



THE BATH magazine

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Marc Almond on
his musical heroes

THE ART OF ILLUSTRATION
Lauren Child at the Holburne

FAB-ULOUS FRINGE
The arts festival with
community at its heart

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Tantalising flavours at the
Marlborough Tavern

TAKE IT TO THE FLOOR
Tales from Bath Abbey's
ledger stones

A SPECIAL EDITION



THE BATH FESTIVAL

A 24-page essential guide to this year's best
literature, cultural and music events

THE CITY'S BIGGEST MONTHLY GUIDE TO LIFE AND LIVING IN BATH

FAB-ULOUS FRINGE

Bath Fringe and Fringe Arts Bath, known as *FaB*, are putting on a big show from 24 May – 9 June. There are few rules as to what is and isn't included, which gives every event an extra thrill



CLOCKWISE, FROM MAIN IMAGE: Bear North Pier Square, 1 June, 7pm, Bristol Theatre; Faceless by Amelia Holmes, 24 May, 6-9pm, FaB 3, 15 New Bond Street; The Actor's Wheel, The Last Days of Helen Howard, 31 May, 7.30pm, The Bristol Theatre; The Impostors, 28 May, 7pm, The Old Theatre Royal Library



Ray and Liz film screening, 29 May, 7pm, FaB 3, 15 New Bond Street



The Possible Capture narrative sketch show, 2 June, 7.00pm, St James' Wine Vaults

Fringe Arts Bath, or *FaB*, is a free festival of visual arts, featuring pop-up exhibitions, events, installations, performance, experiments and more in empty shops, open spaces and across the streets of Bath.

FaB is a test-bed for early-career artists, or those who prefer to operate away from the gallery-based arts scene. It also provides up-and-coming curators with the opportunity to make an exhibition happen, giving artists from Bath's ever-growing creative community opportunities to show their work.

FaB 2019 brings you 27 exhibitions in 13 venues and countless events. The excitement kicks off with the Opening Night Arts Party on 24 May – this runs from 6pm till late in all *FaB* venues, with performances, a preview of exhibitions and refreshments from pop-up bars. We're told to expect surprise, oddness, and artness on tap.

In and around Walcot Chapel, Deviation Street brings a hybrid of music, 'zine archives and an exhibition, alongside Mud, which offers irregular sculpture workshops throughout the festival.

FaB 1 at 94-96 Walcot Street will be hosting six exhibitions, including *Size Matters*, a big exhibition of tiny work, proving that a lot can be said within 5x5cm artworks.

FaB 2 at 8 Broad Street hosts *GIF*, which looks at the contemporary language created by the gifs, memes and emojis that we are using more and more. Another show called *Dull* challenges visitors to engage with works born from an artist's fascination with a subject, concept or material that others might overlook. Who, after all, has the right to decide what is dull or interesting?

FaB 3 at 15 New Bond Street opens up a different view of the city with *FaB*

Photomaton, and *21st-Century Nausferthal* explores the world of online dating, with compliments floating in the air. Just round the corner in Milcom Place is *Hardee*, where the resident artworks will throw a revealing light on the unseen.

The Bath Open Art Prize returns to 44AD artspace in Abbey Street, with award-winning painting, sculpture and prints selected by Dr Chris Stephens, director of the Holburne Museum, and artist Sandra Porter RWA. Winners will be invited to choose their favourite for the People's Choice, the winner of which will be announced on the last day.



Curtis Eiler's American Circus, 2 June, 8pm, Old Theatre Royal

Bath Fringe is a city festival that has been running for over 30 years. It sees regular independent city venues and promoters doing a Fringe version of what they do all year, along with pop-up events in outdoor and unexpected spaces.

Certain artworks – such as visual arts, theatre, and outdoor performance – have a festival culture in the way artists develop, and so festival appearances are important for them. The Fringe organisation aims to create support structures for emerging artists in this category.

The Fringe also encourages local artists

and performers, in the Best of Bath, to show off the very best of what they do.

Bath Fringe 2019 will be hosting a dizzying 150 plus events, so only a few of the highlights can be mentioned below...

The *Bathian Fair* street weekend on 1-2 June will be an event to watch out for – don't miss the Sunday in Saw Close, Kingsmead Square, and locations veering towards the centre of the city.

This year, with the help of a grant from the Arts Council England, there will be a focus on celebrating the history of what used to be called *alternative arts* in Bath. It's the 50th anniversary of the first Cornick festival, which led to the arrival of Bath Arts Workshop and Walcot Festivals – this, in turn, inspired the first Bath Fringe events and the current Fringe group. This will see an exhibition, a book, and art events around Walcot – which was the centre of activities in those early days – and will include the work of both mature and younger artists.

The experimental theatre institution's *People Show* will make an appearance – the company have been running for 51 years and their artistic style and sense of experiment has never lost its energy. On 9 June there will also be a new piece of immersive site-specific theatre called *Dr Yella and Mafra Weaving* with the Natural Theatre, volunteers, and director Trevor Stuart, an outrageous theatre artist who introduced the acclaimed Lumière & Son in the early years of the Fringe.

Indoor theatre has a strong presence, too, with shows at The Mission, The Komodo and other more surprising corners like The Museum of Bath at Work. Young Immersive Theatre group *20:20 Vision* will be a stand-out performance on 8 June, and Brian Madigan's *Think of a... trilogy* on 29 May will reach some kind of mutually mind-bending conclusion. *Curtis Eiler's American Circus*, performing on 2 June, is a final highlight to mention – they are not in fact a circus, but the style of the music and the range of stories that their songs tell certainly justifies the label. ■

Bathian Fair, 1 and 2 June, from 10pm, various venues

