

---

**EDINBURGH**  
*Deaf*  
**FESTIVAL**

**11 — 20**  
*August*  
**2023**

---

*Programme*

To access this information in British Sign Language, please visit [edinburghdeaffestival.com](http://edinburghdeaffestival.com) or scan the QR code below.



## Contents

P3	Welcome
P4 & P5	Festival schedule
P6 - P14	Festival listings
P14	On demand service
P16	Festival information
P17	Plan your visit
P19	About Deaf Action

# Welcome

## EDINBURGH *Deaf* FESTIVAL

We're delighted to bring the Edinburgh Deaf Festival back for 2023. Edinburgh Deaf Festival is an accessible celebration of deaf culture, language and heritage. Join us for a variety of performances and events over ten days.

Our aim is to give deaf people access to the arts in a new and exciting way, whilst giving mainstream audiences the opportunity to immerse themselves in our rich culture.

This year, we will host over 60 events, including theatre, comedy, workshops, tours and exhibitions. All performances will be accessible to deaf and hearing audiences through BSL, BSL/English interpretation, or captions.

We're thrilled that so many of our festival friends and partners have made even more of their events accessible this year. We will continue working with them to improve accessibility by providing BSL/English interpreters and captioners for their shows where possible.

Find out more at [edinburghdeaffestival.com](http://edinburghdeaffestival.com)



# EDINBURGH Deaf FESTIVAL Schedule

**Fri 11**  
*August*

**Sat 12**  
*August*

**Sun 13**  
*August*

**Mon 14**  
*August*

**Tue 15**  
*August*

**Wed 16**  
*August*

**Thu 17**  
*August*

**Fri 18**  
*August*

**Sat 19**  
*August*

**Sun 20**  
*August*

10am Opening Day Info	11am Deaf History Scotland Lecture	11am EveryBody Yoga	10am Edinburgh Deaf Heritage Tour <i>St Giles Cathedral</i>	10am Edinburgh Deaf Heritage Tour <i>St Giles Cathedral</i>
	11am Grayson Perry Tour <i>National Gallery Scotland</i>	11:30am Visual Fun with Sports	11am EveryBody Yoga	10am Feminism Arts Workshop
	11:30am Visual Fun with Sports		11:30am Visual Fun with Sports	11am Deaf History Scotland Youth Workshop
				11:30am Visual Fun with Sports

12pm David Sands Stand-up Comedy	12pm David Sands Stand-up Comedy	12pm Youth Comedy Workshop		12pm Sikhism Workshop
12pm Youth Workshop with Danny's Skits	12pm Youth Workshop with Danny's Skits	2pm Shipping Roots <i>Royal Botanic Gardens</i>		3pm Feminism Arts Workshop
	4pm Fàilte Gu BSL (Welcome to BSL)	4pm Fàilte Gu BSL (Welcome to BSL) <i>Scottish Storytelling Center</i>		

7pm Opening Day Discussion	7.15pm Red Aphrodite	7.15pm Red Aphrodite	5pm Oddo the Starless Screening and Q&A	5pm Sikhism Workshop
9pm Opening Day Party	9pm Oddo the Starless	9pm Oddo the Starless	8pm Pub Quiz	6pm Beyond the Little Black Dress <i>National Museum of Scotland</i>
	10pm Deaf Gala Karaoke Night			9pm Feminism Arts Performance

10am Edinburgh Deaf Heritage Tour <i>St Giles Cathedral</i>	10am Edinburgh Deaf Heritage Tour <i>St Giles Cathedral</i>	10am Edinburgh Deaf Heritage Tour <i>St Giles Cathedral</i>	10am Once Upon A Raindrop	10am Once Upon A Raindrop
11am Deafinitely Theatre Workshop	11:30am Improv Comedy Workshop	10am Once Upon A Raindrop	11am Grayson Perry Tour <i>National Gallery Scotland</i>	10:15am Royal Botanic Garden Edinburgh Tour <i>Royal Botanic Gardens</i>
	11:30am Platform: 2023 Tour <i>Trinity Apse</i>	11am Once Upon A Raindrop	11am Once Upon A Raindrop	11am Once Upon A Raindrop

	2pm Elf & Duffy Clowning Workshop	12pm Once Upon A Raindrop	12pm Once Upon A Raindrop	12pm Once Upon A Raindrop
	4pm Expecting	12pm Fringe Central: Dinner Party Debate	12pm Youth Art Workshop	1:30pm 'Look At Me' & 'Benny' Screening and Q&A
		4pm Expecting	2pm Edinburgh Castle Tour <i>Edinburgh Castle</i>	4pm Faslane <i>Scottish Storytelling Centre</i>
			4pm Expecting	

