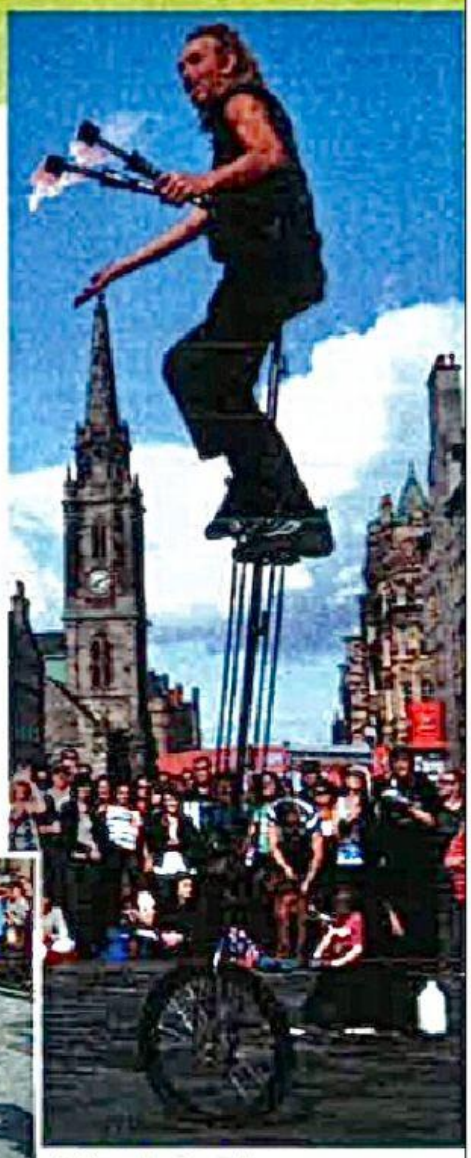
CULTURAL AWARENESS

A quick guide to the Edinburgh

Fringe Festival

HOME GUIDE



What is it?
It's the biggest festival of theatre, comedy, music and dance in the world. Every year there are thousands of different performers from all over the world!

Who performs in it?
Lots of young actors, comedians, musicians and dancers.

When did it start?
In 1947 – the same year that the Edinburgh International Festival started.

Why was it special?
There were rules about who could and couldn't perform at the International Festival. However, at the Fringe Festival anybody could put on a show!

Who has appeared at the festival?
Many famous people began their careers at the Edinburgh Fringe Festival. For example, Rowan Atkinson, the actor who plays Mr Bean, appeared in a play there when he was a student at Oxford University.

Where does it take place?
All over Edinburgh. Performances don't always take place in theatres, however. You can watch them outside on the street, in cafés and in people's homes. Once there was even a show on a moving bus!

When does it take place?
Every August for three weeks.

How much do tickets cost?
Most tickets cost under ten pounds, but many performances are free.

What does it offer for young people?
Lots! In the 2012 festival, for example, many events were for teenagers. They included a youth circus workshop and a musical comedy performed by American high-school pupils.

Word check

festival perform put on a show
take place circus comedy

LIVEWORKSHEETS

Read the text. Are the sentences true or false?

1. The International Festival began after the Fringe Festival.
   a. True
   b. False

2. You don't need any experience to take part in the Fringe festival.
   a. True
   b. False

3. There was a Mr.Bean show at one festival.
   a. True
   b. False

4. Performances are sometimes in strange places.
   a. True
   b. False

5. The Fringe Festival isn't just for adults.
   a. True
   b. false

LIVEWORKSHEETS