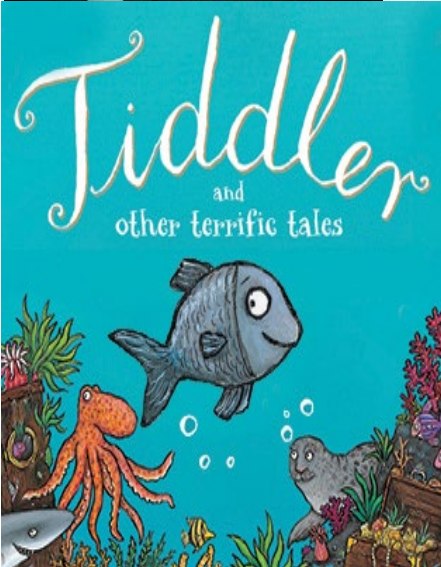


THE GREAT YORKSHIRE FRINGE

The Great Yorkshire Fringe is back... Bigger! Longer! Funnier!
18 days of fun with 150 shows from Friday 15 July - Monday 1 August



The Great Yorkshire Fringe is back... bigger! Longer! Funnier! With 18 days of fun with 150 shows over 3 weekends from 15 July - 1 August.

The first Great Yorkshire Fringe was such a roaring success that it's coming back in July - and is promising to serve up even more of the very best comedians, music and family entertainment from all over the world in York's historic city centre.

The inaugural event proved a hit with both residents and visitors to the city alike, with more than 120,000 people flocking to a festival of entertainment, music, cabaret, magic and theatre. Building on that success, this year's weird, wise and wonderful event has been extended by an extra week - so there will be 18 days of entertainment, again centred on Parliament Street, and it will be chock-full with craft beer and wine bars, gourmet street-food, music and much, much more.

The full Great Yorkshire Fringe programme is announced today - and it features 150 shows or events - up from 63 last year - 300 performances in total and over 600 performers taking part.

No joke – festival has been a success

“This festival has been just brilliant. Everything about it has worked; from the century-old Spiegeltents complete with stained glass windows to the fake lawn and the ‘street food’. And that’s before we even get to the acts themselves. Some of the biggest names in comedy have been right here in York all week; the whole thing has been superbly organised. Roll on next year...”



The YORK PRESS editorial on the 2015 Great Yorkshire Fringe

Festival founder and York resident, Martin Witts said: “The Great Yorkshire Fringe in 2016 is going to be an even bigger non-stop cavalcade of laughs. Comedy is going to take over the city centre and the sound of infectious laughter will be everywhere! We are also creating **The Great Northern Comedy Trail**, which will celebrate the lives and work of many of our greatest laughter heroes and venues.”

Parliament Street will again be at the centre of things, as it is transformed into a massive Lazy Lawn village green a 1/4 mile long, a vibrant and exciting space with three fantastic entertainment venues:

The White Rose Rotunda is a spectacular century-old Spiegeltent, seating 300 with many seated around tables in mirrored booths.

The Turn Pot is another beautiful Spiegeltent, seating 200.

The Tea Pot seats 200 (double last year’s capacity), and is a starry oasis in the middle of the site, a pop up venue home for up and coming comedy, the **Free Fringe** and the **The Great Yorkshire Fringe New Comedian of the Year 2016** competition.

The Gillygate Shed is an exciting new 100-seat pop up venue as the festival expands across the city. Located in the garden of The Gillygate Pub, just a 10-minute walk away, this new venue will have a super-late licence so expect an eclectic mix of shows throughout the day and evening. Brian Furey, Landlord of The Gillygate Pub, said: “Alongside the theatre we are building a cider bar and an authentic wood burning Italian pizza oven in the garden. Different themed pizzas will be served at various times of the day.”

The Black Swan Inn is an affiliate venue for this year’s festival, hosting the Burning Duck Woodsduck Comedy Festival from 22 – 24 July. A 6 minute walk from the Parliament Street, the events are part of the wider **Free Fringe** and features comedy from Kiri Pritchard McLean, Jack Evans, Seymour Mace and more.

We are also pleased to announce **The Arts Barge Riverside Festival** at Tower Gardens on 27 - 31 July will also be part of the **Free Fringe**.