7:30pm Sign Between the Lines Book Club	6:30pm Edinburgh Deaf Heritage Evening Lecture <i>Palace of Holyroodhouse</i>	9pm Cabaret Variety Show	6pm Faslane	5:30pm Expecting
	9pm Improv Comedy Performance		7:30pm The Gavin Lilley Show	7:30pm The Gavin Lilley Show
			Details coming soon... Closing party	

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

Performances may be subject to change. Please visit [edinburghdeafestival.com](http://edinburghdeafestival.com) for our most up to date details.



### STAND-UP COMEDY

*David Sands*

A stand-up comedy performance in BSL by the funniest deaf actor in the world, David Sands, AKA Chris Baker from Small World. Come and laugh with (or at!) David Sands in this hilarious new show.



*Comedy*  
**11-12 AUG**



### FÀILTE GU BSL (WELCOME TO BSL)

*Evie Waddell*

An immersive showcase of Gaelic and Scots signed-songs celebrating different aspects of traditional culture. Combining stories, dance, and signing with the songs, this show explores opportunities for deaf people to own their space within Scottish culture.



*Theatre*  
**12-13 AUG**



### ODDO THE STARLESS

*David Sands*

A dark visual story from an unknown dimension far away, adapted from a series of short films by David Sands. Meet Oddo, a language-less being that expresses itself loudly and physically in quirky and abstract ways.



*Theatre*  
**12-13 AUG**



### FEMINISM ARTS PERFORMANCE

*Luce Clark*

Featuring highlights from the workshop. An opportunity for participants to gain experience and share their knowledge to the audience about being a deaf woman.



*Theatre*  
**12-14 AUG**



### RED APHRODITE

*Amy Murray*

Join Amy Murray in breaking down taboos about womanhood. Exploring lust, periods, dating, and sex. Inspired by The Vagina Monologues, she shares hilarious, cringe-worthy, and tragic experiences from her life, which she bets could be happening to you too.



*Theatre*  
**12-13 AUG**



### VISUAL FUN WITH SPORTS

*Petre Dobre*

A sporty visual performance with comedic facial expressions and body language. A fun family show for ages 5 to 10.



*Family*  
**12-15 AUG**



### IMPROV COMEDY

*Jennifer Jordan*

Performers from our workshop with Jennifer Jordan will showcase their comedy skills in this improvised performance full of laughter and spontaneity. Come along to see what they have been preparing for!



*Comedy*  
**17 AUG**



### CABARET VARIETY SHOW

*Deaf Action*

Prepare for a rollercoaster ride of comedy, songs, and jaw-dropping performances, all delivered by an extraordinary ensemble of deaf talent.



*Social*  
**18 AUG**



### EXPECTING

*e21 Theatre Company*

Shauna and Robbie are expecting... different things. Shauna expects motherhood won't be easy. Robbie can't wait to be a dad. Then she arrives. This Charis McRoberts play explores experiences unique to couples where one is deaf and one is hearing.



*Theatre*  
**17-19 AUG**



### THE GAVIN LILLEY SHOW

*Gavin Lilley*

Gavin Lilley is a deaf comedian who has performed his signed shows to audiences across the world. Through his entertaining style of observational comedy, Gavin shares his experiences as a deaf person navigating a hearing world with some hilarious consequences.



*Comedy*  
**19-20 AUG**



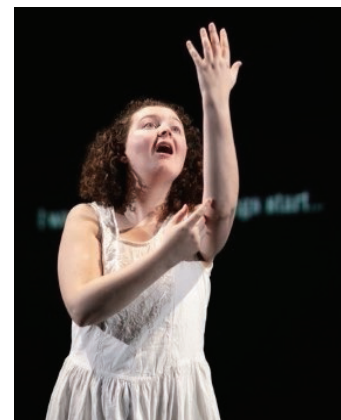
### ONCE UPON A RAINDROP

*Edinburgh International Magic Festival*

One of the most successful shows of the Edinburgh Deaf Festival is back. A funny, cheerful walk-through performance for wee ones and their grown-ups with lots of sensory games and... magic! Fun for ages 1 to 3.



