



NATIONAL
FESTIVAL
OF YOUTH
THEATRE

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

Event Information
for group leaders

Introduction

Every two years, Scotland's **National Festival of Youth Theatre (NFYT)** creates an explosion of young creative talent. This information pack aims to provide all the information you need to know about the National Festival of Youth Theatre 2024.

NFYT 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 the festival! If you have any questions, please contact Youth Theatre Arts Scotland on **0131 538 0591**.

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

Youth theatre group leader



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 Ticket (bookings open Mar 2024)

Discounts: Two FREE group leader places per group
Access Bursaries available

Help to Attend the Festival

NFYT has always aimed to be an inclusive event, bringing together a wide range of youth theatre groups, participants and leaders to celebrate their shared passion. In recent years, we've received growing interest from youth groups who support young people that may experience barriers to attending the festival.

We have been on hand to help these groups as they plan and fundraise to attend NFYT. We have also been able to make adaptations to the festival to meet different access requirements, including BSL interpreters (ensuring that all our workshops and performances are D/deaf accessible) and accessible facilities at our campsite.

This year we want to continue to put access and inclusion at the heart of our festival. Thanks to support from our funders, we will enable more disabled and disadvantaged youth theatre participants to experience the benefits of attending NFYT. In addition to the support we offer with planning, fundraising or festival adaptations, in 2024 we will continue to offer an **NFYT Access Bursary** to help support disability or financial access. Groups can apply for an **NFYT Access Bursary** to reduce participant fees by up to one third, or to help fund any access costs unique to your group:

- **Financial Access** - we are keen to support groups which might face additional financial barriers to attend the festival. Support requested might include reducing participant fees by up to one third, paying for camping equipment or helping to subsidise travel costs to attend the festival.

Bursaries are available to groups working with young people from the 20% most deprived areas listed by the Scottish Index of Multiple Deprivation (SIMD)*. You can find out more about the SIMD and look up individual postcodes here <https://simd.scot/>

**If your group or a participant faces additional financial barriers but don't qualify through their postcode's SIMD status, please get in touch with YTAS to discuss bursary eligibility.*

- **Disability Access** - we will work with groups to ensure any access needs can be met during the festival and they can apply for support towards costs such as: an additional access support worker or additional access transport costs incurred.

If you would like to discuss your group's access requirements further, please email catherine@ytas.org.uk

To apply for the **NFYT Access Bursary** please complete the online application form, [linked here](#).

Please note the bursary has limited funds and will remain available until requests exceed the available budget. We therefore encourage all bursary applicants to get in touch, prior to submission, to discuss your needs.

About the National Festival of Youth Theatre (NFYT)

In 2024, NFYT looks forward to welcoming youth theatre groups from across Scotland back to Ayr!

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.

The event will include programmed shows as well as artistic workshops, social events, a final night wrap party 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 programmed youth theatre performances over three days;
- Take part in up to a curated programme of artistic workshops;
- Perform on the festival marquee stage at the improv and talent nights; and
- 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 training sessions and a tailored leader induction;
- The opportunity to network with sector colleagues; and
- Full support in preparing to attend the festival, e.g. help with the booking process and access to a condensed 'Event Information Pack' to distribute to parents and carers. This can be downloaded from our website, [linked here](#).

"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

Event Overview

NFYT was established by Youth Theatre Arts Scotland in 2004 as the UK's largest gathering of youth theatres.

The festival will be delivered with our partners Ayr Gaiety Partnership and South Ayrshire Council. Performances will take place at the Gaiety Theatre with workshops happening in several venues across Ayr Town Centre. The private festival campsite will be situated in the grounds of nearby Rozelle Park.

NFYT usually welcomes around **200 participants** representing around **15 different youth theatres** from across Scotland and often further afield. Each morning, after spending the night and breakfasting at our campsite, coaches transport participants to the home of NFYT, the Gaiety Theatre. This is where you and your young people will watch shows, and from where you will disperse to take part in artistic workshops and social activities.

Lunch and a hot dinner will be provided at Ayr Town Hall. At the end of each day coaches will be waiting at the theatre to take everyone who is camping back to the campsite. Each evening at the campsite you and your young people have the option to watch and take part in the entertainment in the festival marquee, socialise and enjoy snacks and hot drinks, or simply relax in your own tents.

