

National Festival of Youth Theatre Event Information 2022

for parents and carers



Youth
Theatre
Arts
Scotland



Introduction

Every two years, Scotland's **National Festival of Youth Theatre (NFYT)** creates an explosion of young creative talent. This information pack is designed to provide parents and carers of young people attending NFYT 2022 with a clear understanding of the event.

“NFYT is not only an incredible social event but also a massive learning experience and has been one of the best times of my life”

NFYT Participant



Dates: Friday 1 – Monday 4 July 2022

Venues: The Gaiety Theatre, Ayr (KA7 1NU)
& Rozelle Park Campsite, Ayr (KA7 4NQ)

Tickets: Group bookings only

Price: £205 per person: Residential
£140 per person: Non-residential
£45 per person: One-day 'NFYT Taster' (bookings open Mar 2022)

What is the National Festival of Youth Theatre (NFYT)?

The National Festival of Youth Theatre is the UK's largest annual gathering of youth theatres. This exciting event is the only opportunity for Scotland's youth theatre participants to come together, discover a shared passion and develop as artists, audience members and creative thinkers.

With an emphasis on inclusion, education and collaboration, NFYT aims to remove barriers, teach valuable life skills and provide extraordinary new experiences. After a challenging couple of years, our 2022 festival aims to reconnect young people, placing a focus on celebrating their continuing resilience and creativity.

Every year NFYT welcomes around **200 participants** representing around **15 different youth theatres** from across Scotland and often further afield.

NFYT is produced by **Youth Theatre Arts Scotland** – Scotland's development organisation for youth theatre – in partnership with the **Gaiety Theatre** and **South Ayrshire Council**.

COVID Safety

Mitigating the risk of COVID-19 infection at the National Festival of Youth Theatre is of primary importance to us.

This year, our event Health and Safety Risk Assessment will include close monitoring of Scottish Government guidelines and guidance, and we will put any required measures in place to ensure that risk of infection is reduced. If required at the time of the event, we will establish a clear COVID protocol to help everyone feel as safe as possible when attending the festival.

We will communicate up-to-date safety requirements with groups in advance of the event and adhere to venue guidelines throughout the festival. This may include:

- Lateral flow testing prior to attending the festival.
- Wearing of face-coverings for all indoor performances, workshops and social activities.
- The availability of hand sanitising stations in all venues.
- A request for social-distancing where possible and/or necessary.

If you have any specific questions regarding COVID safety at NFYT please don't hesitate to contact us.

What will the participants be doing at NFYT?

During the day on Friday, Saturday and Sunday, participants will watch and perform in youth theatre shows at the Gaiety Theatre. In addition to a diverse performance programme, the festival also offers a lively education programme of artistic workshops and structured social activities which aim to teach new creative skills and enrich the festival experience.

At the end of each day, festival coaches transport groups back to a private campsite within the grounds of Rozelle Park. Here, participants can watch and take part in the entertainment in the performance marquee and socialise. Breakfast is provided at the campsite and lunch and a hot dinner are provided at Ayr Town Hall.

Where will the participants be staying?



Rozelle Park, Ayr, Ayrshire, KA7 1NU

Exclusive camping accommodation is provided at Rozelle Park, in partnership with South Ayrshire Council. The campsite is served by portable shower and toilet facilities and campsite social activities will take place in the Festival Marquee. Breakfast will be served here too. Festival participants will share the campsite with the NFYT staff team and campsite wardens will ensure the welfare and safety of all young people.

Rozelle Park campsite will be open **from 10am** on **Friday 1 July** for groups to arrive and pitch tents. Please note there is a distance of two miles between the campsite and Ayr Gaiety Theatre. Festival coaches will provide transport for this journey and taxis can be provided if required for accessibility reasons.

What's included in the price?

Residential weekend ticket

£205 per person

What's included?

Tickets to all festival performances
All artistic workshops
All festival social events
All meals
Three nights' camping
All coach transport between the campsite and the Gaiety Theatre

Non-residential weekend ticket

£140 per person

What's included?

Tickets to all festival performances
All artistic workshops
All festival social events
Lunch & Dinner
Coach transport from the Gaiety Theatre to the campsite for evening social activities*

One-day ticket

£45 per person

What's included?

