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Minnesota Fringe begins Aug. 5

169 shows, 19 venues lined up for this year's performing arts festival

MINNEAPOLIS — Minnesota Fringe Festival launched its festival schedule and ticket sales for this year's lineup of 169 shows at 19 venues in Minneapolis-St. Paul. The Midwest's largest performing arts festival gets underway Thurs., Aug. 5 through Sun., Aug. 15.

This year—the festival's 17th—about 1,000 participating performing artists participate in shows ranging from comedy to dance, from kids' theater to experimental performance art. Fringe staff expects to issue more than 50,000 tickets to the 11-day festival.

"I'm super excited about this year's lineup," said executive director Robin C. Gillette. "The range of shows this year really reflects the diversity of the artists who live here and who love coming to Minnesota to perform."

Tickets

Individual adult tickets are \$12 plus a required one-time purchase of a festival admission button (\$4). Tickets for kids 12 and under are \$5 and do not require a button. Discounts and multiple-show passes are also for sale.

Schedule

All shows in the festival run 60 minutes or less.

The full schedule is available at fringefestival.org. A printable show catalog and schedule grids are available as downloads. A mobile version of the site optimized for smart phones and other handheld devices, fringefestival.mobi, will launch July 20.

Show times are at 5:30, 7, 8:30 and 10 p.m. daily. Saturday and Sunday matinees are at 1, 2:30 and 4 p.m. An 4 p.m. matinee is scheduled for Fri., Aug. 13 and there is no 10 p.m. performance on Sun., Aug. 15.

The final performances of the festival—8:30 p.m. on Sun., Aug. 15—are reserved for Fringe Encore. Encore slots are awarded to each venue's top-selling show, announced on Sat., Aug. 14.

About Minnesota Fringe

Fringe is strictly non-juried, so shows are not reviewed or selected in advance. Instead, a lottery of applicants is held in February to determine participating companies. For the 2010 festival, nearly 400 applications were received for the available slots. Applications for the 2011 Minnesota Fringe are available in November and due to the festival office on Mon., Jan. 31, 2011.