



Youth
Theatre
Arts
Scotland

NATIONAL FESTIVAL OF YOUTH THEATRE

5 - 8 July 2024 • The Gaiety, Grain Exchange and Rozelle Park, Ayr

**Event Information
for parents and carers**

Introduction

Every two years, Scotland's **National Festival of Youth Theatre (NFYT)** creates an explosion of young creative talent. This information pack is designed to provide parents and carers of young people attending NFYT 2024 with a clear understanding of the event.

“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



Dates: Friday 5 – Monday 8 July 2024

Venues: The Gaiety Theatre, Ayr (KA7 1NU)
& Rozelle Park Campsite, Ayr (KA7 4NQ)

Tickets: Group bookings only

Price: £250 per person: Residential
£170 per person: Non-residential
£55 per person: One-day 'NFYT Taster' (bookings open Mar 2024)

What is the National Festival of Youth Theatre (NFYT)?

The National Festival of Youth Theatre is the UK's largest biennial gathering of youth theatres. Every year NFYT welcomes around **200 participants** representing around **15 different youth theatres** from across Scotland and often further afield. This exciting event is an opportunity for Scotland's youth theatre participants to come together, discover a shared passion and 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. After a challenging couple of years, our 2024 festival aims to celebrate the diversity of young people in Scotland through artistic inspiration with access and inclusion at the heart of the event.

NFYT is produced by **Youth Theatre Arts Scotland** – Scotland's development organisation for youth theatre – in partnership with the **Gaiety Theatre** and **South Ayrshire Council**.

What will the participants be doing at NFYT?

During the day on Friday, Saturday and Sunday, participants will watch and perform in youth theatre shows at the Gaiety Theatre. In addition to a diverse performance programme, the festival also offers a lively education programme of artistic workshops and structured social activities which aim to teach new creative skills and enrich the festival experience.

At the end of each day, festival coaches transport groups back to a private campsite within the grounds of Rozelle Park. Here, participants can watch and take part in the entertainment in the marquee and socialise. Breakfast is provided at the campsite, and lunch and a hot dinner are provided at Ayr Town Hall.

Where will the participants be staying?



Exclusive camping accommodation is provided at [Rozelle Park](#) (Ayr, KA7 1NU), in partnership with South Ayrshire Council. The campsite is served by portable shower and toilet facilities and campsite social activities will take place in the Festival Marquee. Breakfast will be served here too. Festival participants will share the campsite with the NFYT staff team and campsite wardens will ensure the welfare and safety of all young people.

Rozelle Park campsite will be open **from 10am on Friday 5 July** for groups to arrive and pitch tents. Please note there is a distance of two miles between the campsite and Ayr Gaiety Theatre. Festival coaches will provide transport for this journey and taxis can be provided if required for accessibility reasons.

What's included in the price?

Residential weekend ticket

£250 per person

What's included?

- Tickets to all festival performances
- All artistic workshops
- All festival social events
- All meals
- Three nights' camping
- All coach transport between the campsite and the Gaiety Theatre

Non-residential weekend ticket

£170 per person

What's included?

- Tickets to all festival performances
- All artistic workshops
- All festival social events
- Lunch & Dinner
- Coach transport from the Gaiety Theatre to the campsite for evening social activities*

One-day ticket

£55 per person

What's included?

- Tickets to one or two festival performances (dependent on travel times and festival programming)
- Two artistic workshops alongside other festival attendees
- Lunch and/or dinner

*transport home from the campsite at the end of the evening is NOT included

Your NFYT ticket price does not include:

- Your travel to the event.
- Coach transfer between the Railway Station and the NFYT campsite on Friday and Monday (if arriving by train). This is available for groups at a cost of **£7.50 per person** return and should be booked by your child's youth theatre group leader.

Participation in NFYT is available by **group booking only**. Your child's youth theatre group leader is responsible for making this booking and dealing with all payments.

What will the participants need to take to NFYT?

There are no restrictions on what participants can bring with them to ensure their stay at NFYT is as comfortable as possible. However, we **strongly recommend** that your child brings the following equipment as an absolute minimum:

- A robust, weather-proof **tent*** which has been tested and which your child knows how to erect
- A **sleeping mat** or **airbed**
- A warm **sleeping bag**
- A **torch**
- Several layers of **warm clothing**, including a **waterproof jacket**
- A pair of **wellies**

*Pop-up tents are **NOT** suitable as they do not provide enough protection against the cold and rain.

To help your child prepare for the weekend, their youth theatre group leader will provide a full **NFYT Kit List & Code of Conduct** in advance of the event. Please make sure that you, and they, read this carefully.

