Animal Alphaboat - John Hegley returns with an interactive show for families, in the magical Pleasance Ark. The audience are invited to sing along. But not to dance. Much.

Assembly 10

Of the 120 productions in the Assembly 10 brochure four are for families. All three are at the Assembly Rooms, George Street, with performances most days from 5 to 30 Aug.

www.assemblyfestival.com

Just Macbeth! turns Shakespeare's most gruesome tragedy on its head, and becomes, in the hands of acclaimed children's writer Andy Griffiths and director Wayne Harrison, a madcap production full of bum jokes, marshmallows and a garden gnome.

Farm Boy is a sequel to Children's Laureate Michael Morpurgo's much-loved novel War Horse. This funny, touching story of four generations on a family farm, presents at its centre the extraordinary history behind an old Fordson tractor tucked away at the back of the barn.



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Hairy Maclary and Friends in a fun-filled adaptation of Lynley Dodd's much-loved children's book. Featuring all of your favourite characters such as Bottomley Potts covered in spots, Muffin Maclay like a bundle of hay, Schnitzel von Krumm with a very low tum and the wickedest tomcat of them all... Scarface Claw!

James Campbell's Comedy & Songs for Kids is a brand new stand-up comedy show, mixed with funny songs about life, sausages and how superheroes go the toilet.

Fringe by the Sea, North Berwick www.ringebythesea.co.uk

3-31 Aug: Save the Planet Show - Join Professor Egghead and his team of presenters for a live show in the Wildlife Theatre. Scottish Seabird Centre,

12 Aug: The Singing Kettle - Concert style performance from Cilla, Artie, Gary & Kevin is guaranteed to have the whole family dancing, laughing and singing. Remember to wear something in your favourite colour to the show. 3pm Old Pulteney Spiegeltent, The Harbour, EH39 4SS

14 Aug: Hip Hop Class: Dance Base Workshop - Dancebase are back with a great hip hop class. Suitable for ages 11-16. 10.30am Spiegeltent, The Harbour, EH39 4SS

The festivals websites

All the details for Edinburgh's summer festivals are on line.

- ◆ Edinburgh Art Festival: 29 Jul-5 Sep www.edinburghartfestival.org
- ◆ Edinburgh Military Tattoo: 7-29 Aug www.edintattoo.co.uk
- ◆ Edinburgh Festival Fringe: 6-30 Aug www.edfringe.com
- ◆ Edinburgh International Festival: 13 Aug-5 Sep www.eif.co.uk
- ◆ Edinburgh International Book Festival: 14-30 Aug www.edbookfest.co.uk
- ◆ Edinburgh Jazz and Blues Festival: 30 Jul-8 Aug www.edinburghjazzfestival.com
- ◆ Mela Festival: 6-8 Aug www.edinburgh-mela.co.uk

Tell us about YOUR events

Send your family events to skootevents@btinternet.com. Please send us as many details as possible, including address with postcode of event location and contact telephone number for the event, date, time, entry fee and website (for further info about event).

Did you know?

If you want a printed version of the weekly events diary, we post a pdf on the Skootkidz website. It will print neatly on A4 paper so you can pin it on a noticeboard - at home for all the family to see or in the office for colleagues - or take it with you when you go out.

www.skootkidz.com/Newsletter

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