Level: A2 Pre Intermediate

Skill: Reading

Festivals in Edinburgh









The Edinburgh Festivals, now in its 71st year, with over 30,000 performers ready to entertain in August, are known as the world's largest celebration of the arts.

A free event will officially open the Edinburgh International Festival tonight (Friday, August 3), marking the start of festival activities across the city.

Creating Friendship: In 1947, shortly after the end of World War II, the Edinburgh International Festival was established to foster cultural unity and friendship across Europe.

Fringe's Unexpected Beginning: The Edinburgh Festival Fringe is a separate entity from the Edinburgh International Festival. Seventy-one years ago, eight theater groups arrived uninvited in Edinburgh, hoping to perform at the newly established Edinburgh International Festival. Although they couldn't participate, these groups decided to perform anyway, giving birth to a new festival that has become the grand summer event we know today.

The Name Origins: In 1947, those eight theater groups performed on the fringes of the Edinburgh International Festival, hence the name we know today.

Marathon of Performances: If you wanted to see every performance at the Fringe, it would take you several years. With over 30,000 performances, it's physically impossible to watch even 10% of them.

Ticket Sales: In 2017, a staggering 2,696,884 tickets were sold. To give you an idea of the quantity.

The Audience: The Festivals are the second-largest event in terms of attendees, following only the Olympic Games. Edinburgh is also the second most-visited city in the UK for international travelers, largely thanks to the Festivals.

Economic Impact: The Edinburgh Festivals contribute £260 million to the Scottish economy. Fergus Linehan, artistic director of the Edinburgh International Festival, has expressed concerns about Brexit's potentially "disastrous" impact on the Edinburgh Festivals. Currently, the Festivals contribute hundreds of millions of pounds to the Scottish economy and support over 5,000 jobs.

LIVEWORKSHEETS

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Choose the correct answer.

What is the Edinburgh International Festival's primary purpose?
To compete with other festivals
To celebrate Europe's cultural diversity
To commemorate historical events

How did the Edinburgh Festival Fringe originate?
As a part of the Edinburgh International Festival
Through the efforts of famous comedians
By eight theater groups who weren't invited

Why is it called the "Fringe"?
Because it's related to hairstyles
It refers to its peripheral location
Due to its focus on comedy

How long would it take to watch every performance at the Fringe?
A few weeks
Several years
About a month

How many tickets were sold in 2017 for the Fringe?
Approximately 1 million
Over 2.5 million
Nearly 3 million

What type of shows make up the largest portion of the Fringe?
Musicals and Opera
Comedy
Theater

What is the estimated annual attendance of the Edinburgh Festivals?
2 million
4.5 million
10 million

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