

PLEASANCE PATRONS

CHAMPIONING THE ARTISTS OF TOMORROW



CHAMPIONING THE ARTISTS OF TOMORROW

The Pleasance Theatre Trust is a charity – registered in both Scotland and England & Wales. Pleasance Futures is the artist development strand of the Pleasance Theatre Trust, acting as an incubator for bold new theatre makers and comedians to make their mark and inspiring the next generation through our youth participation and school development initiatives.

Our Ethos

With an international profile and a network of alumni that reads like a Who's Who of contemporary comedy, drama and entertainment, the Pleasance is a place for the experimental and the new. It is where performers, writers, directors, technicians, producers and the rest of the artistic community can develop ideas and feel fully supported. It is one of the biggest and most highly respected theatre venues at the

Edinburgh Festival Fringe and on the London Fringe circuit.

The Pleasance is both a Festival Organisation of 32 temporary venues across three sites and a London theatre and development centre in Islington, with two permanent performance spaces which operate in London year-round. The Pleasance in London and Edinburgh are entirely symbiotic, run by the same small team.

“A lot of theatres talk about encouraging new work and new talent but the Pleasance really does it.”

David Mitchell
Actor, Comedian and Writer





Molly, Squint

PLEASANCE FUTURES INITIATIVES

Pleasance Futures is the engine that drives the Pleasance Theatre Trust.

This umbrella includes a wide range of programmes and initiatives with 3 primary and intersecting aims:

- Developing new work and supporting artistic risk
- Professional and skills development for theatre-makers both on-and off-stage
- Diversifying the artists and work we work with in London and at the Edinburgh Fringe

EDINBURGH NATIONAL PARTNERSHIPS

For six years, we've worked with theatres across the UK to discover and support exceptional theatre makers on their journeys to the Fringe and beyond.

PLEASANCE KIDZONE

The only venue with a dedicated children's area. Introducing children, of all ages, to the joy of live entertainment. Helping to build a life long love of theatre.

ASSOCIATE ARTISTS

Over a two year period, our Associate Artists are provided with bespoke support and mentoring in London, as well as the chance to co-curate our bi-annual Futures Festival.

THE CHARLIE HARTILL FUND

Our flagship Fringe fund offers unique and unparalleled support (up to £30,000) to early-career artists, Global majority artists and comedians.

EDINBURGH SCHOOLS INITIATIVE

We provide free tickets and transport for local primary schools, that otherwise couldn't afford to come. Allowing their students to experience some of the best and most exciting shows on the Fringe.

WORK IN PROGRESS

We strive to support artists and comedians year-round in London, to create authentic and boundary-pushing work, including our bi-annual **Futures Festival**.

YOUNG PLEASANCE

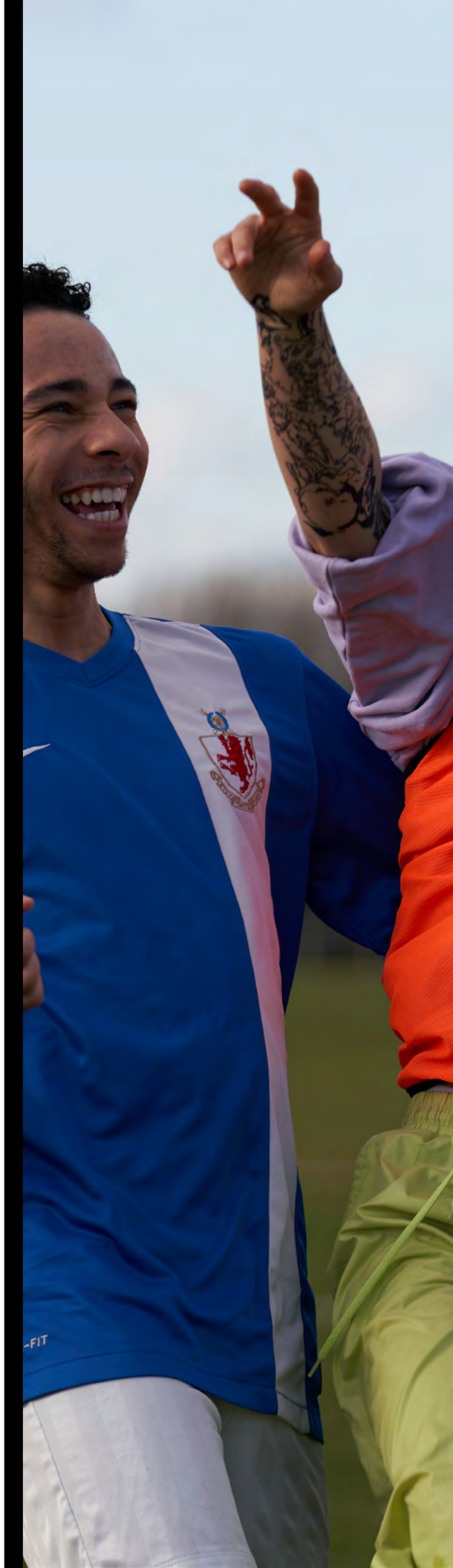
Since 1995 YP has been nurturing the talent of the future, we provide young people aged 16-21 with the opportunity to make professional work at the Fringe.

