

NATIONAL FESTIVAL OF YOUTH THEATRE

Event Information
for parents and carers 2026



Youth
Theatre
Arts
Scotland

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 2026 with a clear understanding of the event.

The National Festival of Youth Theatre is the UK's largest biennial gathering of youth theatres. Each 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 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. The 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 **Eden Court Highlands** and **Highland Council**.

"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 3 – Monday 6 July 2026

Venue: Eden Court, Inverness

Campsite: Northern Meeting Park, Inverness

Tickets: Group bookings only

Price:

£265 per person:	Camping
£180 per person:	Non-camping
£60 per person:	One-day Ticket (bookings open Mar 2026)

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

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 Eden Court Theatre. In addition to this diverse performance programme, the festival also offers a programme of artistic workshops and structured social activities which aim to teach new creative skills and enrich the festival experience.

Where will the participants be staying?

Exclusive camping accommodation is provided at [The Northern Meeting Park](#), right next to the river Ness and Eden Court Theatre. The campsite will have excellent portable showers and toilet facilities. The campsite will be shared with the NFYT staff team and youth theatre group leaders.



What's included in the price?

Camping weekend ticket £265 per person

What's included?

Tickets to all festival performances
All artistic workshops
All festival social events
All meals (Fri dinner – Mon breakfast)
Three nights' access to a safe and locked campsite
Group t-shirt and welcome bag

Non-camping weekend ticket £180 per person

What's included?

Tickets to all festival performances
All artistic workshops
All festival social events
Lunches and dinners
Group t-shirt and welcome bag

One-day ticket £60 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

NFYT ticket prices do not include:

- Travel to the event.
- Coach transfer between Inverness Railway Station and the NFYT campsite (if arriving by train)

What will participants need to take to NFYT?

There are very few restrictions on what can be brought to ensure a stay at NFYT is as comfortable as possible. But remember - this is the Scottish Highlands in July! Participants should be prepared for changeable weather and pack accordingly. We **strongly recommend** the following equipment as an absolute minimum:

- A robust, weather-proof **tent*** which has been tested and which participants know how to erect on their own. Groups might want to share if they have a large sized tent.
- 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 for NFYT as they do not provide enough protection against the Highland weather, which can be cold and wet even in July.

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

What will they eat?

NFYT ticket prices include the following catering provision:

Camping				Non-camping			
	Breakfast	Lunch	Dinner		Breakfast	Lunch	Dinner
Fri 3 Jul*			✓	Fri 3 Jul			✓
Sat 4 Jul	✓	✓	✓	Sat 4 Jul		✓	✓
Sun 5 Jul	✓	✓	✓	Sun 5 Jul		✓	✓
Mon 6 Jul**	✓			Mon 6 Jul			

* Participants should please bring a packed lunch to eat at the NFYT campsite on Friday 3 July.

** You will leave NFYT after breakfast on Monday 6 July.

Sample menu

Breakfast

Cereal

Tea and Coffee

Yoghurt

Juice

Toast

Fruit

Lunch

Soup

Sandwiches

Fresh fruit and cakes

Dinner

Hot dishes

Salads and side dishes

Pudding

All meals will be served inside Eden Court Theatre. In the mornings and evenings there will be access to facilities at the campsite where participants can make hot drinks.

Please note: We ask that all special dietary needs are highlighted in the Group Details Form, which your youth theatre group leader will complete. Regretfully we cannot provide meals to cater for special dietary needs if they are requested on the day of the event.

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](tel:01315380591).

As your young person's safety is of paramount importance to us while they are at NFYT 2026, 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 young person 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 young person attending the event
- [keeping an accurate attendance record](#) during NFYT in case of evacuation
- 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 locations have [level access](#)
- [British Sign Language](#) interpretation
- Supporting individual youth theatres to find [one-to-one 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 and workshop venues.
- Sharing [NFYT Code of Conduct](#) which we ask all attendees to adhere to.
- Ensuring we have [First Aiders at each venue](#).
- [Providing masks](#) and encouraging option to wearing of face-coverings for indoor performances, workshops, and social activities for those that may need this.
- 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, speak to your young person's youth theatre leader or get in touch with zoe@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 2026** and tickets will be on sale to the public by **June 2026**.

Tickets will be available through the **Eden Court Theatre Box Office**:

- **Online:** www.eden-court.co.uk
- **Phone:** 01463 234234
- **In person:** Eden Court Theatre, Bishops Road, Inverness, IV3 5SA

We look forward to seeing you there!

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 young person's **youth theatre group leader** in the first instance. If they are unable to answer your question, please contact **Zoë Farrugia** at **Youth Theatre Arts Scotland** on **0131 538 0591** or at zoe@ytas.org.uk.

Acknowledgements

The National Festival of Youth Theatre 2026 is produced by **Youth Theatre Arts Scotland** in partnership with **Eden Court Theatre** and **Highland Council**.

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