



10

# Festival Brochure

**Birmingham Fest**  
**14 - 30 July 2023**

Welcome to the tenth Birmingham Fest brochure!

I'm so happy and proud that the festival has reached the 10 year milestone. The reason I first set it up was because there was no fringe festival in Birmingham - which I found ridiculous. We have great venues and a great arts scene. I'm also a strong believer that artists should have a platform to present their work. So Birmingham Fest was born!

Over the past 10 years we've had hundreds of performances, and hundreds of people take part. This has filled me with absolute joy, and I'm happy to say I've seen them all!

This year will be no different. We have lots of shows for you again. Some performers returning to the festival, and some for the first time. All very welcome as always. Lots of brand new work too. We have performers from all over the UK taking part, so it will again be a very exciting two and a half weeks. I for one can't wait!

Anyway, have a look through the brochure. Hopefully you'll find a few things you like the look of. Please support as many as you can. Even if you can't attend spread the word!

I'd like to thank everyone that's participated, attended, or supported the festival over the past 10 years. It's still going because of you. Here's to the next 10!

Darren Haywood - festival organiser



## The Venues

### The Blue Orange Theatre



118 Great Hampton St, B18 6AD  
info@blueorangetheatre.co.uk  
www.blueorangetheatre.co.uk

### The Crescent Theatre



Sheepcote Street, B16 8AE  
(0121) 643 5858  
www.crescent-theatre.co.uk

### St. Paul's Church



St. Paul's Square, B3 1QZ  
(0121) 236 7858  
www.stpaulsjq.church

All show information is correct at the time. Please check our website for any changes.  
And please follow us on social media for updates.

[www.birminghamfest.co.uk](http://www.birminghamfest.co.uk)

Facebook: Birmingham Fest

Twitter: @bhamfest

## The Shows



**Romeo & Julie**  
by Bewdley Town Criers

A long way from Verona (ie: The Midlands) Julie has shared her home with her "Romeo" Jonathan for almost 10 years, navigating life in their 50's together, reflecting on loves lost and a future which may upturn everything they have ever known and stand for.

Friday 14th July 7pm  
The Blue Orange Theatre  
Tickets £10



**To Sleep**  
by Madam Renards

Covering one night in the lives of two suicidal strangers, this warm, compassionate, and darkly humorous new play explores how people deal with the most difficult human situations with warmth, compassion and dark humour - no matter how appalling their shared experiences may be.

Fri 14th & Sat 15th July 8pm  
The Crescent Theatre  
Tickets £10.80 (£8.64)



**Eternal Love on Stage**  
by Allcam Chinese Culture

This show expresses the theme of love in various forms of Chinese stage performance. It includes love stories in ancient time and modern time and covers human love, mythological love, and people's love toward God. Stylistically it includes drama, opera, song, and dance.

Sunday 16th July 2pm  
The Crescent Theatre  
Tickets £6 (£4)



**Improv Comedy**  
by Box of Frogs

Birmingham's premier comedy improv troupe bring you an evening of high-octane improvised fun. Expect the unexpected as they conjure up hilarious songs, sketches, and scenes on the spur of the moment, all based entirely on your suggestions.

Sundays 16/23/30 7.30pm  
The Blue Orange Theatre  
Tickets £12 (£10)



**A Virgin's Guide to Hiring an Escort**  
by Lorna Meehan

An autobiographical show exploring the sublime and harrowing complexities of a long and delayed sexual awakening with a hired lover. A theatrical cycle of poems that chart her journey from awkward bravery to sexual empowerment through to inevitable heartbreak.

Tues 18th/Weds 19th June 7pm  
The Blue Orange Theatre  
Tickets £10



**Let's Talk About Philip**  
by HW Productions

When 30 years of family silence is broken Helen begins a detective-like quest to discover the hidden story behind her brother's suicide. A fast-paced, candid, darkly comic and gripping play about loyalty, long-held beliefs and how much we ever really know about those we love.