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

Day	Approx. time	Activity
Fri 5 July	From 10am	Groups arrive at Rozelle Park campsite to register and set up camp (please allow 2 hours for this and bring a packed lunch).
	approx. 2.30pm	Coaches to the Gaiety Theatre from Rozelle Park
	3pm – 9pm	A warm welcome to NFYT followed by an afternoon and evening of performances, a warm-up workshop and social events (dinner included)
	9.30pm	Coaches to Rozelle Park from the Gaiety Theatre
	until 11pm	NFYT Social Event e.g. <i>Lip Sync Battle</i>
Sat 6 July	From 7am	Showers & Breakfast
	approx. 9am	Coaches to the Gaiety Theatre from Rozelle Park
	approx. 9.15am – 9pm	Another day of performances, artistic workshops and social events (lunch & dinner included)
	approx. 9.15pm	Coaches to Rozelle Park from the Gaiety Theatre
	9.30pm – 11.15pm	NFYT Social Event e.g. <i>Open Mic Night</i>
Sun 7 July	From 7am	Showers & Breakfast
	approx. 9am	Coaches to the Gaiety Theatre from Rozelle Park
	approx. 9.15am – 8.45pm	A final day of performances and artistic workshops (lunch & dinner included)
	approx. 9pm	Coaches to Rozelle Park from the Gaiety Theatre
	9.45pm - midnight	NFYT Wrap Party
Mon 8 July	From 7am	Showers & Breakfast
	From 9am	Pack up camp and head home!

Performance Programme

There are around six performance slots available at NFYT 2024. These could be live shows, screenings of filmed performances, or outdoor work. We know that since the pandemic, many youth theatres have developed a multi-arts and mixed media approach to their performance and we want to showcase as wide a variety as possible of the brilliant work you are making.

If you would like to present work as part of the festival, please submit your performance proposal by **1pm** on **Monday 4 March 2024**. YTAS will contact groups on **Monday 18 March 2024** to let you know if your performance has been selected.

For more details please read our Performance Proposals Information document which can be downloaded from our website, [linked here](#).

Performances at NFYT 2024 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

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 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.

As part of the performance programme, we try to offer some companies the option to hold a post-show discussion in which the cast and/or creative team will be invited back on to the stage after their performance to talk about the process of creating the show and the challenges and triumphs encountered along the way. Post show chats will be hosted by our team of Amigos, the brilliant NFYT festival volunteers.

Workshop Programme

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

There are two different workshop routes to choose from:

1. Artistic Workshops

Our team of professional facilitators will offer a diverse range of artistic workshops which your young people will take part in over the weekend. These workshops will teach new skills, challenge perceptions of various theatre styles and even create micro performances.

2. Scratch Route

For members of groups who aren’t performing at the festival but are still itching to get on stage, the Scratch route will give them the opportunity to develop a brand-new piece of work throughout the festival. Working with professional theatre-makers this route provides the opportunity for participants to present their newly formed piece to the festival audience on the final day of the festival.



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. In order to nurture this bonding experience, the festival will offer the following social events over the weekend.



- On the **Friday and Saturday nights**, the NFYT Marquee transforms into our very own stage for the NFYT Social events. Previously this programme has included the NFYT *Lip Sync Battle* and *Open Mic Night*, where your young people can showcase their improv skills, dance moves, musical talents and more – we expect to see everything from the sublime to the ridiculous!
- The hugely popular *Theatre Sports* on **Saturday** offers you, your young people and the YTAS staff a chance to compete against other teams in true youth theatre style. Part Highland Games, part improv session - expect hilarity and over-the-top antics – come rain or shine!
- The legendary *NFYT Wrap Party* will close the festival on the **Sunday night** with current (and classic!) dance tunes from our resident NFYT DJs.

Group Leaders' Programme and Regional Training Hub

We recognise and value the skills and experience youth theatre group leaders have as artists and theatre practitioners. We want to develop these talents and offer you the opportunity to learn from each other and from specialists in our **NFYT Group Leaders' Skill Sessions**. This year the programme for Group Leaders will be more exciting than ever as we invite practitioners from across the region to join the event for a Regional Hub.

What is a Regional Hub?

In 2023, we shook up our in-person training, and introduced multi-day Regional Hub events across the country. So far we have visited Dumfries and Inverness and with NFYT we are bringing a hub to Ayr! Leaders and artists participating in the hub will attend four workshops across two days, developing your own skills as artists and building your creative networks.

As group leaders at NFYT, you will automatically be granted a space in the Regional Hub workshops and you will also have the opportunity to influence the programme with specific workshop requests. The workshops are 15 minutes shorter than those of your participants so you don't have to worry about rushing or missing out. Workshops will still be optional (because you might just need a break) but we will ask you to sign up to the ones that interest you upon arrival at the campsite in Ayr.



Some example topics:

- *A Games Exchange*: Exactly what it sounds like! A lot of fun and a YTAS classic.
- *Supporting Neurodiversity in your Youth Theatre*: what techniques do you use to support neurodivergent young people?
- *Dramaturgy 101*: Where do you start when creating a new performance from scratch?