A PLEASANCE SCRATCH

We curate and host evenings of new and developing theatre in London, offering artists the chance to showcase their work.

SCHOOL LEAVERS PROGRAMME

We introduce Edinburgh school leavers to careers in the arts through skill development and work-experience during the festival.





Pitch, NOVEMBER THEATRE

THE **CHARLIE HARTILL** FUND



Our flagship Edinburgh Fringe fund offers unique and unparalleled support (up to £30,000) to early-career artists and comedians. The fund seeks to remove financial risk for companies and allow creativity to take centre stage.

The fund was established in 2004 in memory of Charlie Hartill and awards three opportunities each Edinburgh Festival Fringe:

- One for emerging comedians
- One for early-career ensemble theatre companies
- One for UK-based Black, Asian and Global Majority-led theatre shows

At a glance...

- Next year will mark our 20th year of the Charlie Hartill Theatre Fund.
- Over the last 20 years we have supported the careers of:
 - 82 Individual Comedians including Jack Whitehall, Emmy-Award Winning Brett Goldstein, Doc Brown, BAFTA-winning Joe Lycett, BAFTA-winning Daniel Rigby.
 - 28 Theatre Companies from across the UK including Olivier-Award winning Unpolished Theatre with *Flesh & Bone*.
- We have reached over 100,000 audience members through our Charlie Hartill productions.
- We saw a 20% increase in submissions for the programme in 2024 proving there is a real need for financial and mentoring support, more now than ever before.

THE PLEASANCE COMEDY RESERVE

For two decades the Comedy Reserve has supported a great number of comics by providing a unique platform at the Fringe, acting as a launch pad for some of the best acts on the circuit today. After a series of try-outs at Pleasance, four of the best up and coming comics are chosen to perform in a nightly show at Pleasance, Edinburgh Fringe, without any financial risk.

“I was 18 when I first performed at the Pleasance, six months into becoming a comedian and they gave me a breakthrough the Charlie Hartill Comedy Reserve. Without the Pleasance finding ways to bring new comic talent to Edinburgh the Fringe wouldn’t be quite the same.”

Jack Whitehall
Comedy Reserve Recipient 2007





SOPHIE DUKER 2017

Comedy Reserve Alumni

2024

Marty Gleeson, Rohan Sharma, Sam Williams & Sharon Wanjohi

2023

Abby Wambaugh, Ele McKenzie, Jin Hao Li, Kyrah Gray, Micah Hall, Shalaka Kurup, Vlad Ilich & Will Robbins

2022

Abi Clarke, Dee Allum, Katie Green & Tadiwa Mahlunge

2019

Josh Jones, Lily Phillips, Mamoun Elagab & Mo Omar

2018

Helen Bauer, Jack Gleadow, Michael Odewale & Chloe Petts

2017

Catherine Bohart, Danny Clives, Sophie Duker & Nigel Ng

2016

Alasdair Beckett-King, Jack Carroll, Kae Kurd, Tom Lucy, Darren Harriott, George Lewis, Yuriko Kotani & Michael Stranney

