



Youth  
Theatre  
Arts  
Scotland

# National Festival of Youth Theatre 2017

## Event Information

ENCOUNTER

GIRLFRIEND

SIGHTING

BROTHER



**This information pack aims to provide all the information you need to know about the National Festival of Youth Theatre 2017.**

**If you have any questions please contact Youth Theatre Arts Scotland on 0131 538 0591.**



Each year Scotland's National Festival of Youth Theatre (NFYT) creates an explosion of young creative talent.

It is the largest gathering of youth theatres in the UK and enables young people to come together, discover and celebrate a shared passion, offering them the opportunity to develop as artists, audience members and creative thinkers.

With an emphasis on inclusion, education and collaboration, NFYT aims to remove barriers, teach valuable life skills and provide extraordinary new experiences.

We look forward to welcoming you and your youth theatre group to our exciting event in 2017!

*"NFYT is truly a one of a kind experience - you can only understand it when you're in it."*

Youth theatre group leader, 2016

<b>Dates:</b>	Friday 7 – Monday 10 July 2017
<b>Venues:</b>	<b>Ayr:</b> The Gaiety Theatre (KA7 1NU) & Rozelle Park Campsite (KA7 4NQ)
<b>Tickets:</b>	Group bookings only
<b>Price:</b>	<b>£150 per person:</b> residential <b>£100 per person:</b> non-residential
<b>Discounts:</b>	Two FREE Group Leader places per group

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## About the National Festival of Youth Theatre

*“NFYT is not only an incredible social event but also a massive learning experience and has been one of the best times of my life.”*

NFYT participant, 2016

In 2017 NFYT will welcome youth theatre groups from across Scotland and further afield.

The event will include at least eight programmed shows as well as a comedy improv night, artistic workshops, a final night Ceilidh and of course, festival camping!

Your youth theatre group doesn't have to perform in order to take part. NFYT always welcomes non-performing groups and audiences who choose to enjoy what the festival has to offer without the pressure of staging a show.

**NFYT offers young people aged 14–22 the opportunity to:**

- See at least eight youth theatre performances over three days.
- Create a 'site responsive' micro performance in a unique venue in Ayr as part of the artistic workshops.
- Perform on the festival marquee stage at the improv and talent nights.
- Take part in up to five different artistic workshops.
- Make friends and socialise with their peers from across Scotland and further afield.

**NFYT offers youth theatre group leaders:**

- The opportunity to take part in three skill-share sessions and a tailored leader induction.
- The opportunity to network with sector colleagues.
- Full support with the NFYT booking process, including a condensed 'Event Info Pack' to distribute to parents and carers.



## Event Overview

NFYT was established by Youth Theatre Arts Scotland in 2004 as Scotland's only annual gathering for youth theatres. The festival has steadily grown in scale and ambition and after 6 successful and happy years at Rothes Halls in Fife. NFYT is moving across the country to the town of Ayr in South Ayrshire.

NFYT 2017 will be delivered with our new partners Ayr Gaiety Partnership and South Ayrshire Council. Performances will take place at the newly refurbished Gaiety Theatre with workshops happening in several venues across Ayr Town Centre. The festival campsite will be situated in Holy Fair Field at nearby Rozelle Park.

Every year NFYT welcomes around **150 participants** representing between **12-15 different youth theatres** from across Scotland and further afield. Each morning, after spending the night and breakfasting at the exclusive NFYT campsite in the grounds of Rozelle Park, coaches transport participants to the home of NFYT, the Gaiety Theatre. This is where you and your young people will be watching shows at various times each day and from where you will disperse to take part in artistic workshops and social activities and make new friends.

Lunch and a hot dinner are provided at Ayr Town Hall. At the end of each day coaches will be waiting at the theatre to take you back to the campsite. During the evening at the campsite you and your young people can watch and take part in the entertainment in the performance marquee, socialise and enjoy snacks and hot drinks, or simply relax in your own tents.

The following table shows a **draft event schedule**. All timings are approximate and subject to change.

