

# edinburgh people's festival

[www.edinburghpeoplesfestival.org](http://www.edinburghpeoplesfestival.org)

## PRESS RELEASE

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For immediate release

### **PEOPLE'S FESTIVAL OPENS 'MOST AMBITIOUS PROGRAMME' YET**

This years Edinburgh People's Festival officially opens on Wednesday [5<sup>th</sup> August] with a fine arts competition at the North Edinburgh Arts Centre in Muirhouse, the first of a series of events taking place in communities throughout the city in August.

This year's theme 'Let The People Speak' includes the arts competition with £1,000 in prize money available to local artists, an award winning exhibition funded by the National Lottery which tells the story of the People's Festival from its origins in the 1950's to the present day, guided tours of 'that radical Edinburgh all too often overlooked', visits to landmarks made famous in Ian Rankin's inimitable 'Rebus' novels, a concert inside Saughton prison, the 2<sup>nd</sup> annual Hamish Henderson memorial lecture, the launch of a book celebrating the 250<sup>th</sup> anniversary of Robert Burns' birth, comedy in Gorgie and an evening celebrating the impact of the protest song.

**Peoples Festival Chairman Colin Fox is delighted to present a prolonged programme this year:**

*"With the impetus gained from achieving charitable status last year we have been able to grow the People's Festival still further and this year we host attractions throughout the month of August for the very first time. We have managed to include more and more communities across the city in this celebration of the arts. The Edinburgh People's Festival is quite unique in that regard. For eight years now we have sought to include all those communities who feel excluded by the world greatest arts festival. Our shows in North, South, East and West Edinburgh aim to ensure no one is excluded from this huge party."*

*"I am particularly delighted at this time when many people are losing their jobs and struggling to make ends meet that all our shows remain within everyone's reach. That's unfortunately not something that can be said about the ones taking place in the over priced city centre. Too much of the Edinburgh Festival seems to have forgotten its roots. I am grateful to our sponsors in the city's trade union movement for again ensuring most of our events are free."*

**Full details of this years Edinburgh People's Festival programme are available at:**  
[www.edinburghpeoplesfestival.org](http://www.edinburghpeoplesfestival.org)

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**Contacts: - Colin Fox, Chairman, Edinburgh People's Festival - 07790 581883**