Happy New Year!

Welcome to 2024!

As a valued supporter of The O’Neill, we invite you to join Tiffani Gavin, our Executive Director, Rob Mooney, Director of External Relations and Mike Beasley, Manager of Individual Giving & Special Events as we explore the Edinburgh International and Festival Fringe together. There is much to experience, so many things to see, and amazing theatrical opportunities for us to share.

With lots of personal touches and unexpected delights outside of our theater adventures, this trip with EOTC leadership and valued friends is the best way to experience The Festival season.

Edinburgh, Scotland

Step back in time and experience Edinburgh, a city with a rich and varied history. The Old Town, built up in the Middle Ages when the fear of attack was constant, sits high on Castle Rock overlooking the surrounding plain. In contrast, the New Town, built in the 18-19th century, spreads out on the plain in a magnificent succession of streets, crescents, and terraces.

Beneath Gothic and Georgian steeples, towers and turrets, Edinburgh’s cobble-stoned streets wind uphill to the magnificent medieval fortress known as Edinburgh Castle. Crowning the hill in the historical Old Town of Edinburgh, this is the oldest part of the Scottish capital. Most of the buildings in Old Town are stone with numerous multipaned tall windows and have survived since their original construction and serve to preserve most of unique street plan. This area is affectionately named by the Scottish as “Auld Reekie” (Reekie meaning “Smoky”), referring to the pollution from coal and wood fires that left dark smoky trails from chimneys through the Edinburgh skies. Old Town, together with New Town, was declared a protected UNESCO World Heritage Site in 1995.

Experiencing Edinburgh in August is a treat: lovey weather, lively energy, with multiple festivals, and delicious food. There are dozens of interesting sights to explore, as we engage with all the festivals have to offer.
Background on the Fringe

For three weeks in August, the city of Edinburgh welcomes an explosion of creative energy from around the globe. Artists and performers take to hundreds of stages all over the city, presenting shows for every taste. Venues can be anywhere, from existing theatres and concert halls to repurposed spaces like bars, parks, buses and shipping containers.

The Fringe Street Events bring color, excitement and vibrancy to outdoor areas. From big names in the world of entertainment to unknown artists looking to build their careers, the festival spans every genre of live performance, including theatre, comedy, dance, physical theater, circus, cabaret, musicals, opera, music, spoken word, exhibitions and events.

The Fringe story dates back to 1947, when eight theatre groups turned up uninvited to perform at the Edinburgh International Festival.

The Edinburgh International Festival was an initiative created to celebrate and enrich European cultural life in the wake of the Second World War.

Not being part of the official program of the International Festival didn’t stop these performers, they just went ahead and staged their shows on the fringe of the Festival anyway, coining the phrase and the name – the Edinburgh Festival Fringe. Since the dawn of this spontaneous artistic movement, millions have flocked to the Edinburgh Festival Fringe to produce, and to enjoy art of every genre.

Year on year more and more performers followed their example and in 1958 the Festival Fringe Society was created in response to the success of this growing trend. The Society formalized the existence of this collective of performances, provided information to artists, published the Fringe program and created a central box office.

Its constitution was written in line with the ethos that brought these theatre companies to Edinburgh back in 1947; that: the Society was to take no part in vetting the festival’s program.

To this day that policy remains at the core of the festival and they’re proud to include in the program anyone with a story to tell and a venue willing to host them.

For more information: https://www.edfringe.com/
Edinburgh Festival Fringe

AUGUST 18 - 23, 2024
5 NIGHTS - 6 DAYS

Hilton Edinburgh Carlton

Overlooking The Royal Mile, the Hilton Edinburgh Carlton has a stylish cocktail bar and modern brasserie. Lively Princes Street is just 984 feet away and Waverley Rail Station is directly adjacent to the hotel.

Free WiFi is available throughout the hotel. The hotel is a 10-minute walk from Edinburgh Castle. Holyrood Palace is half a mile away. The spacious, 4-star bedrooms at Hilton Edinburgh Carlton each have a private bathroom with Peter Thomas Roth toiletries. Rooms also feature a work desk and HD freeview TV.

Marco Pierre White Steakhouse Restaurant offers a traditional British menu and some of Marco’s classic dishes. Nineteen Hundred Bar features a lounge, and offers a range of cocktails, a selection of whiskey and light snacks and meals.

The Hilton is located just off the Royal Mile, (the traditional processional route of monarchs), this main thoroughfare links the Edinburgh Castle with the Palace of Holyroodhouse.

The Royal Mile is a great place to stroll and get acclimated to Old Town as it is also home to parliaments old and new, law courts, a cathedral and churches, and a vast range of visitor attractions, walking tours, shops, restaurants, cafes and pubs.

Don't forget to investigate the dozens of little alleys or wynds, while at night the city's busiest clubs erupt along the Cowgate which is closed to traffic for this purpose.

Due to the interest in this trip and the limited number of spaces we are able to offer to maintain a special experience for all attendees, reservations will be accepted on a first come, first served basis.