Day	Approx. time	Activity
Fri 7 July	From 10am	Groups arrive at Rozelle Park campsite register and set up camp (please allow 2 hours for this).
	approx. 2.30pm	Coaches to the Gaiety Theatre from Rozelle Park
	3pm – 9pm	A warm <b>welcome to NFYT</b> followed by an afternoon and evening of <b>performances, a warm-up workshop</b> and <b>social events</b> (dinner included)
	9.30pm	Coaches to Rozelle Park from the Gaiety Theatre
	until 11pm	<b>NFYT Stars in Their Eyes</b> and <b>socializing</b>
Sat 8 July	From 7am	Showers & Breakfast
	approx. 9am	Coaches to the Gaiety Theatre from Rozelle Park
	approx. 9.15am – 9pm	Another day of <b>performances, artistic workshops</b> and <b>social events</b> (lunch & dinner included)
	approx. 9.15pm	Coaches to Rozelle Park from the Gaiety Theatre
	9.30pm – 11.15pm	<b>NFYT Tiki Hut and Comedy Store</b> and <b>socialising</b>
Sun 9 July	From 7am	Showers & Breakfast
	approx. 9am	Coaches to the Gaiety Theatre from Rozelle Park
	approx. 9.15am – 8.45pm	A final day of <b>performances</b> and <b>artistic workshops</b> (lunch & dinner included)
	approx. 9pm	Coaches to Rozelle Park from the Gaiety Theatre
	9.45pm - midnight	<b>NFYT Ceilidh and Wrap Party</b>
Mon 10 July	From 7am	Showers & Breakfast
	From 9am	Pack up camp and head home!

All performances at NFYT 2017 will take place on the Gaiety Theatre main stage and every NFYT participant will have the opportunity to watch and support every performance.



*“My favourite thing about NFYT was watching other performers and realising how much I wanted to get back into performing”*  
NFYT participant, 2016

The ethos of NFYT is to offer any youth theatre group, regardless of experience or critical acclaim, the opportunity to showcase their recent work to a hugely supportive peer and public audience. Our aim is to demonstrate and celebrate the diversity of youth theatre with a broad representation of work from across Scotland and further afield.

Following on from the success of a new feature to the performance programme last year, NFYT will once again host a series of post-show discussions in which the director and cast will be invited back on to the stage after their performance to talk about the process of creating their show and the challenges and triumphs encountered along the way. They will also take questions from the audience.

We are delighted to announce that the groups performing at NFYT 2017 are:

[Centrestage](#)  
Kilmarnock, Ayrshire

[Cumbernauld Youth Theatre](#)  
Cumbernauld, North Lanarkshire

[East Lothian Youth Theatre](#)  
East Lothian

[Falkirk Youth Theatre](#)  
Falkirk, Central Region

[Firefly Arts](#)  
Livingston, West Lothian

[Gaiety Young Company](#)  
Ayr, Ayrshire

[SOPA Youth Theatre](#)  
San Gwann, Malta

[The Regal Youth Company](#)  
Bathgate, West Lothian

## Workshop Programme

In addition to performances, NFYT offers a lively workshop programme which aims to develop your young people's capacity as artists, creative thinkers and audience members.

There are 2 different workshop routes to choose from:

### 1. Artistic Workshops

Our team of professional facilitators will offer a diverse range of 5 different artistic workshops over the weekend. Your young people will take part in all 5 workshops which are designed to challenge perceptions of various theatre styles and will involve exploring and creating micro in-session performances. They will include a spoken word performance and the creation of a site-responsive work set against the backdrop of the unique venues we have available to us in Ayr.

### 2. Technical Workshops

**\*NEW\*** to NFYT this year we are offering a workshop route for young theatre-makers who have an interest in and passion for technical theatre. This programme of workshops will be led by industry professionals, in areas such as design, lighting and sound. This route provides the opportunity for participants to present their newly acquired skills in a sharing at the Gaiety's Studio Theatre.

