



DISCOVERING THE EDINBURGH FESTIVALS

MARK FISHER

The Arts Society Fylde
Lowther Pavilion Theatre
5 July 2023 at 2.00pm

It's the last lecture of the 2022/3 season (already!) and this time we turn our attention to a Summer fixture - what we all loosely call "The Edinburgh Festival" but, as Mark Fisher points out, is more accurately, "The Edinburgh Festivals" - as there are several different festivals running alongside each other.

On his first visit to The Arts Society Fylde, Mr Fisher explains that, just as much for the old hand as for the first-time visitor, the Edinburgh festivals can be overwhelming: it's August, so we can choose between the Edinburgh International Festival, the Edinburgh Festival Fringe, the Edinburgh International Book Festival, the Edinburgh Art Festival and the Royal Edinburgh Military Tattoo. Together they form the world's largest arts festival. Mark is the author of *The Edinburgh Fringe Survival Guide* (which is aimed at those who want to put on a show, rather than visitors) and is well placed to describe how this great cultural phenomenon came to be – and how to make sense of it when we arrive.

Wherever you are heading off to this Summer - Edinburgh or even further afield - we send our best wishes and hope to welcome you back for the start of the next Season for The Arts Society Fylde on 6 September.

MARK FISHER

Mark Fisher is a freelance theatre critic and feature writer based in Edinburgh; he has written about theatre since the late-1980s. He is a theatre critic for *The Guardian*, a former editor of *The List* magazine and a contributor to publications all over the world. He has run criticism workshops at schools, universities and theatres across the UK as well as giving sessions as far afield as Malta, Brazil and Chile. His online workshops have attracted participants from South Africa, Canada, Singapore, the USA, Germany, Italy, Ireland and the UK. He is the co-editor of the play anthology *Made in Scotland* (1995), and the author of *The Edinburgh Fringe Survival Guide* (2012) and *How to Write About Theatre* (2015)

(all Bloomsbury Methuen Drama). He is also editor of *The XTC Bumper Book of Fun for Boys and Girls* (2017) and *What Do You Call That Noise? An XTC Discovery Book* (2019)(Mark Fisher Ltd).



FURTHER READING

David Pollock, *The Edinburgh Festival: A Biography* (Luath Press)(a second edition, called *Doing the Festival: The Story of Edinburgh in August* is schedule for publication at the end of August 2023)

Mark Fisher chaired several discussions about the Fringe in 2012, which can be accessed here: www.edinburghfringesurvivalguide.com/audio-the-edinburgh-fringe-survival-guide-live/