

Edinburgh International Festival **August - September**

With record attendances and record ticket sales totalling £2.6m, 2008 saw the world-renowned three-week festival's biggest ever year. The festival presents a diverse and spectacular programme of the arts, showcasing world-class new and classic drama, opera, music and dance in major theatres and concert halls as well as a number of smaller venues across the city. People travel from across the world to see and perform in Edinburgh's focal event of the year. And it's not just the three weeks of the festival that the event's presence is felt. Throughout the year the festival runs an outreach and education programme for all ages and stages, visiting schools, community groups and presenting classes for adults and emerging professionals in the arts.

www.eif.co.uk

Edinburgh International Book Festival **August**

Every year Charlotte Square Gardens welcomes world-renowned writers and thinkers as well as new and international authors little known in the UK. The Book Festival, the world's largest, provides a unique forum for the exchange of ideas. Discussions have included climate change, the Middle East and the ethics of cloning. The varied events programme is inclusive for all ages.

www.edbookfest.co.uk

Edinburgh Mela **Early September**

A vibrant festival for all the family, the Mela brings together many different cultures to celebrate the breadth and depth of Scotland's cultural diversity

and it has subsequently become Scotland's largest intercultural festival.

www.edinburgh-mela.co.uk

Scottish International Storytelling Festival **Starts third Friday of October**

This festival features the best in storytelling from Scotland and beyond. The Storytelling Centre is on The Royal Mile and hosts storytelling events for all ages throughout the year.

www.scottishstorytellingcentre.co.uk and www.cityofliterature.com

St Andrew's Day **November 30**

St Andrew's Day was given royal assent to become a voluntary Bank Holiday in Scotland in January 2007. St Andrew's marks the beginning of the Winter Festival that culminates on Burns Night.

Edinburgh's Christmas **Late November - December**

The city offers a packed programme of events from the switching on of the Christmas lights in late November followed by a month of special festive events including performances, fairground rides and markets.

www.edinburghschristmas.com

** Figures according to Edinburgh's Year Round Festivals 2004-2005 Economic Impact Study.*

Alongside the festival programme Edinburgh runs a comprehensive events programme. For up to date information visit www.eventsedinburgh.org.uk



Book Festival

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Edinburgh Mela

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