*Family*  
**18-20 AUG**



### FASLANE

*Amy Helena*

An enthralling BSL retelling of the Fringe First winning play 'Faslane'. Follow Jenna's journey as she explores Scotland's nuclear deterrent, drawing upon interviews with activists and MOD personnel. A powerful and timely insight into the UK's nuclear debate.



*Theatre*  
**19-20 AUG**



### OPENING DAY INFORMATION

*Deaf Action*

Find out everything you need to know about our festival, meet the team and browse our information stalls.



*Social*  
**11 AUG**



### OPENING DAY PARTY

*Deaf Action*

Come and get your game on at the Edinburgh Deaf Festival! Join teams for head-to-head competition and engaging group activities.



*Social*  
**11 AUG**



### DEAF GALA KARAOKE NIGHT

*Deaf Action*

A glamorous night of karaoke and fun. Our two fabulous hosts will take the audience on a ride with performances, songs, laughing and cheering.



*Social*  
**12 AUG**



### FRINGE CENTRAL: DINNER PARTY DEBATE

*Deaf Action*

Join us for a lively dinner party debate on Fringe artists' experiences, funding for deaf artists, and reflections on Edinburgh Deaf Festival 2022. We'll explore the future of festivals, with networking opportunities to follow.



*Social*  
**17 AUG**



### OPENING DISCUSSION

*Deaf Action*

Join this thought-provoking debate where we will discuss relevant topics within the deaf community. Don't miss this opportunity to engage in meaningful conversation and network.



*Debate*  
**11 AUG**



### HERITAGE FUTURES: RE-DESIGNING THE PAST

*Deaf Action*

An open exhibition celebrating the past and future of deaf histories. From the early days of the Benevolent Society and the life of Deaf Action's founder Alexander Blackwood, to new works from deaf talent. Visit our festival venue to wander around the building... and get inspired!



*Social*  
**11-20 AUG**



### PUB QUIZ

*Deaf Action*

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.



*Social*  
**14 AUG**



### BOOK CLUB

*Sign Between The Lines*

In this literary evening you can expect "meet the author" workshops, an opportunity to mingle with fellow BSL bookworms and the chance to participate in a book swap.



*Book Club*  
**19 AUG**

## WORKSHOPS, TOURS, EXHIBITIONS

Join us for a variety of events throughout the festival. Detailed information can be found at [edinburghdeaffestival.com](http://edinburghdeaffestival.com)

### WORKSHOPS

#### DEAF HISTORY SCOTLAND: EDINBURGH DEAF SCHOOLS: 1760 TO 2003

*John Hay MBE*

This lecture examines the chronological order of various schools for deaf children in Edinburgh.

12 AUG

#### EVERYBODY YOGA

*Rachel Wilson*

These accessible yoga sessions will help you clear your mind and relax your body.

13-14 AUG

#### SIKHISM WORKSHOP

*Manjeet Cross*

An opportunity to widen your knowledge and understanding of Sikh faith and culture. Taste Indian sweets and expand your horizons!

15 AUG

#### FEMINISM ARTS WORKSHOP

*Luce Clark*

Empowering deaf women to explore, support, acknowledge rights, recognise abuse, and share information in an inclusive and safe space.

15 AUG

#### THEATRE ARTS WORKSHOP

*Deafinitely Theatre*

Paula Garfield is here to explore the theatre making arts world with you. Learn about professional culture, project creation and development.

16 AUG

#### IMPROV COMEDY WORKSHOP

*Jennifer Jordan*

In this workshop, you will learn the main tools and skills for creating improvised comedy scenes.

17 AUG

#### THE POWER OF PLAY: INTRODUCTION TO CLOWNING AND MIME

*Elf & Duffy*

A workshop exploring how you can use mime and clowning techniques when telling stories and creating theatre. For adults only.

17 AUG

#### EDINBURGH DEAF HERITAGE EVENING LECTURE

*Royal Collection Trust*

Historian John Hay will illustrate several salient episodes relating to deaf people which have occurred around the Royal Mile through many centuries.

17 AUG

### BSL TOURS

#### GRAYSON PERRY

*National Gallery Scotland*

Explore Grayson Perry's pots, prints, sculptures, and tapestries.

12, 19 AUG

#### SHIPPING ROOTS

*Royal Botanic Garden Edinburgh*

Explore the historical movement of plants through the Royal Botanic Garden.

13 AUG

#### EDINBURGH DEAF HERITAGE TOUR

Visit some of Edinburgh's historic deaf landmarks on our deaf heritage tour.

In BSL with IS on request.