## Social Programme

NFYT thrives on providing the opportunity for your young people to meet and form new friendships with others who share their passion for youth theatre arts. In order to nurture this bonding experience, NFYT 2017 will offer four exciting formal social events over the weekend:

1. On **Friday night**, The NFYT Marquee transforms into our very own **NFYT Tiki Hut Comedy Store**, where your young people's improv skills and comedy styles developed during the artist workshops will be put to the test! Everyone will be encouraged to grab some coconuts and shake their maracas, for a night of improv starring... themselves!

2. The hugely popular **NFYT Theatre Sports** on **Saturday morning** offers you, your young people and the YTAS staff a chance to take part in a 'competitive' improvisational theatre session. Our in-house festival sports coaches assign everyone to teams. Opposing teams then perform scenes based on audience suggestions. Expect hilarity, over-the-top antics and some very special prizes!

3. An open stage event like no other – **Saturday night's NFYT Stars in Their Eyes** gives your young people a chance to showcase more than just their singing skills! They can strut their stuff in front of their peers and a witty and sharp-tongued panel of judges. Participants can enter as solo performers, a group or even hide behind a puppet or two – we are hoping to see everything from the sublime to the ridiculous!

4. The legendary **NFYT Ceilidh** will close the festival on the **Saturday night** followed by a Wrap Party with current (and classic!) dance tunes from our NFYT Amigo DJs.



### Leaders' Route 2017 - Skill Share

We recognise and value the skill, talent and years of experience you as artists and theatre practitioners have in working with young people in a variety of contexts, using a vast range of theatre styles and approaches. So this year we are offering three Skill Share sessions - run by you. Yes you!

#### How it will work:

We'd like to hear from practitioners who might be interested in hosting a session. This could be in your area of practice or an area of particular interest to you. It could be on a topic you might want to troubleshoot or expand your experience in, or something you think your young people would benefit from.



#### Topics could include:

- *Generating ideas – what are the most effective methods in creating meaningful material for young people to work with?*
- *Focus in – what techniques do you use to support young people to effective collaborating together?*
- *All fun and games – what new, alternative ways of delivering games work well for you?*

Each Skill Share workshop will run for 1 hour and 30 minutes and each session host will introduce the theme and talk a little about why they have chosen to focus on this area. The host will then run 1 or 2 exercises, games or mini discussions to set the context. Then, they will facilitate the remaining hour for others leaders in the group to share any exercises, games or experiences they might have.

If you would like the opportunity to facilitate a session as part of the Group Leader's Programme please contact [clara@ytas.org.uk](mailto:clara@ytas.org.uk)

## NFYT Ticket prices

Residential weekend ticket price:	£150 per person
Non-residential weekend ticket price:	£100 per person
Discount:	Two FREE group leader places per group

The Residential NFYT ticket price for young people includes:	The Non-residential NFYT ticket price for young people includes:
<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• Tickets to all festival performances</li><li>• All artistic/technical workshops</li><li>• All festival social events</li><li>• All meals</li><li>• 3 nights' accommodation</li><li>• All coach transport between the campsite and the Gaiety Theatre</li></ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• Tickets to all festival performances</li><li>• All artistic/technical workshops</li><li>• All festival social events</li><li>• Lunch and dinner</li> <li>• All coach transport between the campsite and the Gaiety Theatre</li></ul>

Your NFYT ticket price does **not** include:

- Your travel to the event.
- Coach transfer between Ayr Railway Station and the NFYT campsite (if arriving by train).

## Booking and payment

Places at NFYT 2017 are limited and will be allocated to groups on a **first come first served basis**. We strongly recommend that you complete and return your booking form as early as possible to avoid disappointment.

To book your group's place at NFYT 2017 please complete an NFYT Group Booking Form and send it by email to [olivia@ytas.org.uk](mailto:olivia@ytas.org.uk)

**Booking deadline: Friday 31 March 2017**

### Conditions of booking

<b>Deposit:</b>	A non-refundable deposit of 25% of your total booking fee is required to secure your group's place at NFYT 2017. This deposit is payable <b>within 21 days</b> from the date your invoice is issued by Youth Theatre Arts Scotland.
<b>Balance:</b>	Your balance of 75% of your total booking fee must be paid no later than <b>Friday 16 June 2017</b> .
<b>Cancellation:</b>	Any booking which has been paid in full and is cancelled <b>before Wednesday 7 June 2017</b> will be refunded 75% of the total booking fee. Any booking cancelled <b>after Monday 19 June 2017</b> will not be refunded.