What makes the hub different from the Leaders Workshops of the past is that these workshops will be opened up to local artists and practitioners in Ayrshire, whether or not they have brought young people to the festival. Individual artists and practitioners will be able to book single tickets to attend the training Hub and watch NFYT performance up until the end of May.

If you have any questions about the hub or specific requests, get in touch with emma@ytas.org.uk.

One-Day Programme

A one-day ticket is also available to groups.

We hope that this will make the event more accessible for those who are not able to commit to the full weekend event, or who may not have attended before and just want a taster of what the event is like.

How it works:

One-day attendees will have the opportunity to immerse themselves in the festival for a packed programme of activities on **Saturday 6 July 2024**.



Participants will join the full-weekend groups to participate in artistic workshops, watch performances by other young people on the Gaiety stage and mix with other youth theatre groups over a meal.

The one-day NFYT ticket for young people includes:

- Tickets to one or two festival productions (depending on the show programme and travel times);
- Two artistic workshops; and
- Lunch and/or Dinner

The full performance programme will be announced in spring 2024. If you are interested in bringing your group to the one-day programme and would like to discuss this further, please email catherine@ytas.org.uk.

NFYT Ticket Prices

Residential weekend ticket price:

Non-residential weekend ticket price:

Automatic discount:

£250 per person

£170 per person

Two FREE group leader places per group

The Residential NFYT ticket price for young people includes:

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

The Non-residential NFYT ticket price for young people includes:

Tickets to all festival performances;
All artistic workshops;
All festival social events;
Lunch and dinner; and
Coach transport between the Gaiety Theatre and the campsite for evening social activities if required (optional).

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 2024 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. Booking will close once all tickets have sold out, so please book early to ensure your place.

Bookings will open on Monday 4 December 2024. To book your group's place at NFYT 2024 please complete an NFYT Group Booking Form and send it by email to info@ytas.org.uk. The booking form can be downloaded from our website, [linked here](#).

Group performance proposals must be submitted (along with booking forms) by **Monday 4 March 2024**.

Bookings will close on **Wednesday 16 April 2024** or **when the event is sold out**, whichever occurs first.

Conditions of booking

Deposit:

A non-refundable **deposit of 25%** of your total booking fee is required to secure your group's place at NFYT 2024. This deposit is payable **within 21 days** from the date your invoice is issued by Youth Theatre Arts Scotland.

Balance:

The balance of **75%** of your total booking fee must be paid by **Friday 7 June 2024**.

Cancellation:

Any booking which has been paid in full and is cancelled **before Monday 3 June 2024** will be refunded 75% of the total booking fee. Any booking adjustments **after Monday 3 June 2024 may not be accommodated**.

Booking and payment process

When	What
After booking / performance selection	Receive invoice for 25% non-refundable deposit from YTAS.
Within 21 days of invoice	Pay 25% non-refundable deposit
By Mon 20 May	Submit final attendee numbers and details
By Fri 27 May	Receive invoice for balance of total booking fee
By Fri 7 June	Pay balance
5 - 8 July 2024	Attend NFYT

- A **25% non-refundable deposit** will be required after the first stage of booking. Invoices will be issued from should be paid within 21 days of receipt.
- Your balance of **75% of your total booking fee** must be paid no later than **Friday 7 June 2024**.
- Invoices will be issued for each stage of payment. Payment should be made by **bank transfer**.
- We are happy to discuss alternative payment plans if required e.g. **paying in instalments**.

Fundraising Advice

We believe that NFYT is great value for money and to make sure that your youth theatre can afford to attend, we offer the two-stage payment scheme outlined above. 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. This could be by working with your young people to raise the necessary funds, or by accessing grants available to youth groups in Scotland. For more information, advice and tips visit:

- Our *Money Matters* toolkit: [Linked here](#).
- The *Creative Lives Cash for Culture* guide, [linked here](#), and *Crowdfunding* guide, [linked here](#), which features loads of contemporary and practical fundraising examples.
- The **Funding Scotland web portal**, which is free to sign-up to and can be searched / filtered for activity type and region. [Linked here](#).
- YTAS members have access to fundraising advice within the **Membership Support Portal** on the YTAS website, [linked here](#). Please use your website login to access this. If you need help with logging in, please contact hollie@ytas.org.uk.

We are always on hand to offer advice on how to use these portals or submit grant applications. If you'd like our help, please contact anthony@ytas.org.uk.