What will they eat?

The following meals are included in the NFYT ticket price:

	Residential				Non-residential		
	Breakfast	Lunch	Dinner		Breakfast	Lunch	Dinner
Fri 5 Jul*			✓	Fri 5 Jul			✓
Sat 6 Jul	✓	✓	✓	Sat 6 Jul		✓	✓
Sun 7 Jul	✓	✓	✓	Sun 7 Jul		✓	✓
Mon 8 Jul**	✓			Mon 8 Jul			

* Please ensure your child brings a **packed lunch** with them to eat at the Rozelle Park campsite on Friday 5 July.

** Your child will leave NFYT after breakfast on Monday 8 July.

Sample menus:

Breakfast

Porridge/Cereal
Tea & Coffee
Juice

Toast
Yoghurt
Fruit

Lunch

Soup
Sandwiches
Fresh fruit / cake

Dinner

Hot dish
Salad / Side dishes
Pudding

Your child's youth theatre leader will ask all young people to submit details of [specific dietary requirements](#) in advance of the event so that we can cater accordingly. Regrettably we are not able to provide for dietary requirements requested on the day.

Who will be looking after the participants?

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**.

As your child's safety is of paramount importance to us while they are at NFYT 2024, there will be a Youth Theatre Arts Scotland Child Protection Officer on site. However, please be aware that [the ultimate responsibility for the welfare of your child lies with their individual youth theatre group leader\(s\)](#) for the duration of the event.

Youth Theatre Arts Scotland issues all group leaders with comprehensive Child Protection Guidelines and asks them to demonstrate their understanding of their role with regard to health and welfare by:

- providing an up-to-date copy of their youth theatre's own [Child Protection Policy](#) in advance;
- requesting that all parents and carers complete a [Consent Form](#) to confirm that you agree to your child attending the event;
- [keeping an accurate attendance record](#) during NFYT in case of evacuation; and
- ensuring that the strict NFYT policy of [no alcohol* or illegal drugs](#) is enforced at all times.

* due to event insurance requirements this also applies to participants over the age of 18, youth theatre group leaders and event staff.

Access and Safety

We will work alongside each youth theatre to ensure that the festival is accessible for as many young people as possible and is safe for everyone. Each participant will be asked to clarify specific access and medical needs with their youth theatre when registering for the event so that we can adapt the programme and ensure the right support is in place. Some considerations we may make include:

- Providing venue access information for physical needs and ensuring workshop locations have level access
- British Sign Language interpretation
- Supporting individual youth theatres to find 1-2-1 support workers where necessary.

We will keep everyone safe by:

- Creating designated wellbeing spaces in each venue for when someone needs to take a break.
- Providing visual schedules at the campsite, workshop venues, Gaiety Theatre, and Town Hall
- Sharing NFYT Code of Conduct to which we ask all attendees to adhere
- Ensuring we have First Aiders at each venue
- Monitoring COVID-19 updates and requirements
- Providing masks and encouraging the wearing of face-coverings for indoor performances, workshops and social activities for those who wish
- Ensuring the availability of hand sanitising stations in all venues
- Providing facilities in which to store medical supplies if required

- Providing gender neutral facilities at the campsite and working with venue partners to provide appropriate alternatives
- Providing period products in toilet facilities across all venues.

If you have any specific concerns about access or safety, speak to your child's youth theatre leader or get in touch with catherine@ytas.org.uk. The more we know, the more we can help!

Can I come and watch the performances?

We always welcome and encourage friends, family and supporters to come along and see the shows! The Programme of festival performances will be announced in spring 2024 will be on sale to the public by June 2024.

Tickets will be available through the Gaiety Theatre Box Office on [01292 288235](tel:01292288235) or at ayrgaiety.co.uk.

About Youth Theatre Arts Scotland

Youth Theatre Arts Scotland helps make the lives of young people better through youth theatre. We support, connect and inspire youth theatre participants across Scotland, and the adults who work with them. Youth Theatre Arts Scotland is a Scottish Registered Charity No. SC 035765.

To find out more please visit www.ytas.org.uk.



I have some more questions...

If you have any further questions about NFYT please contact your child's [youth theatre group leader](#) in the first instance. If they are unable to answer your question, please contact [Catherine Makin](#) at Youth Theatre Arts Scotland on [0131 538 0591](tel:01315380591) or at catherine@ytas.org.uk

Acknowledgements

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THE GRAIN EXCHANGE

THE HUGH FRASER
FOUNDATION