## Booking and payment process

When	What
After booking	Receive invoice for 25% non-refundable deposit
Within 21 days of invoice	Pay 25% non-refundable deposit
By Fri 26 May	Receive invoice for balance of total booking fee
By Fri 16 June	Pay balance
7-10 July 2017	Attend NFYT

- Payment can be made by **cheque** or **electronic bank transfer**.
- A **25% non-refundable deposit** must be paid within 21 days of booking.
- Your balance of **75% of your total booking fee** must be paid **no later than Friday 16 June 2017**.
- We are happy to discuss alternative payment plans if required e.g. **paying in instalments**.

## NFYT Paperwork

When	What
After booking	Receive NFYT paperwork* from YTAS
By Wed 24 May 2017	Return completed NFYT paperwork
By Wed 7 June 2017	Receive workshop booking forms
By Wed 21 June 2017	Receive NFYT 2017 Joining Instructions Return completed workshop booking forms
7 - 10 July 2017	Attend NFYT

*\*Group Details Forms, Child Protection Guidelines, NFYT Kit List  
and additionally for performing groups: Technical Pack and Body of Persons Approval Form.*

We believe that NFYT is great value for money and to make sure that your youth theatre can afford to attend, we offer a **2-stage payment scheme**. We are also happy to discuss paying in instalments so please get in touch if you would like more information about this.

Another way of easing the financial pressure is to fundraise. Each year, we hear inspiring stories of how groups have encouraged and worked with their young people to raise the necessary funds to attend NFYT.

Here are our **simple fundraising tips**:

- Don't leave it to the last minute. The sooner you start planning your fundraising activities, the less you'll have to worry about as NFYT approaches. Sometimes organising a series of smaller events can be easier, and can often raise more money than a larger event. For example:
  - a car boot or bring & buy sale
  - car washing
  - a cake sale
  - a raffle or tombola
- Organise a **fundraising bag-pack** at your local supermarket. Call or pop in and ask to speak to the Store Manager or Community Engagement Officer. Arrange for as many members of your group as possible to participate and do it in shifts\*. You could even add a theatrical element, and draw more attention to your cause, by wearing costumes or fancy dress!

*\*Please note: It is a legal requirement that all young people under 16 are supervised by an adult when carrying out a charitable collection.*

There are also several **funding opportunities for youth theatre groups based in Scotland**. You can apply for assistance with the cost of attending NFYT:

- [Awards for All Scotland](#) is a quick and easy way for smaller organisations to get small amounts of funding. It gives groups a chance to apply for a grant of between £500 and £10,000 and funds a range of projects which involve bringing local people together, helping people learn, improving local spaces and getting people more active. Grants can support putting on an event, activity or performance, transport costs and staff costs. **There is no application deadline.**
- The [Foundation Scotland Express Grants](#) scheme offers grants between £500 and £2,000 to help meet a wide range of costs, including activities and events. The scheme supports the activities of many different kinds of community groups and charities across Scotland and online applications are welcome from any suitably constituted not-for-profit group. **There is no application deadline.**

For a full list of funders in Scotland visit [www.youthlinkscotland.org](http://www.youthlinkscotland.org) and [www.fundingscotland.com](http://www.fundingscotland.com)

