

BATH FRINGE REPORT 2025



Bath Fringe continues on the process of renewal that began after the pandemic in 2022. The drought in Arts Funding that began then is not over, but we all do what we can within the resources we have. This year's activities show that there is still a clear and special rôle for the Fringe in the local and national arts economy.

"Who needs Edinburgh when you've got stuff like this in Bath?"

- Video Vox Pop after Improv Wolves show at The Rondo

**101 PERFORMANCES* FROM
400+ PERFORMERS
- PLUS 30+ VISUAL ARTS SHOWS
& EVENTS, FROM 320 ARTISTS -
TO MORE THAN 16,800 PEOPLE
OVER 17 DAYS**

* not including events planned but cancelled

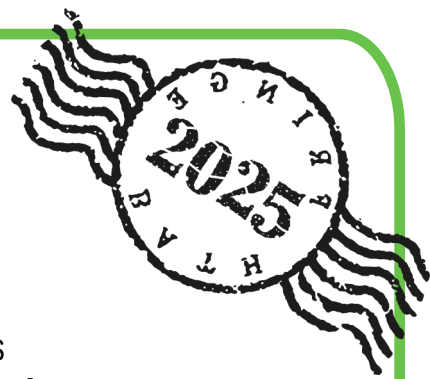
"Being part of the Fringe was really good - I got walkers who had never been to an event of mine before. I think I'd have got more if I hadn't sold out. Lots of walkers decided to turn up on the day having seen the event in the Fringe brochure - which was great.... All the walks sold out and I could probably have done more of them..."
CLARE REDDAWAY: A Word In Your Ear prod. :

**SOME SOCIAL
MEDIA FIGURES**
bathfringe.co.uk
April - May - June:
Unique visitors:
6.5K - 10K - 8K
Visits:
19K - 24.5K - 20K
FACEBOOK:
Top post: 5K
Daily Updates: 100
Followers: 5K
INSTAGRAM:
Views: 13K
Daily Updates: 500
Followers: 5K

Cover / Poster image by Emily Hatherall



STREETWISE



Angie Mac - all images this page by Luke John Emmett



A small event but important to us was our return to the streets of Bath with **'The Bedlam Busq'**. The Bedlam Fair weekend had been a Fringe highlight - and, we think, for the city too - but has not been Grant-supported since 2021, nor have we gathered enough financial support from other sources to replace that money.

But as a step back in the right direction (and with thanks to the continued generosity of our donor supporters) we were able to take a small amount from our annual finances to encourage a handful of Buskers to work in a different part of the city one Sunday afternoon. Although much smaller than Bedlam at its peak, it recalled the beginnings back in the early 1990s, and provided an opportunity for Entertainment, and a little Art, in a very accessible - in all senses - place, with complete freedom for the audience to pay whatever they felt appropriate.

Ciaran Innes



2 Men - The Wardens



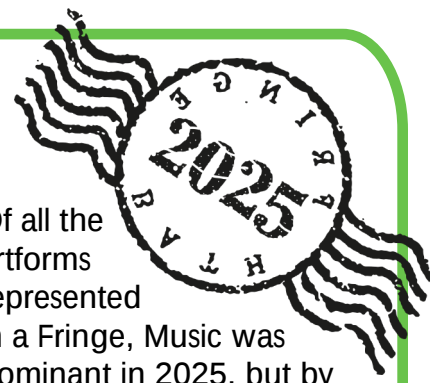
Some familiar faces from Bath were joined by friends from other parts of the country, all sternly supervised by our special Wardens.

Able Mabel



We'd love to repeat this event in 2026, if you'd like to help it to happen, financially or as a volunteer, be in touch!

SHOW BUSINESS



Of all the artforms represented in a Fringe, Music was dominant in 2025, but by no means only in the most popular styles: we welcomed a clarinet sextet, street brass, and Turkish music, alongside the Rock, Punk, Jazz, Swing, Folk and Americana you would predict.

The Big R Band by Elly O'Brian



More highlights for us were our continued collaboration with **Outsider Artists** on a programme in Komedia & The Rondo, and a series with local recording studios presenting the best bands they've been working with over the past year, in our back room at The Bell. And for our own events we're pleased that we managed to pull off a Big Band Swing dance - 16-piece band, no less - at Widcombe Social Club: we've still got track record for classy events as well as punk rock...

The biggest success of this year's Fringe however has to be **Fringe Arts Bath [FaB]** in the Old Post Office (New Bond Street/Broad Street), who surpassed all attendance records in a spacious central site that people haven't been able to get into for a while - optimal conditions that they matched with another extremely high quality show with related performances, films, talks and more. We hope that those responsible for access to 'meanwhile' spaces take note of what can be achieved for the city as well as the Arts when they make the right spaces available to the right people. We congratulate our little-sister festival for its success.

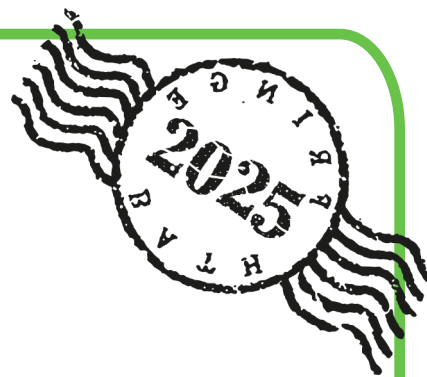
The Old Post Office [FaB] & Sarah Mallabar, by Bella Washbourne



This year's notable new spaces included **Bath Comedy's** "dinner comedy" in Woods restaurant, and **Clare Reddaway** working outdoors.

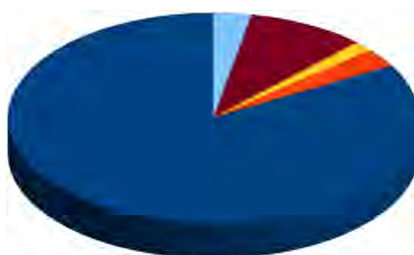
Bath Fringe has always happily taken on the role of shop window for Bath artistic activity, we are proud of the city's artistic community and think it is very special for a place of this size. But that doesn't mean that Bath Fringe is just a local festival, or even just a focus for the region: a full one third of the festival is made up of National level or even International performers choosing Bath Fringe as the best time to play the city - and that's across artforms, it's true in Music just as much as it is in Theatre and Comedy. [Local artists make up 42% of the Fringe, and regional another 25%]

FINANCE



INCOME

■	Trusts	£32000
■	Donations	£1100
■	Sponsorship	£600
□	Grants	£0
■	Listings & Adverts	£3575
■	Ticket Sales	£1152
	Total	£38427



NB: These charts are based on our Draft Accounts, but all major financial activity for our year 2024-5 has already taken place or is predictable and has been anticipated.

Not included in this summary:
Services in Kind
- £14,000
[staff & office]
- Volunteers [50]

EXPENDITURE

■	Staff	£16500
■	Print & Marketing	£8353
■	Office	£5492
■	Artists' Fees	£2953
■	Event Expenses	£1944
	Total	£35242



"Absolutely fantastic quality street arts. Fun, engaging, inspiring, accessible. Bringing the arts to the people".

Truan Jay Mathias by Luke John Emmett



"Lovely to see great street theatre returning to the streets of Bath".

- 2 sets of Audience feedback, Bedlam Busq.

Bath Fringe is supported by:

The Roper Family Trust
The Cobalt Trust
The Joyce Fletcher Trust
The Bell Inn
Wessex Water

Bath Fringe is in partnership with Bath Spa University

Bath Fringe Ltd.

A CoOperative Limited Company,
Number 2716515

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