



PART OF

PLAY
TO THE
CROWD

Hat Fair 2020 (Friday 3 – Sunday 5 July)

Information for Touring Artists

Thank you very much for your interest in Hat Fair.

Before you send us any proposals for touring work, please read the following information to see if your work is a match for our festival.

We are interested in hearing from touring artists who can bring work to Hat Fair that enriches our year-round relationships with Winchester and our charity values of delighting and uniting audiences.

What we do:

Hat Fair is the longest running outdoor arts festival in the UK, named after the tradition of putting money in the hat at the end of the performance. On average 60,000 people visit the festival over three days.

Running since 1974, we are a 3 day festival which spreads across the historic city of Winchester during the first weekend in July.

Hat Fair is part of Play to the Crowd, an arts and educational charity based at Theatre Royal Winchester. We are a member of the Without Walls Consortium, and funded by Arts Council England, donations, sponsorship partners, and local authorities.

We showcase four streams of work:

“Hatters”/Buskers - These are unpaid professional international street performers, who are given a contribution to travel and put up for the duration of the festival. 100% of the money collected in the 'hat' is kept by the performers. There is a separate information sheet available for hatters.

Performances - These are professional outdoor and site specific touring works which are contracted with agreed fees and commissioned by the Hat Fair Director. Collections made after each show go towards the ongoing costs of the festival.

Fillers - These are works that are in situ all day for people to participate/engage with, who pay a small fee and in return can charge the public a nominal participation charge.

Local programme - This covers all our engagement work; performers who are local to the area who would like to participate, student and emerging artists, work with older people and younger people and the opening Carnival.

What to expect with bringing a touring performance to Hat Fair:

- Accommodation allocated per artist from the night before the first performance until the night of the last performance (depending on show timings and travel arrangements) in the Artist Village which is located at the University of Winchester; a ten minute walk from the city centre.

- Full listing in the festival brochure and website as well as the organisation's social media accounts.
- Catering is provided on active festival days only (Fri-Sun) as follows: Light breakfast provisions supplied in the accommodation, a packed lunch and a hot meal in the evening. Refreshments of water, teas and coffee plus snacks are provided throughout the day.
- As we often move our green room site each year, details of dressing room, warm up spaces and accessible facilities are confirmed nearer the event.
- Certificate of sponsorships can be provided for those artists from outside the EU. The festival will also advise and support any artists with questions, actions required and any impact that the UK's withdrawal from the EU may have on their participation in the festival.
- All visas are the sole responsibility of the artist/company.
- Artists are to appear in all weather conditions unless this proves to be a hazard to either the artist or the audience. As part of our Wet Weather Plans, the festival will always do its best to relocate some of the scheduled performances.
- We do require all our performers to have produced current risk assessments and public liability insurance documents prior to the event. **This is a condition of any offer to perform at Hat Fair.**

To express interest in performing at Hat Fair:

Normally, touring work is only invited to be part of the festival if the Hat Fair Director has seen the work in person.

Initial expression of interest can be made via the link on our website and should contain the following info:

- Contact details
- Brief description of your show
- Video and/or website link.
- Tour pack (if available) including technical specification and proposed costs.
- Details of any forthcoming tour dates.

For Touring Performances we hope to be able to provide you with a suitable performance space for your work and are happy to facilitate site visits and share information of sites so as to make this possible. However please remember, Winchester is a historic town with very few perfect, flat areas, with some on grass and some on an incline. Below is a list of some of the typical show sites with pictures and gradients on which we programme performances.

Anything more than basic technical support that is required from us should be communicated by way of a tech spec in initial discussions, however a comprehensive Artist Advance Form is also sent out to companies on confirmation of inclusion in the festival.

Friday and Saturday at Hat Fair:

On Friday and Saturday the festival's regular performance spaces are located in the city centre of Winchester in and around the civic and retail areas.

Cathedral Outer 1 - area in front of the cathedral which is relatively flat and has a hard surface. This is not to be considered a definite option every year due to events which may be occurring within the Cathedral.



Cathedral Outer 2 - This a flat pitch on grass in the main Cathedral grounds.



Cathedral Outer 3 - Situated in the main Cathedral grounds this pitch is on grass with a slight slope.



Cathedral Inner Close (Cloister Garth) - A flat grassed area alongside the cathedral with good footfall but slightly less hustle and bustle. Power supply available.



Chapter House Lawn - This is a flat, grass surface, accessible through an arch as pictured. Power supply available.



Pilgrim School Lawn (Mirabel) - Accessible through an arch, This is a flat, grassed surface, along from Cloister Garth with good footfall but again, away from the busier, noisier areas...generator required for power.



The Square - This is a relatively flat, paved surface as it is a closed section of road in the city centre.



High Street 1 - This is a popular hating pitch; situated on the High Street, it does have an incline to it so is not a flat surface although it is paved.



The Broadway - This pitch is flat but there is a camber to the road each side.



Abbey Gardens - This is a flat grass pitch located in the park. The actual spot that hosts the pitch will depend on any fixed installations in the programme i.e. not necessarily as depicted





Off Broadway (Bus Station) - Situated behind the bus station this is flat concrete and gravel car park (flooring in picture provided by the company).



Sunday at Hat Fair:

On Sunday, all Hat Fair activity is on grass and occurs at a large, flat green space called North Walls Recreation Ground.

Essentially this is a large park. Food stalls are situated around the edges and performance sites are placed within the area at a suitable distance from each other.

All performance sites are on grass, and all are flat, without shade/cover. All sites have great audience support.

It is important you consider these possible restrictions before agreeing to perform on the Sunday of the festival.

North Walls Recreation Ground - Example of a grass pitch site.



Hat Fair – core team:

Hat Fair is part of Play to the Crowd, an Arts and Education Charity. The core year-round Hat Fair festival team is:

Hat Fair Director – Andrew Loretto

Hat Fair Co-ordinator – Rose Slade

Engagement Producer – Kat Henderson

Further information:

If you have any queries about bringing touring performance work to Hat Fair then please don't hesitate to contact:

Andrew Loretto, Hat Fair Director

E: andrew@playtothecrowd.co.uk

Visit our website for more information hatfair.co.uk

Photos: Adrienne Photography