

**Arts Council
Malta at**

**The Edinburgh
Festival Fringe**



ARTS
COUNCIL
MALTA



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the Edinburgh Festival Fringe

2026



The arts have the power to connect people, foster intercultural dialogue, and reflect the culture and identity of a nation. As Malta continues to strengthen its presence within the international cultural landscape, it is essential that we continue to invest in the talent, skills and professional development of our artists and cultural practitioners.

It is with great pride that we recognise the journey undertaken by the artists featured in this publication, whose participation in a dedicated mentorship programme has supported their growth, creative development and readiness to explore new opportunities within the international performing arts sector.

Through this programme, participants were provided with guidance, training and professional support designed to strengthen their artistic practice, expand their networks and enhance their understanding of the opportunities and challenges involved in presenting work within an international context. This investment reflects the belief that nurturing artists goes beyond creating platforms for performance; it requires sustained support that enables them to grow, experiment and build lasting careers.

This commitment aligns with the cultural direction outlined through Arts Council Malta's Strategy 2030, which places a strong emphasis on creating international opportunities for Maltese artists and cultural practitioners. It also reflects the wider ambitions of MaltaVision 2050, which recognises culture as a key driver of creativity, innovation and national development.

I extend my congratulations to all the participating artists, to Arts Council Malta and to everyone involved in making this programme possible. I look forward to seeing the continued growth of these practitioners and the new opportunities that emerge as Maltese creativity continues to reach new audiences both locally and internationally.



The Edinburgh Festival Fringe is one of the world's most influential platforms for the performing arts, a place where creativity, innovation and bold ideas meet global audiences. It is therefore with great pride that Arts Council Malta marks its presence at the Edinburgh Fringe – an important milestone in our country's cultural journey.

This booklet reflects our long-term commitment to supporting artists not only in creating outstanding work, but also in ensuring that it reaches audiences beyond our shores. It embodies the vision of Arts Council Malta's Strategy 2030, which places internationalisation at the heart of sustainable cultural development by creating meaningful opportunities for mobility, collaboration and artistic exchange.

The productions featured in this programme represent the diversity, talent and ambition of Malta's performing arts sector. Behind each work lies months of dedication, artistic excellence and a shared aspiration to engage with new audiences and establish lasting international connections.

Our participation at the Edinburgh Fringe is more than a single event, it is the result of an ambitious professional development programme that invests in artists, equips them with the skills required for international touring, and creates new pathways for long-term career growth. It is an investment in people, in creativity and in Malta's cultural future.

I invite you to experience these remarkable productions and discover the creativity, originality and confidence that define Malta's contemporary performing arts. We hope this marks the beginning of many new collaborations, conversations and opportunities that will continue to strengthen Malta's presence on the international cultural stage.

Cultural work may meet its audience in a gallery, on a stage, in print or even on screen, but this public moment is only the visible part of the process. Long before that, there are concepts to test, skills to build, and practical decisions that can determine whether the work moves forward at all. And it's in this less visible space that you'll find most of what Arts Council Malta does, supporting the artists, practitioners, organisations and communities that allow cultural work to take shape, develop and reach further.

As the national agency for arts and culture, Arts Council Malta (ACM) works to strengthen Malta's cultural and creative sectors at every stage of artistic practice. Its role extends beyond funding individual projects. As the entity responsible for the national cultural strategy, ACM develops programmes that encourage professional growth, supports organisations and practitioners and creates opportunities for collaboration. The objective? Helping Maltese creativity reach audiences both locally and internationally.

This approach is guided by Strategy 2030, which places artistic excellence, internationalisation, sustainability and wider public participation at the centre of cultural development. Rather than applying a one-size-fits-all model, Arts Council Malta recognises that different art forms and different stages of a career require different kinds of support. An emerging theatre company faces different challenges from an established visual artist, a filmmaker

SUPPORTING MALTA'S CULTURAL AND CREATIVE LANDSCAPE

preparing for international markets or a designer looking to exhibit overseas. The Council's work is designed to respond to these differing realities.

Internationalisation has become one of the defining strands of this work. Alongside supporting Maltese participation in major international platforms such as the Venice Biennale and the Gwangju Biennale, Arts Council Malta also invests in the less visible work that makes international participation possible. Professional development, residencies, mentoring, networking, mobility and long-term partnerships all form part of this broader picture. The new Edinburgh Festival Fringe mentorship programme is one example of this approach.

In practical terms, the work carried out by ACM takes many forms. From supporting the development and production of new work, to training and professional services, helping artists take part in international showcases, and working with cultural organisations on projects that build audiences and strengthen the sector.

