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# Minnesota Fringe, Midwest's biggest performing arts fest, starts Thursday

## 150 shows at 18 venues perform over 11 days in Minneapolis

**MINNEAPOLIS** – Over 150 shows take to the stage at the fifteenth annual Minnesota Fringe Festival starting on Thurs., July 31. The Midwest's largest performing arts festival runs through Sun., Aug. 10 at 18 venues around Minneapolis.

The complete festival schedule and line-up of activities are available at [fringefestival.org](http://fringefestival.org).

"Minnesota Fringe's main goal is access," said Executive Director Robin C. Gillette. "We want to make sure as many people as possible participate in the festival as artists, volunteers and audience members. So we keep the artist's application fees low and the audience's ticket prices low so the only risks taken are artistic ones."

Single tickets are \$12, a price that hasn't increased in four years. In addition, Fringers can purchase an unlimited-admission Ultra Pass (\$150) or five-show punch cards (\$50). New this year is a 10-show punch card for \$90, a discount of \$3 per show. A \$3 festival admission button is required for entry for most people. Advance ticket information is available at [fringefestival.org](http://fringefestival.org).

Fringe venues are concentrated in three Minneapolis neighborhoods: Uptown, West Bank and North Loop-Northeast. There is a 30-minute break between performance times; the goal is to make transportation between venues in each neighborhood possible by foot, bike, Metro Transit or car possible in that time.

Minnesota Fringe is also providing a central gathering spot for Fringe-goers and artists at Fringe Central sponsored by Summit Brewing. Located at Bedlam Theatre on the West Bank, Fringe Central is a hub for anyone involved in the festival. Featuring a full restaurant with beer and wine bar, Fringe Central will also host most of the festival's special events, including a kids' ice-cream social and an opening party on Sat., Aug. 2.

"This is a fantastic way to celebrate our 15th year. Fringe is all about openness, and we've been making great strides toward making Fringe a friendly, outstanding event for anyone who wants to come play," said Gillette. "All of us are very excited about what promises to be a terrific festival."

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**ABOUT THE FRINGE:** Minnesota Fringe is an 11-day annual performing arts festival. This year, 156 shows are presented at 18 venues throughout Minneapolis from Thurs., July 31 through Sun., Aug. 10.