Thurs 20th/Fri 21st July 7pm  
The Crescent Theatre  
Tickets £13 (£12)



**Trapped**  
by Two Jens & Me

Thomas lives on his own in a small bedsit. He suffers from mental health issues brought on by his past. This powerful one-man show allows us to see into the life of a very troubled man who is trying to fight back to what he hopes will be normality, but he needs help.

Thurs 20th-Sat 22nd July 7pm  
The Blue Orange Theatre  
Tickets £10



**The Caper Trail**  
by Thirsty Theatre

A charming but overconfident cat burglar plans to pull off his final job - stealing a cursed ruby on the night before his wedding! The only things standing in his way are an officious night watchman, an escaped convict, and an alarm system with a mind of its own!

Fri 21st July 9pm  
Sat 22nd July 5pm & 9pm  
The Blue Orange Theatre  
Tickets £10 (£8 concessions)



**A Poetry Reading**  
by Laura Liptrot

Through poetry, Laura invites the audience into the busy attic of her chaotic mind and life, where some days are full of sunshine, others full of grey clouds, but most are lit by a silvery tarot moon. She presents her opinions, her emotions, and basically just herself.

Sat 22nd & Sun 23rd July 7pm  
The Crescent Theatre  
Tickets £8.10 (£6.48)



**An Obvious Divide in the Living Room**  
by Rosetta Theatre

Charlie and Jamie are a busy modern couple. When the lockdown of 2020 forces them to spend every minute of every day stuck together in their flat, tensions rise and unresolved issues are brought to the fore. They know that even when its over nothing will be the same.

Sat 22nd & Sun 23rd July 9pm  
The Crescent Theatre  
Tickets £10.80 (£9.72)



**Laudable Pus (From Galen to Gallstones)**  
by Silver Pine Productions

A miscellany of medical myths and mishaps brought to you by Buxton Fringe award winners Silver Pine. Expect amputation, witchcraft, Werther's Originals, and a flurry of quick costume changes. You'll laugh, you'll cry, you might even lean something.

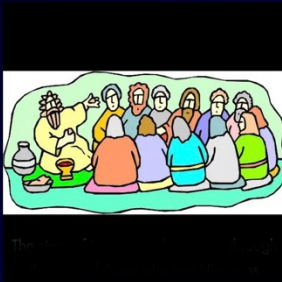
Mon 24th & Tues 25th July 7pm  
The Blue Orange Theatre  
Tickets £10 (£7 concessions)



**Fluff**  
by The Company of Legendary Children

The story of one woman navigating her way through life's challenges: finding love, chasing dreams, dealing with a sick parent and the threat of inheriting the same illness. It asks us to reflect on the paths we take in life, and the people we spend our time with.

Mon 24th & Tues 25th July 9pm  
The Blue Orange Theatre  
Tickets £8



**John's Tale**  
by Three In One Productions

A theatrical adaptation of the Gospel of St. John. Using a snappy, light-hearted style, with everyday language and humour. It has been especially written to make it more accessible. It simply tells the story. Told in a beautiful church setting.

Weds 26th & Fri 28th July 8pm  
St. Paul's Church  
Tickets £8 (£6)



**No Room For The Garbage**  
by Nasrin Khanjari

A puppet show made for children and grown-ups about saving our planet and addressing environmental issues. Two pieces of rubbish, accompanied by a fly, are on a mission to find humans and ask them to stop creating any more waste.

Sat 29th & Sun 30th July 3pm  
The Blue Orange Theatre  
Tickets £8 (£6 concessions)



**There's Nothing Funny About Comic Poetry**  
by Willis The Poet & Ben Moore

An interactive comedy poetry show exposing the rivalry between Willis The Poet, established old school comedy genius, and Ben Moore, the park bench poet, as they go head to head in a slam off to prove who's the funniest comic poet.

Sat 29th July 7pm  
The Blue Orange Theatre  
Tickets £10