Alongside the funding programmes, a significant portion of its remit is dedicated to developing policy, investing in professional development, carrying out sector research, working closely with cultural stakeholders and introducing initiatives that respond to the changing realities faced by artists and creative organisations.

For cultural policy to leave a positive impact on the sector it seeks to shape, the process cannot happen from a distance. Arts Council Malta works in close conversation with artists, practitioners and organisations, using that exchange to understand where support is most needed and where existing structures need to change. Policy is built with the sector, rather than simply for it, and it's precisely this collaborative approach that, ultimately, helps ensure that the work remains grounded in the realities of the sector.

The Council's work is as much about strengthening the environment in which culture is made as it is about supporting the work itself.

The Edinburgh Festival Fringe Mentorship Programme marks a new chapter for Malta's international performing arts sector. Launched by Arts Council Malta earlier this year, this new initiative welcomed 19 projects on a professional development journey designed to create opportunities for Maltese artists to showcase their work internationally, build meaningful connections, and strengthen their presence beyond Malta's shores.

The mentorship programme forms part of a wider internationalisation initiative through which Malta will, for the first time, present an official showcase at the Edinburgh Festival Fringe in 2027. Through this scheme, participants have received training, mentoring, and valuable industry connections from local and international stakeholders.

The initiative was designed to offer more than a one-time opportunity to participate in the Edinburgh Fringe. Instead, it provides a structured professional development framework through which participants can strengthen their projects, address practical challenges, and gain a deeper understanding of touring and international presentation. In doing so, it supports performing arts practitioners in developing sustainable careers and expanding their professional horizons.

Interest from the sector was strong, with Arts Council Malta receiving 30 applications representing a wide range of genres and artistic perspectives. Following a rigorous evaluation process, 19 participants were selected to take part in the programme.

FROM MALTA TO EDINBURGH,

The programme was developed to address the needs and challenges faced by Malta's performing arts sector. Activities included workshops led by industry professionals focusing on project development for export and touring, one-to-one mentoring sessions, peer exchange opportunities, networking events, and engagement with the wider international performing arts industry.

Throughout the programme, participants were given the space and professional support to test ideas, respond to challenges, and strengthen both the artistic and production quality of their work. The process was also designed to help practitioners build confidence while expanding their professional networks.

The value of the programme, however, extends far beyond the final selection for the Malta Showcase. While some of these projects may go on to be presented in Edinburgh in 2027, others may find different routes to international opportunities. Its lasting impact lies in equipping participants with the tools, knowledge, and connections needed to develop export-ready productions and pursue opportunities on the international stage.

...THE JOURNEY BEGINS



A surreal dance-theatre work following a 40-year-old woman who has never experienced physical intimacy, where fantasy and reality collide in her search for human connection.

40 AND UNTOUCHED

40 and Untouched is a surreal contemporary dance-theatre work exploring intimacy, loneliness and imagined desire through the eyes of a 40-year-old woman who has never experienced physical touch. Shifting between fantasy and reality, the performance blends striking visual imagery, humour and emotional vulnerability as imagined lovers, floating petals and impossible encounters emerge from a life shaped by films, stories and longing. As her fantasies begin to unravel, the work reveals the profound human need for connection while questioning how media, technology and imagination shape our expectations of love, intimacy and belonging in the modern world

company
Moveo Dance Company

artist
Dorian Mallia

running time
45 mins

language
Non-verbal with some
spoken English

genre
Contemporary Dance Theatre



A daughter traces the absence of love, confronting hatred, grief, and rejection, tenderly exploring what remains in the aftermath of loss and longing.

A CARPENTER'S DAUGHTER

What colour would you give to love in your life? A Carpenter's Daughter plunges into Ella's visceral conversations with her father, whose evolving relationship becomes an emotional thread throughout her life. Spanning Malta and Scotland, the work follows Ella as rejection, hatred, and grief challenge her understanding of love, revealing how it can shapeshift into unexpected forms. Through storytelling, movement, sound, and intimate reflection, the piece explores the soul's emotional residue carried across generations. This heart-driven performance invites audiences to reflect on what remains when love is never fully received, painting a portrait of love in its absence.

artist
Amy Grech

running time
50 mins

language
English

genre
Contemporary Theatre,
Physical Theatre,
New Writing



Ella does not work. Ella does not leave her apartment. Ella speaks to no one, except the numerous followers of her online podcast.

