

# NATIONAL FESTIVAL OF YOUTH THEATRE

**Event Information  
for participants 2026**



Youth  
Theatre  
Arts  
Scotland

# What is the National Festival of Youth Theatre?

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 young people interested in attending NFYT 2026 with all the information you need to get you excited and ready to join your peers at the festival.

The National Festival of Youth Theatre is the UK's largest gathering of youth theatres. Every year NFYT welcomes around **200 participants** representing around **15 different youth theatres** from across Scotland and beyond. This exciting event is an opportunity for you to come together, discover a shared passion and develop as artists, audience members and creative thinkers.

With an emphasis on inclusion, creativity and collaboration, NFYT aims to teach valuable life skills, allowing you to try out creative and artistic methods, while providing extraordinary new experiences. Our 2026 festival will have young people involved in all aspects of the programme to celebrate and showcase the diversity of creativity amongst Scottish young people.

NFYT is produced by **Youth Theatre Arts Scotland (YTAS)** – Scotland's development organisation for youth theatre – in partnership with the **Eden Court Theatre 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 ticket  
£180 per person      Non-camping ticket  
£60 per person      One-day ticket (bookings open Mar 2026)

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

## What will we be doing at NFYT?

During the day on Friday, Saturday and Sunday you will watch up to eight **youth theatre shows** at the One Touch Studio at Eden Court Theatre... and maybe perform in one too! NFYT has one of the most supportive audiences you will ever experience, and it's a great feeling to receive all that love from your peers. You will also get the chance to learn about each other's process through post-show talks hosted by our team of Young Producers.

During the day you will participate in **Workshops** which are designed to cover exciting topics that you might not have experienced in your home youth theatre, delivered by specialist artists. Past years have included **stage combat**; **Foley** (look it up if you haven't heard that before!); or **physical theatre**. There may also be workshops covering more familiar topics like **improvisation** or **devising**, and definitely lots of drama games! You will attend workshops with young people from other youth theatres, giving you the chance to make new friends.

The **social events** are planned and hosted by a group of young people from Inverness, and in previous years have included things like an **open mic night**, a **quiz**, a **cake decorating competition**, or a Scottish classic - a **ceilidh**! There's something for everyone and no pressure to participate.

## Where will we be staying?

Whether it's your first time camping, or you're a seasoned pro, we aim to make the experience fun and comfortable. Our campsite will be at **The Northern Meeting Park**, which is right next to the river Ness. It's also located next to Eden Court Theatre, making travel between the venues easy, but please note that we will be locking the campground up during the day for security.

The campsite will have excellent portable showers and toilet facilities. You will share the campsite with the NFYT staff team and your own group leaders. The YTAS team and our group of Young Hosts are here to help with your tent set up (to make sure they are pitched correctly), we will make sure you are warm enough, provide a phone charging station, and keep the toilets and showers clean.



## What's included in the price?

### Residential 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-residential 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 you 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! You 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 you know how to erect on your 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 you 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 you 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. Regrettably we cannot provide meals to cater for special dietary needs if they are requested on the day of the event.

***"I attended NFYT in 2024. NFYT is a really good festival for getting connections within the theatre industry as well as developing your acting skills with the various workshops across the weekend... This festival led to me joining another acting group simply from the talent they displayed on stage. Would definitely recommend it if you're wanting to get into acting or get more connections!"***

Eden Court Youth Theatre member, Elliott

# Looking After You at NFYT

## Youth Theatre Arts Scotland and your youth theatre leaders are responsible for keeping you safe.

All staff at YTAS promise to make sure you have the best time possible while you are taking part in our activities. We believe you have a right to feel safe and comfortable while you are with us. We will do our very best to live up to the promises we make to you.

We will...

- make you feel **welcome**
- always think about **your needs** as the main consideration
- treat all children and young people **fairly**
- make sure that all our staff and volunteers **know what they are supposed to be doing**
- make our activities and spaces **as safe as possible**
- take a **zero-tolerance approach** to any kind of behaviour which creates feelings of unease, discomfort, offence, embarrassment, humiliation or intimidation (this includes transphobia, homo or biphobia, racism, ableism, sexism, or class discrimination)
- **listen** to what you tell us
- do our best to **make sure you have fun**
- do **what we say** we will do.

Your youth theatre leaders will be responsible for your overall wellbeing, and YTAS will make sure that the event is safe and accessible and that all leaders are aware of the lead Child Protection Officer and policies.

To help make sure that all your needs are met and that we have considered all safety precautions, YTAS will request...

- that each youth theatre provides an up-to-date copy of their own **Child Protection Policy** in advance
- that all parents and carers complete a **Consent Form** to confirm they agree to you attending the event
- that youth theatres **keep an accurate attendance record** during NFYT in case of evacuation
- 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.

## A bit more on accessibility...

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. This is so that we can adapt the programme where needed 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, talk to your youth theatre leader or get in touch with [zoe@ytas.org.uk](mailto:zoe@ytas.org.uk). The more we know, the more we can help!

## Can my friends and family come to 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](http://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](http://www.ytas.org.uk).



## I have some more questions...

If you have any further questions about NFYT please contact your [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](tel:01315380591) or at [zoe@ytas.org.uk](mailto:zoe@ytas.org.uk)

## Acknowledgements

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