14-18 AUG

#### BSL ACCESS EVENING: BEYOND THE LITTLE BLACK DRESS

*National Museum of Scotland*

In this BSL tour we deconstruct this iconic garment and examine the power of the colour black in fashion.

15 AUG

#### PLATFORM: 2023

*Edinburgh Art Festival*

Celebrate early-career artists working in Scotland, hosted in the historic setting of Trinity Apse.

17 AUG

#### EDINBURGH CASTLE

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

19 AUG

#### ROYAL BOTANIC GARDEN EDINBURGH

Explore the changing seasons, diverse Living Collection and inspiring stories and history of the Garden in these BSL tours.

20 AUG

### EXHIBITIONS

#### HERITAGE FUTURES: RE-DESIGNING THE PAST

An open exhibition celebrating the past and future of deaf histories.

11-20 AUG

### FILM SCREENINGS

#### ODDO THE STARLESS

Screening and Q&A. Join David Sands as he presents a film screening featuring his other-worldly character, Oddo the Starless.

14 AUG

#### 'LOOK AT ME' & 'BENNY'

Screening and Q&A. Panellists Benedetta Zanetti and Will Clark discuss their filmmaking process.

20 AUG



# YOUTH CLUB

## YOUTH WORKSHOPS WITH DANNY'S SKITS

Danny Murphy

Join deaf comedian Danny Murphy in this skit-making workshop. Excitement, drama, and competitive spirit are all part of the mix.

12-13 AUG

## DEAF HISTORY SCOTLAND: EDINBURGH DEAF SCHOOLS: 1760 TO 2003

Presented by John Hay MBE, chaired by Lilian Lawson OBE

This lecture examines the chronological order of various schools for deaf children in Edinburgh.

15 AUG

## YOUTH ART WORKSHOP

Klarissa Webster

This workshop aims to explore deaf identity through art by participating in various creative games and activities.

19 AUG

Accessibility: for full accessibility information, visit [edinburghdeaffestival.com](http://edinburghdeaffestival.com)

# INTERPRETERS AND CAPTIONERS *on demand*

If you want to see a performance at any of the other Edinburgh festivals but it isn't yet accessible, ask us. Deaf Action will aim to source an interpreter or captioner to make sure you can see the performance you want, when you want.

## HOW IT WORKS

- 👉 You find a performance you want to see
- 👉 Ask Deaf Action to request a communication professional
- 👉 We try to match the show with the right interpreter or captioner
- 👉 You go to the show and enjoy yourself!

\* please note this service is subject to availability

## Captioning Sponsors of the Edinburgh Deaf Festival



# HOUSE OF HEARING



# Audiology experts for over 50 years

Free comprehensive hearing tests | Audiology advice  
ENT Nurse-led wax removal | Hearing aids | Ear care

Book your wax removal appointment or free hearing health assessment  
today by calling us on **0131 639 0235**

10 Melville Crescent, Edinburgh [houseofhearing.co.uk](http://houseofhearing.co.uk) f t in





# FESTIVAL Information

Tickets available to buy 24/7 online at:  
[edinburghdeaffestival.com](https://edinburghdeaffestival.com)

## Box office

Open every day during the festival,  
11-20 August, 9am to 6pm  
49 Albany Street, Edinburgh

## Refunds

All Edinburgh Deaf Festival tickets are non-refundable,  
unless an event is cancelled.

## Accessibility

- 👂👁️ Deaf and hearing audiences welcome
- ♿️ Wheelchair access throughout
- 🚗 Lifts to performance areas
- 👂🗣️ Hearing loop in performance areas