ANTI SOCIAL

Ella is an immensely privileged young woman who has grown up in a carefully sanitised world, leaving her with no idea how to really connect with people and a lack of genuine resilience. After a terrible event that she had a hand in, she decides to completely isolate from the real world, moving to the virtual world by starting a podcast that amasses a huge following. But Ella is nothing like her unbothered online persona. Unable to escape the guilt, she becomes more erratic and unpredictable, not only wanting to disappear from people's perceptions but to disappear for good.

artist
Julia Camilleri

running time
55 mins

language
English

genre
Dark Comedy, Drama, New Writing

photo credits: Jake Gialanze



Halloween costumes.
Disembowelment. A cardboard
toilet. What more could a saw
parody ask for?

BILLY'S GAME: A SAW PARODY!

"Billy's Game takes the grimy machinery of the classic gore horror and, rather than simply imitating it, gleefully dismantles it, reassembles it with duct tape, fake blood, metatheatrical instinct, and a wicked sense of humour." (that Maltese Sergeant from Enola Holmes 3)

"I was the loudest laugh in the audience, revelling in the absurd, quirky and most importantly, self-aware piece. Highly recommended to not only fans of horror, comedy and everything in between, but anyone who loves something different to chuckle out absurdities of the world that surrounds us." (Polish Actress who was not in Enola Holmes 3)

artist
Marvellous Pretenders

running time
60 mins

language
English

genre
Theatre, Horror, Comedy



A soon-to-be father unravels his blended Maltese-Italian identity through raw, multilingual gig theatre, until a passport renewal forces him to confront inherited secrets and himself.

BLENDER

“People always ask where my accent’s from. I used to joke it was bastardised, the offspring of two colliding countries. Then someone responded, “No... it’s blended; Imħallat. Misto.”

When Gianni, a soon-to-be father, is asked to renew his passport, a sequence of cracks begins to uncover borrowed memories, buried history and inherited family secrets – forcing him to question who he really is.

BLENDER is a raw, multilingual gig theatre piece in which Gianni Selvaggi confronts his Maltese-Italian heritage before entering fatherhood. Because when identity is just a blend – what’s truly yours in the end?

artist
Gianni Selvaggi

running time
55 mins

language
English, Italian, Maltese, Morse

genre
Theatre, New Writing, Gig Theatre



A Maltese girl follows her dream of moving to the U.K. Expecting the Britain she grew up watching on the telly, she was met with...a different Britain.

BRITAIN, BRITAIN, BRITAIN

Britain, Britain, Britain is an autobiographical solo theatre show exploring what happens when the version of Britain you grow up watching on television collides with the reality of living there. Raised in Malta on a diet of British sitcoms, reality TV and pop culture, Julianne arrives in Scotland convinced she already knows the country she is about to call home. Through physical theatre, clown, lip-sync, multi-rolling and recreated television moments, the show navigates identity, migration, belonging and ambition with humour and heart, asking how much of who we become is shaped by the stories we inherit and who gets to rewrite them.

artist
Julianne Restall

running time
45 mins

language
English

genre
Clown, Physical Theatre,
New Writing,
Multi Discipline



A female performer lifts a male acrobat in a daring circus-theatre duet that playfully dismantles gender expectations and reimagines how we connect.

COLLISION

Collision follows two strangers from different worlds whose paths unexpectedly cross. Through movement, play, conflict and connection, actress Paige Allerton and acrobat Matthias Camilleri explore human relationships and social patterns in a powerful contemporary circus performance. Featuring original music by Albert Garzia, the production blends theatre, dance, storytelling and circus arts in an immersive interdisciplinary experience.

artists
Paige Allerton & Matthias Camilleri

running time
50 mins

language
Non-Verbal

genre
Circus, Physical



What happens when a grown man finally "comes out" to the people in his life... about being a magician?

COMING OUT AS A MAGICIAN

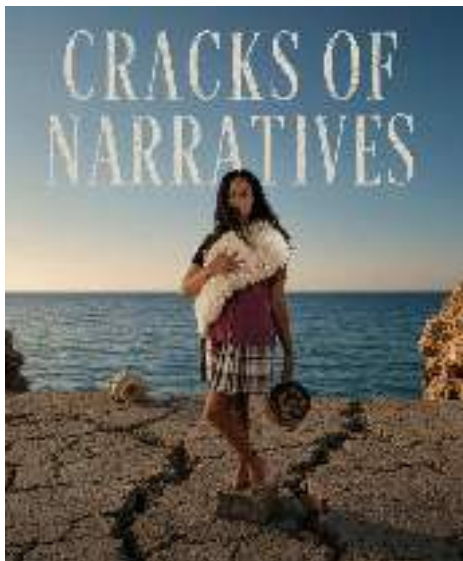
What happens when a grown man finally comes out, not about his sexuality, but as a magician? Gwilym Bugeja blends sharp stand-up, heartfelt storytelling and astonishing live illusion in this interactive one-man comedy show about embracing an unconventional dream. Through hilarious confessions, vivid characters and unforgettable audience participation, he reveals the awkward reactions, hard choices and magic behind turning a childhood obsession into a career. Funny, personal and full of surprises, *Coming Out as a Magician* is a celebration of courage, identity and choosing the life that feels true, even when everyone else thinks otherwise.