Tickets to two festival performances
A programme of artistic workshops
Lunch and/or dinner

*transport home from the campsite at the end of the evening is NOT included

Your NFYT ticket price does not include:

- Your travel to the event.
- Coach transfer between Ayr Railway Station and the NFYT campsite (if arriving by train). This is available for groups at a cost of **£6 per person** return and should be booked by your child's youth theatre group leader.

Participation in NFYT is available by **group booking only**. Your child's youth theatre group leader is responsible for making this booking and dealing with all payments.

What will the participants need to take to NFYT?

There are no restrictions on what participants can bring with them to ensure their stay at NFYT is as comfortable as possible.

We **strongly recommend** that your child brings the following equipment as an absolute minimum:

- A robust, weather-proof **tent*** which has been tested and which your child knows how to erect
- A **sleeping mat** or **airbed**
- A warm **sleeping bag**
- A **torch**
- Several layers of **warm clothing**, including a **waterproof jacket**
- A pair of **wellies**
- **Hand sanitiser**
- Enough **face coverings** to last the duration of their stay

*Pop-up tents are **NOT** suitable as they do not provide enough protection against the cold and rain.

To help your child prepare for the weekend, their youth theatre group leader will provide a full **NFYT Kit List** in advance of the event. Please make sure that you, and they, read this carefully.

What will they eat?

The following meals are included in the NFYT ticket price:

Residential				Non-residential			
	Breakfast	Lunch	Dinner		Breakfast	Lunch	Dinner
Fri 1 Jul*			✓	Fri 1 Jul			✓
Sat 2 Jul	✓	✓	✓	Sat 2 Jul		✓	✓
Sun 3 Jul	✓	✓	✓	Sun 3 Jul		✓	✓
Mon 4 Jul**	✓			Mon 4 Jul			

*Please ensure your child brings a **packed lunch** with them to eat at the Rozelle Park campsite on Friday 1 July.

**Your child will leave NFYT after breakfast on Monday 4 July.

Sample menus:

Breakfast

Juice
Porridge
Tea & Coffee
Croissants

Breakfast Rolls
Yoghurt
Fresh Fruit
Cereal

Lunch

Soup
Sandwiches
Fresh fruit / cake
Juice

Dinner

Choice of hot dish
Choice of salads
Fruit salad / pudding

Your child's youth theatre leader will ask all young people to submit details of **specific dietary requirements** in advance of the event. Regrettably we are not able to provide for dietary requirements requested on the day.

Who will be looking after the participants?

Youth Theatre Arts Scotland operates a robust Child Protection Policy. If you would like more details about this policy please contact us on **0131 538 0591**.

As your child's safety is of paramount importance to us while they are at NFYT 2022, there will be a Youth Theatre Arts Scotland Child Protection Officer on site. However, please be aware that **the ultimate responsibility for the welfare of your child lies with their individual youth theatre group leader(s)** for the duration of the event.

Youth Theatre Arts Scotland issues all group leaders with comprehensive Child Protection Guidelines and asks them to demonstrate their understanding of their role with regard to health and welfare by:

- providing an up-to-date copy of their youth theatre's own **Child Protection Policy** in advance;
- requesting that all parents and carers complete a **Consent Form** to confirm that you agree to your child attending the event;
- **keeping an accurate attendance record** during NFYT in case of evacuation; and
- ensuring that the strict NFYT policy of **no alcohol* or illegal drugs** is enforced at all times.

*due to event insurance requirements this also applies to participants over the age of 18, youth theatre group leaders and event staff.

Can I come and watch the performances?

We always welcome and encourage friends, family and supporters to come along and see the shows, however please bear in mind that this year the opportunity to do so may be limited, depending on Government COVID safety guidelines current at the time of the event.

If guidelines allow, tickets to our festival performances will be on sale to the public in June 2022 and will be available through the Gaiety Theatre Box Office on **01292 288235** or at ayrgaiety.co.uk.

About Youth Theatre Arts Scotland

Youth Theatre Arts Scotland helps makes the lives of young people better through youth theatre. We support, connect and inspire youth theatre participants across Scotland, and the adults who work with them. To find out more please visit www.ytas.org.uk.



I have some more questions...

If you have any further questions about NFYT please contact your child's **youth theatre group leader** in the first instance.

If they are unable to answer your question, please contact **Catherine Makin** at **Youth Theatre Arts Scotland** on **0131 538 0591** or at catherine@ytas.org.uk

Acknowledgements

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THE GRAIN EXCHANGE

