

# edinburgh festival 1974

# THE FRINGE

# THE LIST OF LISTS

**List—a catalogue**—This is a roll to call your own. It is long and, by token of equal membership, it is plainly ordered to a visually daunting degree. But, in a country whose other national game involves finding a very small ball in every type of terrain but the fairway, we ask you to stick with it.

**List—a selva, a border, a fringe**—It started at the very first Festival when seven groups decided to do their own thing on their own initiative and at their own risk—it thrives with over a hundred members continuing to do just that. It got the name to distinguish between it and the official events and it thrives on that distinction.

**List—a ridge built up by a double plough**—It is an annual gather-up of all those who wish to do, for you, here, this year. It is an accidental and unlikely co-operative of the merry and the deep, the amateur and the professional, the mature and the formative, the mercantile and the dedicated, the lovers of tradition and the advocates of change.

**List—a fillet, a finishing infill**—It is the Fringe which makes Edinburgh a complete International Fiestaville with all sorts of events happening at times of day and in areas of the arts and entertainment not touched on by the official events. But, as well as acting as a complement, it offers a real alternative at many levels.

**List—combat, enter the lists—come forward in contest**—After this list, it is every man for himself, sink or swim. The audience votes with its seats and often finds a surprise. Quite a few modern classics in theatre had their first performance on the Fringe and the artists' policy of making Edinburgh a place to try out new ideas and works never before performed in Britain continues to be a potent force in the Festival as a whole.

**List—an enclosure**—The Fringe map covers a widely spread area and, indeed, part of the atmosphere is in going to some out-of-the-way, improbable place and, in the afterglow, enjoying remembering forgetting where you were while you were. In the far-from-dead centre is the Royal Mile Centre with Tickets, Information, Centre Spot daytime nourishment and diversion and, of course, the Evening Fringe Club where artists and visitors of all nationalities mix and entertain themselves late into the night between, or after, shows.

**List—appetite, craving**—In the old capital city of a nation of doers who have traditionally packed a year's worth of spectating into one annual gala or games or show or whatever (and, for that matter, a week's worth of leisure into one single glorious night), it is not surprising that Edinburgh's Fringe, albeit the oldest, continues as the strongest and happiest. It found a ready local audience from the beginning and its continuing loyalty is our continuing joy.

**List—to choose**—If you think that the prices are low compared to your local theatre or cinema, remember that the artists mainly want your company more than your money. In most cases they look for you to take up an introductory offer and to be the other half in an art which doesn't work too well without an audience. Choose widely and often but, be warned. There are things to which you can safely take your Granny and others to which you might wisely not.

**List—to listen**—The listenableness is terrific. For instance, the music ranges from modern serious work (but without tie and tails) and choral recitals to concerts of traditional and contemporary folk (often in a genuine *ceilidh* atmosphere) and the most recent developments in rock and pop. And, there can be no hanging back to listen to others' opinions—many of these recitals are once only.

**List—pleasure, joy, delight**—Need I say more?

**List—to lean to one side**—The vessel is manned by those who are determined to do their own thing for you in any one year. The leaning, then, is always to what artists want to do rather than anyone else's idea of what the Fringe should be. It is difficult to generalise but it is certain that the name has become synonymous with so much that is new in ideas and so much that is open in attitudes. We can also thank the other half, the audiences and the exhibition patrons, for the fact that we stay afloat. No thanks to anyone who still thinks of it as a spiritual or civil duty to "see no ship" or to "harbour no libertines."

**Listless—inert, uninterested, having no desire, having no Fringe Programme.**

**List—a destination, a limit**—There is, of course, some physical limit to the number of windproof and watertight places in which events can take place, to the number of groups who would play outdoors against the slings and arrows of outrageous traffic noise (don't worry about the weather—it has been the driest feature of the Festival for years). This year's Fringe has more events than ever before and who knows where it will end? It is a sad fact that each year is a step further away from the euphoria with which each individual recalls his or her first Fringe but, hopefully, each year is a step nearer sharing that euphoria with greater and greater sections of our local people and our visitors. There are 500,000 people in Edinburgh and then there is you.

So, I list that you list to the lists of your list as a list between lists by the list of this year's list's list—and for many more lists to come.

John Milligan,  
Fringe Administrator.

## ADVANCE BOOKING

### THE TICKET ORDER FORM

The form may be imitated or photocopied for more orders or for the use of another Fringe-goer.

When sending the form, or any copy of it, you must enclose:

1. A stamped self-addressed envelope for your tickets.
2. Your remittance. Cheques or postal orders should be crossed "& Co" and made payable to FESTIVAL FRINGE SOCIETY.

Address your order to:—

BOX ABT,  
FESTIVAL FRINGE SOCIETY,  
ROYAL MILE CENTRE,  
HIGH STREET,  
EDINBURGH EH1 1RB

### THE FRINGE CLUB

A signature is required of each applicant and the Society reserves the right to limit the quota of public Membership.

Name .....

Address .....

I/we declare that I am/we are over 18 years of age.

Signed .....

Tick where applicable

- Full Membership  Club Fees total
- Season Aug 19–Sept 7
- Week 1 Aug 19–24  plus Ticket total
- Week 2 Aug 26–31
- Week 3 Sept 2–7  TOTAL SENT

£	p