artist
Gwilym Bugeja

running time
60 mins

language
English

genre
Magic, Comedy



A crack is never only a rupture.
It is also a threshold.

Cracks of Narratives is a performance project exploring auto biographical cracks as sites where dominant narratives are disrupted and new relationships between body, place and environment become visible.

CRACKS OF NARRATIVES

Cracks of Narratives unfolds through a constellation of interconnected performances exploring the body's negotiation with changing worlds. Through three evolving relationships—with the teenage self, the social body trapped in city scape and the sea as the final collaborator. The project follows the tensions between adaptation and resistance as well the search for fitting in and belonging. Beginning with lived experience while reaching towards the universal, it proposes transformation not as a destination, but as an ongoing process of questioning, renegotiating and reshaping the ways we relate to ourselves, others and the environments we inhabit.

artist
Charlene Galea with human and non-human collaborators

running time
50-60 minutes (in development)

language
Non-verbal with some spoken English

genre
Interdisciplinary Performance
(Live Art / Performance Installation)



An immersive theatre ritual weaving documentary fragments and real testimony to honour the women who hold others, their communities, and themselves in the aftermath of abuse and trauma.

DAQQA T'ID

In Maltese, Daqqa t'Id means both “a helping hand” and “a slap in the face.” Developed from the documentary Force des Femmes, this multidisciplinary verbatim performance moves between Malta and Morocco, weaving documentary fragments, multilingual soundscapes and live performance into an intimate act of collective witnessing. At its heart are the women who support survivors, hold communities together and carry what society refuses to see. Both deeply personal and politically urgent, Daqqa t'Id asks what care costs, and who carries what the world refuses to hold.

artist
Nokkla Productions
(Larissa Bonaci)
in collaboration with Give
or Take Productions
(Angèle Galea)

running time
50 mins

language
English, with multilingual
elements

genre
Verbatim, Documentary



A crack is never only a rupture. It is also a threshold. Cracks of Narratives is a performance project exploring auto biographical cracks as sites where dominant narratives are disrupted and new relationships between body, place and environment become visible.

FASHIONABLY LATE

How does it feel to fall apart, then slowly rebuild yourself in a world full of strangers? Fashionably Late is a 40-minute immersive rock-theatre experience by Maltese band OutBound. Through powerful original songs, cinematic lighting, spoken interludes and visual art, the audience follows an emotional journey from isolation, self-doubt and psychological fragmentation to resilience, acceptance and hope. Blending the energy of a live rock concert with the intimacy of theatre, Fashionably Late explores the moments that shape us, and reminds us that there is no right time to find yourself.

company
OutBound

running time
40 mins

language
English

genre
Rock Musical Performance



Chris and Anton promise an impossible immersive experience, transporting you across space and time, as you embark on a journey that'll change your life forever.

JUDAS GOAT

Are you feeling bored? Tired of the regularness of life? Well, say no more. Chris and Anton are here to save the day! In Judas Goat, you'll embark on the most painstakingly detailed, solo immersive experience ever attempted. You'll get the "freedom" to make your own choices, follow, explore, follow, inhabit, and follow some more. You'll love it! Throughout this pilgrimage, you'll travel across time and space, visiting distant lands, experiencing exotic cultures, and bending the laws of time. So, go on. Take the plunge. What's the worst that can happen? Put your sheep ears on and follow the kids!

artists
Anton Saliba & Chris Wythe

running time
60 mins

language
English

genre
Theatre



Leli, a life-size puppet wanders through intimate fragments of memories, accompanied by the haunting rhythms of Maltese poetry that breathe colour into an ordinary man's quiet, extraordinary life.

LELI: A MODEST REQUIEM

In the quiet before the last breath, memories rise like lanterns in the dark.

Leli: A Modest Requiem invites you into an intimate world of Maltese verse, original compositions, and delicate puppetry — a quietly uplifting meditation on life, love, and the beauty of letting go.