# Holy Fair Field Campsite, Rozelle Park, Ayr

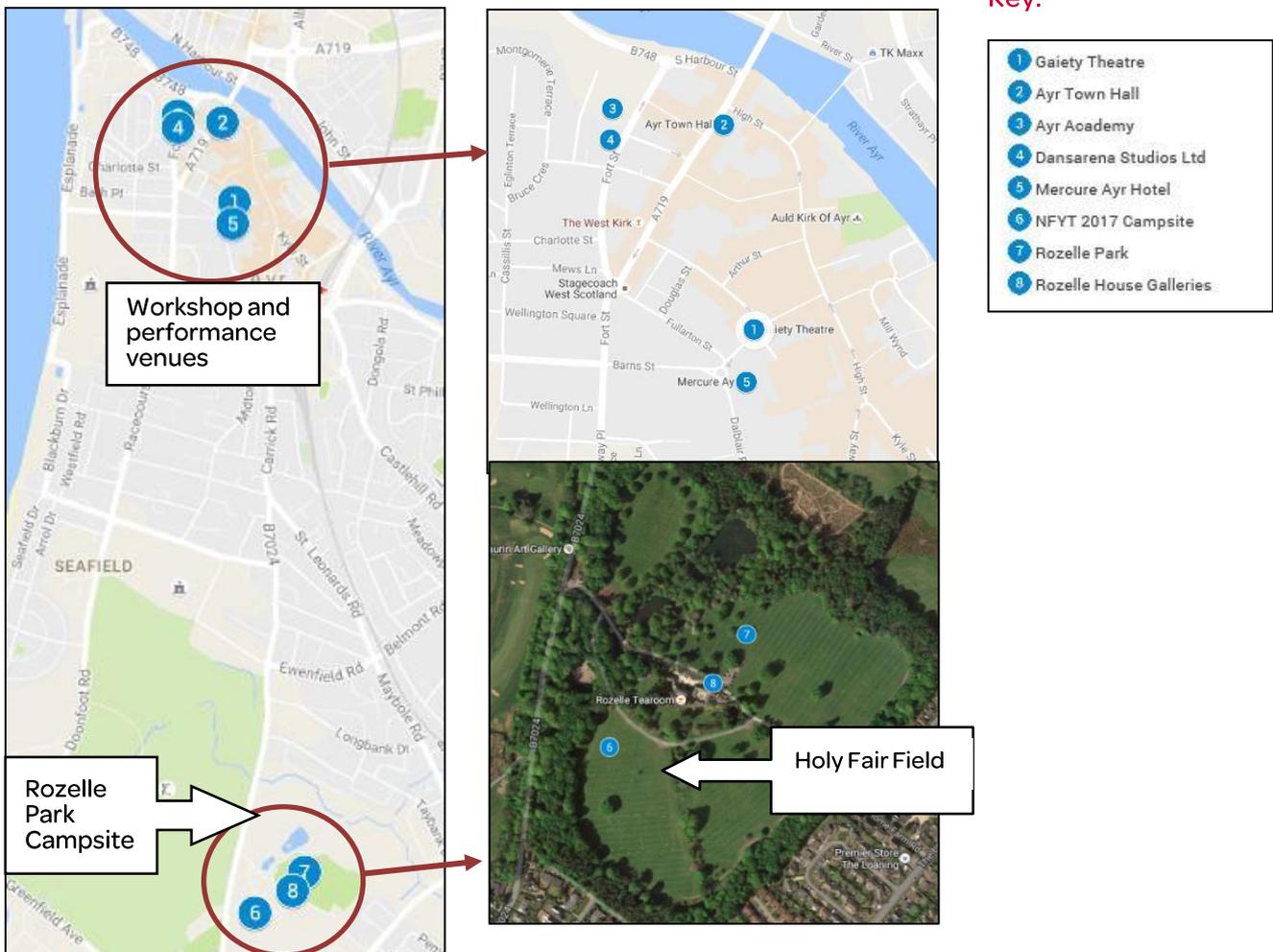


## Rozelle Park, Ayr, Ayrshire, KA7 1NU

Exclusive NFYT camping accommodation is provided at Holy Fair Field at Rozelle Park, in partnership with the South Ayrshire Council and is situated in the town of Ayr, home to the poet Robbie Burns! First open to the public in 1968 for cultural and recreational uses, the grounds of the Rozelle Estate cover an area of 37 hectares. The estate comprises of beautiful gardens, mature woodland, rhododendron walks, parkland and an ornamental pond all of which combine to provide a rich and varied landscape for visitors.