NFYT Campsite, Rozelle Park, Ayr



Exclusive NFYT camping accommodation is provided in [Rozelle Park](#), Ayr (KA7 1NU) in partnership with the South Ayrshire Council. 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 dedicated campsite wardens will ensure the welfare and safety of you and your young people.

To reduce the risk of COVID-19 infection, communal facilities at the campsite will be regularly cleaned, spaces will remain ventilated and sanitising equipment and supplies will be made available.

Rozelle Park campsite will be open **from 10am** on **Friday 5 July** for groups to arrive and pitch tents.

The map showing the locations of all the festival campsite and venues is available on Google Maps. [Linked here](#).

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.

Camping Equipment

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*
- Ground sheets (very effective in retaining warmth)
- 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 they do not provide enough protection against the cold and the rain.*

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

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:

- Rozelle Park campsite and the NFYT event are strictly alcohol and drug-free zones.
- Smoking/vaping is only permitted by those over the age of 18 and in a designated smoking area.
- The use of live flame of any description is prohibited. This includes camping stoves, BBQs, gas lanterns, candles, cigarette lighters and matches.
- All noise outside structured social activities must be kept to a minimum from midnight until 7am.
- Available showers are limited so not spending longer than necessary in the shower will ensure that as many people as possible can use them.
- 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 £100 will be issued should any follow-up cleaning or repair be required.

Arrival Information

All residential groups should **arrive at the NFYT Campsite, Rozelle Park between 10am-1pm on Friday 5 July**. There is good access and ample parking at the campsite for cars, minibuses and coaches to drop off/pick up participants. There will be a short walk from the parking area to the camping area.

- Please arrange for all members of your group to **arrive at the NFYT campsite, Rozelle Park at the same time** and ensure that your group leader is there and ready to meet them.
- As soon as you arrive, your group leader should make his/her way to the YTAS 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
3½ hours from Aberdeen
4 hours from Inverness



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 5 July** (collection times are approx. 10.30am and 12 noon) and a return transfer on **Monday 8 July**. This service costs **£7.50 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 5 Jul*			✓	Fri 5 Jul			✓
Sat 6 Jul	✓	✓	✓	Sat 6 Jul		✓	✓
Sun 7 Jul	✓	✓	✓	Sun 7 Jul		✓	✓
Mon 8 Jul**	✓			Mon 8 Jul			

*Please bring a [packed lunch](#) with you to eat at the NFYT campsite on Friday 5 July. **You 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

Breakfast will be served in the marquee at the campsite. **Lunch and dinner** will be served at Ayr Town Hall. In the evenings you will have access to facilities at the campsite where you and your young people can make hot drinks.

Please note: 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

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. The coach drop-off and collection point in Ayr will be at the Gaiety Theatre and those participants who are able will walk from there to their respective workshop venues. NFYT staff will be available in advance of the festival to help to plan transport requirements or adaptations required for members of your group with access requirements.

Child Protection and Safety

As your group's safety is of paramount importance to us while you are at NFYT 2024, 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);
- provide an adequate number of group leaders to be responsible for your group during the event. We would usually suggest bringing at least 1 group leader for every 5 young people attending and recommend having at least two leaders on site so that there is always someone available in case of emergency;

- 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**.

YTAS will keep everyone safe and supported 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 and Town Hall.
- Sharing NFYT Code of Conduct that which we ask all attendees to adhere to.
- Ensuring we have First Aiders at each venue
- Monitoring covid-19 updates and requirements
- Providing masks and encouraging option to wearing of face-coverings for indoor performances, workshops and social activities.
- Ensuring the availability of hand sanitising stations in all venues.
- Provide 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, please get in touch. The more we know, the more we can help!

Top Tips from previous group leaders

"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!"

Box Office

Tickets for festival performances will be on sale to the public in June 2024 and will be available through the Gaiety Theatre Box Office on **01292 288235** or at ayrgaiety.co.uk. Please encourage friends and family to come and see the shows.

You can also let everyone know that you are participating by including details on your website and social media using **#NFYT2024**. Please get in touch with hollie@ytas.org.uk if you need any images/text or marketing tips.

About Youth Theatre Arts Scotland

We support inspiring experiences for young people by connecting and training the people who work with them.

As a Scotland's national development body for youth theatre, we celebrate and encourage ambition, innovation and progression, supporting a membership of around 120 youth theatre organisations and practitioners all across Scotland, who engage around 22,000 young people in youth theatre activity.

We deliver our work through:

- Sector Support
- Sector Development
- Youth Theatre Events and Projects
- Sector Research and Advocacy



To find out more please visit ytas.org.uk

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THE GRAIN EXCHANGE

**THE HUGH FRASER
FOUNDATION**