2015

Malcolm Head, Tom Little, Jamali Maddix & Joe Sutherland

2014

Chris Betts, Evelyn Mok, Phil Jerrod & Brennan Reece

2013

Jack Barry, John Hastings, Tez Ilyas & Tom Toal

2012

Suzy Bennett, John Kearns, Matt Rees & Chris Turner

2011

Luke Benson, Jim Campbell, Julian Dean & Joe Lycett

2010

Tom Goodliffe, Rhys James, Mark Restuccia & Daniel Simonsen

2009

Doc Brown, Pat Burtcher, Jared Hardy & Chris Stokes

2008

Daniel Rigby, Gareth Richards, Lou Sanders & Holly Walsh

2007

Benny Boot, Brett Goldstein, Jack Whitehall & Tommi Walamies

2006

Marlon Davis, Pippa Evans, Michael Fabbri & Stuart Hudson

2005

Lee Bannard, Simon Brodtkin, Roisin Conaty & Oliver Maltman

EARLY ENSEMBLE FUND

Each year the Charlie Hartill Fund provides one early-career theatre company with the rare and extraordinary opportunity to present a fully produced ensemble performance at the Edinburgh Festival Fringe. The Charlie Hartill Fund also provides financing, mentorship and programming opportunities to support UK-based Black, Asian and Global Majority artists in bringing an existing show to the Edinburgh Festival Fringe.

The Charlie Hartill Fund offers £10,000 to one early-career theatre company and £5,000 each to two UK-based Black, Asian and Global Majority-led productions towards bringing work to the Fringe.

This also includes:

- A guaranteed slot in our Edinburgh programme at Pleasance and programming option in our London transfer run.
- Assistance with accommodation and Travel
- Edinburgh Fringe Registration and brochure fees
- PR and marketing support
- Mentorship
- Rehearsal, development, sharing and workspace
- Support to develop and deliver accessible performances

“We couldn’t be doing it without the Charlie Hartill award and the support of the Pleasance. Their cash support, advice, and esteem means we can share Sweet Beef’s glitzy and wild style.”

Sweet Beef Theatre
Early Ensemble Strand Recipient 2024



Bible John, THESE GIRLS

Charlie Hartill Alumni

2024
Crying Shame
Sweet Beef
For the Love of Spam
Sierra Sevilla
Duck
maatin

2023
PITCH
November Theatre
PUBLIC - The Musical
Stroud & Notes
Unforgettable Girl
Elisabeth Gunawan & Created a Monster
Santi & Naz
The Themlas

2022
Rapsody
Vision Production Company
Block'd Off
Kieton Saunders-Browne
Made in India Britain
Rinkoo Barpaga

2020/21
Screen 9
Piccolo Theatre
Patricia Gets Ready
(for a date with
the man who used to hit her)
Martha Watson
Allpress / BOYS
The Pappy Show

2019
Bible John
Caitlin McEwan
A Womb of One's Own
Wonderbox

2018
Freeman
Strictly Arts

2017
Flesh and Bone
Unpolished Theatre (Elliot Warren)

2016
We Are Ian
In Bed With My Brother

2015
Molly
Squint

2014
Lorraine & Alan
Bucket Club

2013
Outside on the Street
Invertigo (Pappa Essiedu)

2012
Don Quixote! Don Quixote!
Panta Rei Theatre Collective

2011
Fit for Purpose
Catherine O'Shea /
Concorde Theatre Company

2009
A Stroke of Genius
PIT (David Bryne)

2007
Greedy Scratchers
Richard Marsh

2006
The Same ... But Different
Jacob Tindle

2005
Minor Irritations
Sam Peter Jackson



Unforgettable Girl, ELISABETH GUNAWAN

GLOBAL MAJORITY FUND

The Fund for UK-based Black, Asian and Global Majority Artists provides financing, mentorship and programming opportunities to support UK-based Global Majority artists in bringing their work to the Edinburgh Festival Fringe, to support exciting projects that would otherwise not be able to come.

Following an open call to all Global Majority Artists keen to take work to the fringe, we interviewed 10 applicants. The questions covered the opportunity to expand on their creative practice, their marketing plans and timelines and any specific producer experience that they might already have.

We also use the Global Majority Fund as a way for us to initiate conversations with a range of artists that we might not have been able to reach before and we have gone on to support a range of projects in a myriad of ways such as through our Futures Fest or through offering commissioning money to build on their creative practice.

“The Fund is pivotal at the Fringe, providing crucial support to emerging and underrepresented artists. Beyond financial aid, it serves as a catalyst for creative freedom, offering mentorship from the Pleasance team and networking with industry professionals.”