The campsite is served by portable shower and toilet facilities. Campsite social activities will take place in the Festival Marquee. It is here that breakfasts will be served too. You will share the campsite with the NFYT staff team, and campsite wardens will ensure the welfare and safety of you and your young people.

Rozelle Park campsite will be open from 10am on Friday 7 July for groups to arrive and pitch tents.



## Camping Equipment

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There are no restrictions on what your group can bring to make your stay at NFYT as comfortable as possible. We strongly recommend the following equipment as an absolute minimum:

- Enough robust, weather-proof tents to ensure your group is comfortable\*
- Sleeping mats or airbeds
- Sleeping bags
- Torches
- Several layers of warm clothing (including a waterproof jacket)
- A pair of wellies



\* *Pop-up tents are NOT suitable for NFYT as serious flooding in previous years has sadly proven!*

After you have made your booking you will receive an **NFYT Kit List** to distribute to each of your young people. This will help your group prepare for the weekend.

## Campsite Regulations

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We want your young people to enjoy everything NFYT has to offer and we expect a level of maturity from all the young people who attend which will avoid the need to enforce strict rules or police behaviour.

We trust that all participants will be respectful of their NFYT peers and the venues which are kindly hosting the festival.

We would appreciate your support in ensuring the safety and welfare of all NFYT campers, by asking that your group observes the following campsite regulations:

1. Rozelle Park campsite and the NFYT event are strictly alcohol and drug-free zones.
2. Smoking is only permitted by those over the age of 18 and in a designated smoking area.
3. The use of live flame of any description is prohibited. This includes camping stoves, BBQs, gas lanterns, candles, cigarette lighters and matches.
4. All noise outside structured social activities must be kept to a minimum from midnight until 7am.
5. Available showers are limited so not spending longer than necessary in the shower will ensure that as many people as possible can use them.
6. All groups are responsible for removing all their own equipment, clearing litter and ensuring that camping areas are left clean and undamaged. A charge of £50 will be issued should any follow-up cleaning or repair be required.

## Arrival Information

All groups should arrive at Holy Fair Field Campsite, Rozelle Park between 10am-1pm on Friday 7 July. There is good coach access and ample parking at the campsite for cars, minibuses and coaches to drop off/pick up participants. However, do bear in mind there will be a short walk from the parking area to the camping area. YFAS staff will be on hand to direct participants to the camping area.

### Important:

- Please arrange for all members of your group to arrive at Holy Fair Field campsite, Rozelle Park at the same time and ensure that your group leader is ready to meet them there.
- As soon as you arrive, your group leader should make his/her way to the YFAS information desk in the marquee to register your group for NFYT.
- Your group will then be introduced to a member of NFYT staff who will direct you to your designated camping area for tent pitching.



Arrival by car: 1 hour from Glasgow  
2 hours from Edinburgh  
2 hours from Perth  
2½ hours from Dundee



Arrival by train/bus: For groups arriving by bus or train, there will be a coach transfer service from Ayr Railway Station to Rozelle Park Campsite on Friday 7 July (collection times are approx. 10.30am and 12 noon) and a return transfer on Monday 10 July. This service is £5 per person and you can book your transfer in the space provided on your NFYT Group Booking Form.

## Event Catering

Your NFYT ticket price includes the following catering provision:

	Residential				Non-residential		
	Breakfast	Lunch	Dinner		Breakfast	Lunch	Dinner
Fri 7 Jul*			✓	Fri 7 Jul			✓
Sat 8 Jul	✓	✓	✓	Sat 8 Jul		✓	✓
Sun 9 Jul	✓	✓	✓	Sun 9 Jul		✓	✓
Mon 10 Jul**	✓			Mon 10 Jul			

\*Please bring a packed lunch with you to eat at Holy Fair Field campsite, Rozelle Park on Friday 7 July.

\*\*You will leave NFYT after breakfast on Monday 10 July.