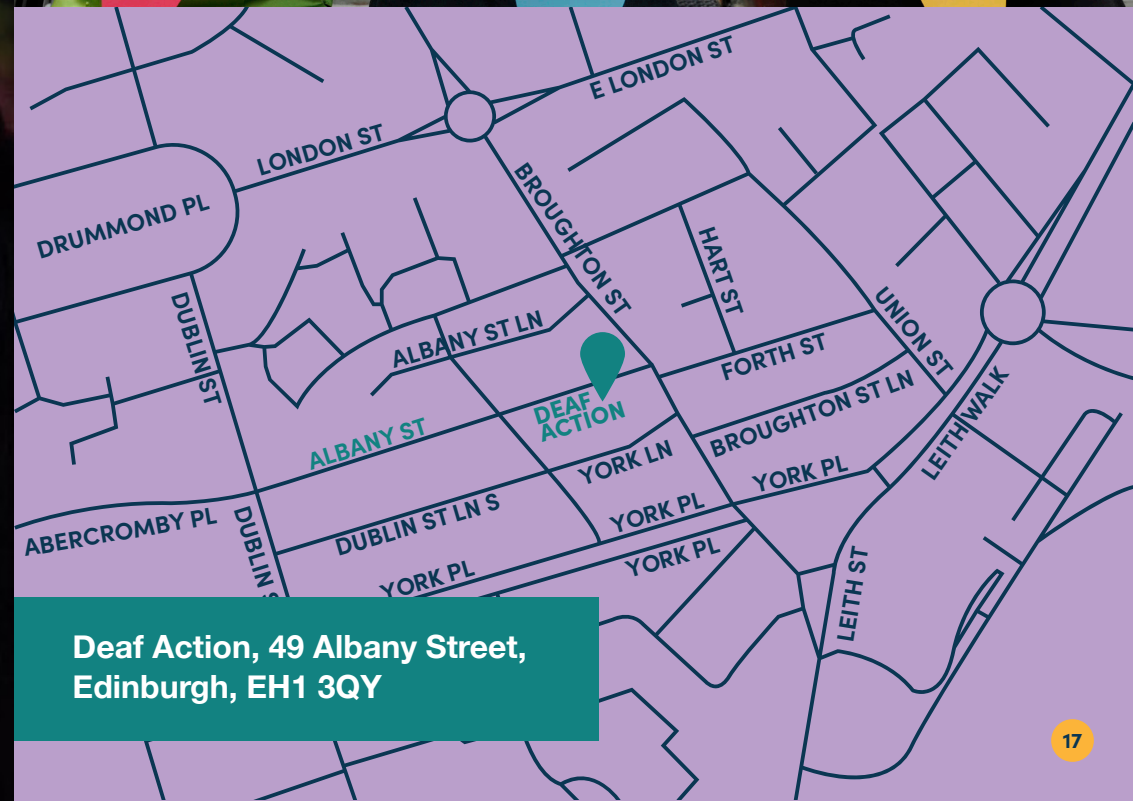
## Get in touch

- ✉️ [festival@deafaction.org](mailto:festival@deafaction.org)
- ☎️ 0131 556 3128
- 📞 07775 620 757

# PLAN *Your* VISIT

## Where to find Deaf Action

Edinburgh Deaf Festival will take place at Deaf Action's historic home, in the heart of Edinburgh's New Town.



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



# SignLive



Edinburgh Deaf Festival is brought to you by Deaf Action. We are a deaf-led charity with headquarters in Edinburgh, supporting and celebrating deaf people. We were established in 1835 and work with deaf people across Scotland and the South of England. Our work is geared towards empowering all deaf people to achieve their potential and fully participate in society, with equality of rights, access and opportunity. Find out more about Deaf Action by visiting our website at [www.deafaction.org](http://www.deafaction.org)

## Support **THE FESTIVAL**

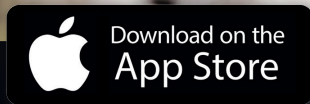
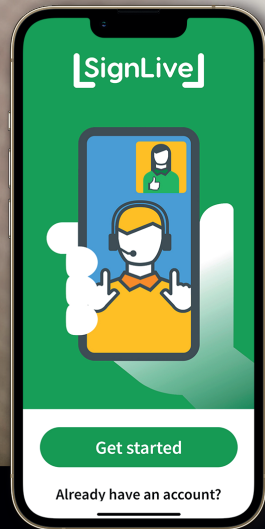
Help us secure Edinburgh Deaf Festival for the future.  
Donate online at [edinburghdeaffestival.com](http://edinburghdeaffestival.com)  
or text FEST to 70490 followed by your chosen amount, up to £20.

Headline sponsor



# SignLive

Captioning sponsor



## ONLINE BRITISH SIGN LANGUAGE (BSL) INTERPRETING 24/7

| [www.signlive.co.uk](http://www.signlive.co.uk) |

| e: [hello@signlive.co.uk](mailto:hello@signlive.co.uk) |

The background features two large, stylized outlines of hands in a vibrant pink color against a solid yellow background. The hands are positioned as if they are about to clasp together, with fingers slightly curled. The outlines are thick and clean, creating a simple yet powerful visual metaphor for connection and support.

**EDINBURGH**  
*Deaf*  
**FESTIVAL**

[www.edinburghdeaffestival.com](http://www.edinburghdeaffestival.com)



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