One man's farewell becomes everyone's story.

company
Theatre Anon

running time
55 mins

language
Maltese with English Surtitles

genre
Theatre, Puppetry



Two journalists. One scandal. An algorithm that already knows the story. Press Mute is a satirical sprint through media chaos, political spin, and the terrifying pace at which truth gets quietly buried. You'll miss the facts when they're gone.

PRESS MUTE

Press Mute is a fast-paced, satirical production about truth, lies, the media, fast-paced technology, and the chaos in between. It follows two exhausted journalists trying to expose a scandal, a charismatic podcaster, a slick minister and the algorithm that knows us better than we know ourselves! In a world where facts compete with feelings and investigations are lost beneath 'influencer' noise, the real challenge is getting anyone to care. Blurring the lines between performance and reality, the play invites the audience to weigh into the discourse, sometimes quite literally. Performed by a troupe of Malta's finest actors and journalists, Press Mute questions what happens when the news becomes noise, and who we trust to tell us the truth.

company
Udjenja

running time
50 mins

language
English

genre
Political Satire



A stone coated in sugar. A fractured tea ritual. Four performers transform Europe's colonial inheritance into an intimate theatrical journey through memory, ritual and resistance.

SUGAR. STONE. SEA.

What does it mean to inherit a past you did not create? A stone coated in sugar. A fractured tea ritual. Four performers invite audiences into an intimate journey through movement, music, spoken word and ritual, where sweetness and exploitation sit side by side. SUGAR. STONE. SEA. brings together personal stories, dark humour and striking visual imagery to explore collective memory and being European today means asking not only how we came to be here, but where we choose to go next. Throughout, ritual becomes a collective reflection, inviting audiences to imagine new ways of relating and belonging.

company
ARDA Collective

running time
50 mins

language
English, with multilingual elements

genre
Interdisciplinary Performance



In an underground lab, two estranged scientists confront an artefact that predates humanity, forcing them to choose between discovery, survival, and each other.

THIS IS NOT A PRODUCT OF OUR TIME

In an underground laboratory, two estranged scientists confront an artefact that predates humanity. As the object exerts its pull on their bodies, memories and loyalties, obsession, history and responsibility collide. This is not a product of our time is an intimate, object-centred two-hander: a psychological thriller blending speculative and physical theatre. Set against a world of resource extraction, geopolitical tension and ecological anxiety, the piece asks what we are willing to sacrifice now for knowledge, power, survival — and each other.

artists
Rachelle Bezzina &
Victor Jacono

running time
50 mins

language
English

genre
Drama



As two actors portray an abusive relationship on screen, the boundaries between fiction and reality begin to unravel with devastating consequences.

NO WAY OUT

Cameras roll. Lights are up. And action! A couple stars in a film about domestic violence, but behind the scenes lies a far more disturbing truth. Blending theatre and film, *No Way Out* exposes hidden abuse, shattered silence, and the terrifying gap between performance, reality, and survival.

An acting couple plays out violence on screen – but off camera, something far darker waits in the shadows. Blending live cinema and theatre, *No Way Out* drags audiences into a chilling world where silence hides brutality, and survival may come too late.

artist
Lucienne Camilleri

running time
50 mins

language
English

genre
Drama



Turning 30 forces a freelance creative to confront the life she imagined, the life she's living, and the voice insisting that neither is enough.

WTF: WHY'S THIRTY F*CKED?

A one-woman spiral about turning 30 while freelancing in film, living between countries, grieving relationships, and wondering if everyone else secretly knows how to be an adult. **WTF: Why's Thirty F*cked?** blends sharp comedy and confession to unpack burnout, shame, loneliness, and the quiet panic of falling behind.

artist
Samantha Cassar Ellis

running time
45 mins

language
English

genre
Comedy, New Writing



Family feuds, impossible choices, and spectacular dysfunction collide in a darkly comic Maltese reimagining of Greek tragedy, fuelled by poetry, masks, and physical theatre.

XI TRAGEDJA!

Have you ever met a Maltese family going through hell? Xi Tragedja! An award-nominated contemporary Maltese play blending comedy, physical theatre and poetic storytelling. A very Maltese take on Greek drama. Think Clytemnestra without the affair, but with chaos, humour and emotional depth. Xi Tragedja! transforms family chaos into a wildly entertaining and emotionally charged experience that speaks to audiences everywhere as they laugh at the absurdity of life while recognising themselves in the emotional truths beneath it. A fast-paced performance in Maltese with English surtitles. One hot mess!

artists
The Purple Way

running time
60 mins

language
Maltese with English
Surtitles

genre
Tragicomedy

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