### Sample menus:

Breakfast	Lunch	Dinner
Juice Tea & Coffee Cereal Fresh Fruit Fresh rolls – bacon or vegetarian sausage	Porridge Croissants Yoghurt	Soup Sandwiches Fresh fruit / cake Juice
		Choice of meat or vegetable hot dish Choice of salads Fruit salad / pudding

Breakfast will be served in the marquee at Holy Fair Field campsite, Rozelle Park. You will receive a breakfast timetable with the Leader's Joining Instructions (which you will be sent by Wednesday 21 June). Lunch and dinner will be served

at Ayr Town Hall. In the evenings you will have access to the **snack tent** at the campsite where you and your young people can make hot drinks.

**Please note:** In some cases separate meals can be made available, by prior arrangement, for those in your group with special dietary requirements. However, we ask that all special dietary needs are highlighted in your Group Details Form, which you will be asked to complete after you have made your booking. Regretfully we are not able to provide meals to cater for special dietary needs if they are requested on the day of the event.

## Event Transport

Festival coaches will provide transport between Rozelle Park and the Gaiety Theatre. These transfers are included in your NFYT ticket price and you will receive a coach timetable when you register on arrival.

**Please note:** Coaches will depart from and arrive at the car park at Rozelle Park. Groups should allow 5 minutes to walk from the marquee to the car park. The coach drop-off and collection point in Ayr will be at the Gaiety Theatre and participants will walk from there to their respective workshop venues. NFYT staff will be available to help with transporting any members of your group with additional mobility needs.

## Child Protection and Safety

As your group's safety is of paramount importance to us while you are at NFYT 2017, there will be a Youth Theatre Arts Scotland Child Protection Officer on site. However, please be aware that **the welfare of your young people is ultimately the responsibility of your nominated group leader(s)** throughout the duration of the event.

**You must therefore:**

- ensure that the conduct of your young people and adult staff is governed by an up-to-date and strict Child Protection Policy relevant to your youth theatre group (you will be requested to provide a copy of this after booking);
- keep an accurate attendance record in case of evacuation; and
- ensure that the NFYT policy of **no alcohol or illegal drugs** is enforced, regardless of age.

In the unlikely event of an emergency you and your group will be directed by NFYT and Ayr Gaiety Theatre or South Ayrshire Council staff.

**Youth Theatre Arts Scotland operates a robust Child Protection Policy.** If you would like more details about this policy please contact us on **0131 538 0591**.

## Top Tips for attending NFYT

Previous youth theatre group leaders say:

*"Take lots of warm clothing and layers and come with an open mind to learning new skills."*

*"Read all of the information provided by Youth Theatre Arts Scotland, it all makes sense."*

*"Take decent, waterproof camping equipment which has been tested."*

*"Don't hesitate! Your young people will have a life-changing experience!"*

## Additional Needs

NFYT is an inclusive event. If your group has any additional needs we would be happy to talk to you about how NFYT can work for you. Please don't hesitate to contact YTAS on **0131 538 0591**.

## Box Office

Tickets to all NFYT performances will be on sale to the public from June 2017 through The Gaiety Theatre Box Office on **01292 288235** or [ayrgaiety.co.uk](http://ayrgaiety.co.uk).

Please encourage friends, family and supporters to come and see the shows!

You can also let everyone know that you are participating by including details on your Facebook page, website and on twitter **#NFYT**. Please get in touch with [james@ytas.org.uk](mailto:james@ytas.org.uk) if you need any images/text or marketing tips.

## About Youth Theatre Arts Scotland



Youth Theatre Arts Scotland transforms lives through youth theatre by developing inspiring participatory opportunities for young people in Scotland, and connecting, supporting and training the professionals who work with them.

We deliver our work through:

- Youth Theatre Arts Projects
- Support, Information and Advocacy Services
- Training and Professional Development Opportunities

To find out more please call **0131 538 0591** or visit [www.ytas.org.uk](http://www.ytas.org.uk) and [www.facebook.com/YTArtsScot](http://www.facebook.com/YTArtsScot)

## Acknowledgements

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South  
Ayrshire



Arts  
Partnership