Among **The Great Yorkshire Fringe** highlights for 2016 are several major productions direct from successful runs in London’s West End, including classic radio comedy from **Round The Horne: The 50th Anniversary Tour** and **Showstopper! The Improvised Musical**, the first improvised comedy group to win an Oliver Award who have just finished a three-month West End season at the Apollo Theatre. **Sh*t-faced Shakespeare®** by Magnificent Bastard Productions is the hilarious combination of an entirely serious Shakespeare play with an entirely sh*t-faced cast member! Side-splitting, raucous and completely interactive, the show has already entertained over 50,000 eager theatregoers across the UK and America.

Returning stand up stars include the incredible **Henning Wehn** (who had to add extra shows last year), **Tony Law** and **Simon Munnery**. “King of the internet” **Richard Herring** will pick his favourite routines from his 12 previous one-man shows and cram them into 60 minutes. He also brings his award winning Podcast (Winner of the Bronze Award for Best Comedy at the 2013 Sony Radio Academy Awards and the Chortle Internet Award 2013) to York. Star of *The Chase* on ITV1, **Paul Sinha** returns to stand up comedy after a 4-year break with *Postcards From The Z-List*. Other big hitters in a truly international line-up include **Jerry Sadowitz**, **Glenn Wool**, **Tom Stade**, the UK’s favourite Canadian resident, and the adults-only puppet show **Sammy J and Randy**, who are stars of their own hit TV show in Australia, combining catchy songs with chaotic tomfoolery and outbursts of pure filth.

“We’re also thrilled that the Great Yorkshire Fringe will be the first place you can see new material from many established acts,” said Martin Witts. “It will be the place where acts give birth to new shows before moving on to the Edinburgh Fringe Festival and beyond. Whatever your taste in comedy or entertainment we promise to have something for you!”

For families, **Tiddler & Other Terrific Tales** is a one-hour show based on the books by Julia Donaldson & Axel Scheffler, creators of *The Gruffalo* and from the same team as last year’s hit show, *Stick Man*; **Baby Loves Disco** has DJs spinning feelgood chart floorfillers with nostalgic pop classics from the years before parenthood struck – for parents and babies, toddlers and young children to enjoy together; and there are several great magic shows for all the family - **Morgan & West’s Utterly Spiffing Spectacular Magic Show For Kids (and Childish Grown Ups!)**, **West End Magic & West End Magic Workshops for Children**.

The Great Yorkshire Fringe New Comedian of the Year 2016

At the heart of the Festival is the return of **The Great Yorkshire Fringe New Comedian of the Year Competition**. Following in the footsteps of our highly successful, sold-out 2015 competition, over 200 acts will now compete to be crowned our 2016 champion. There will be heats throughout the Fringe, with a grand final on Sunday 31 July. Last year, Tom Taylor, aged 23 from Harrogate, was crowned the very first Great Yorkshire Fringe New Comedian of the Year. The 2016 winner will receive The Golden Pudding Award, £750, and the opportunity to perform at Leicester Square Theatre. Second place prize will be £500 and third place £250.

Great Yorkshire Fringe Dog Show

New for 2016 is the first Great Yorkshire Fringe Dog Show in aid of Greyhound Rescue North Yorkshire. Staged on Saturday 16 July at 3.00pm in The White Rose Rotunda. Registration opens on the day from 2.15pm.

The Great Yorkshire Fringe will end with **The Lord Mayor’s Secret Ball** on Monday 1 August – Yorkshire Day.

Bob The Box Office Bus

New for 2016 is a themed double-decker bus - **Bob The Box Office Bus**, covered with the same Lazy Lawn as Parliament Street. **Bob The Box Office Bus** is a new mobile box office for the festival and will be parked in the city centre from Wednesday 1 June. Festival fans will be able to drop by and book tickets for all the events there as well as online. During the festival, **Bob The Box Office Bus** will be at the very heart of things in the centre of Parliament Street.

Feastival - Food and Drink At The Festival

Following the success of the 2015 Great Yorkshire Fringe’s internationally acclaimed street-food; we are pleased to announce the newest addition to the Great Yorkshire Fringe - The Feastival, popping up alongside the three Festival venues on Parliament Street. This year’s Street Food offering includes firm favourites from last year but also some new and exciting additions!

The full Great Yorkshire Fringe programme can be viewed here:

http://www.greatyorkshirefringe.com/2016_brochure/

High res images can be downloaded here:

<http://www.greatyorkshirefringe.com/imagery/>

Follow [@yorkfringe](#) for Festival updates

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