For the Love of Spam
Global Majority Recipient 2024

EDINBURGH NATIONAL PARTNERSHIPS

Since 2021, this highly successful programme works with partner theatres across the UK and Northern Ireland in a truly national programme to discover and support exceptional artists and companies local to them who want to take work to the Fringe. Each partner is a leading national producing house, with a commitment to supporting and developing new artists. This programme recognises the extraordinary work being created outside London and provides tangible support to these companies to present at the Fringe. Together, we hope to make a substantial contribution to develop the next generation of leading theatre-makers and companies. Our aim, to find great work, encourage new talent and support UK touring.

Shows from the ENP scheme have gone onto:

- Win Fringe First Awards
- Win the Philippa Braganca Award
- Win the David Johnson Award
- Win the Mental Health Foundation Award
- Become Popcorn Writing Award (in association with BBC Writers) Finalists
- Gone onto UK and International Tours as well as London transfers (Breathless transferred to New York City as part of the Fringe Encore Series).

“It’s brilliant to partner with an organisation like the Pleasance. The support of venues and organisations to help the very best emerging work find a platform on this amazing international stage is vital.”

Ben Atterbury

Producer, Bristol Old Vic Ferment





Svengali, Eve Nicol

— 2024 Partners —

**BRISTOL
OLD VIC
FERMENT**

CURVE

LYRIC

SHERMAN
THEATR • THEATRE

TRP | THEATRE
ROYAL
PLYMOUTH

PITLOCHRY
Festival Theatre



YOUNG PLEASANCE

Our award-winning theatre company Young Pleasance is dedicated to offering dynamic, excellent and professional theatre opportunities for aspiring creatives aged 16-21 years old.

With soaring ambition and a wellspring of youthful energy, Young Pleasance nurtures the stars of the future, offering opportunities for young people aged 16-21. Past members include Nicholas Galitzine (*Mary & George, The Idea of You*), Angus Imrie (*The Archers*), Joanna van Kampen (*The Archers*), Laurie Davidson (*Masters of the Air, Guilty Party, Cats, The Good Liar*), Angus Alderson (*One Day*) and Ella Balinska (*Charlie's Angels*).

Having staged original productions at the Edinburgh Festival Fringe since 1995, the company has established an excellent reputation with audiences and critics alike and launched the careers of many performers, writers, directors and technicians.

Pleasance subsidises each participant's roles and we also raise money for bursaries and over the last 30 years we have supported approximately 1,200 young people to come to the Edinburgh Fringe.

"It might just be the best thing a young person could do with their summer. Without Young Pleasance, I don't think I would have decided to train as an actor and without bursary support from Pleasance as well I would not have been able to take part."

Kishore Thiagarajan-Walker
YP Participant



CHILDREN'S INITIATIVES & SCHOOL LEAVERS PROGRAMME

Over the past decade Pleasance has cemented its position as the place to see the world's best children's and family-friendly shows at Edinburgh Festival Fringe, with over 50,000 tickets sold to families every year! Each year, the programme brings together adaptations of the best loved children's stories alongside brilliantly original work from exciting new artists.

The Kidzone, our dedicated family area at the heart of the Courtyard, offers a family-

friendly space for arts and crafts activities - the only venue on the Fringe that has one.

Our annual Primary School outreach initiative also takes place at the Kidzone, where over 1,200 school children and accompanying adults from some of Edinburgh's most socioeconomically disadvantaged Primary Schools are transported to the Pleasance to see a show, meet the performers and spend time in the Kidzone Art and Craft Tents.

LAUNCHPAD FOR CAREERS

The Pleasance has been the launch pad for a great many successful artists and practitioners, both on and off the stage, and maintains a network of supportive individuals. The Pleasance is a regular meeting point and market place for both artists and those in the entertainment industry.



COMEDY AT THE PLEASANCE

The Pleasance has been the launch pad for a huge number of comedy names over the years, many of whom continue to return to the Pleasance in Edinburgh and in London.

The Mighty Boosh
Jin Hao Li
Joel Dommett
Darren Harriott
Joe Wilkinson
Josh Widdicombe
Alan Davies
Tim Key
Jason Manford
Sarah Millican
Jayde Adams
Ben Miller
Katherine Ryan
Sara Pascoe
Sophie Duker
Jon Richardson
Kevin Bridges
Richard Ayoade
Alexander Armstrong
League of Gentlemen
Daniel Rigby
Sally Phillips
Sarah Keyworth
Jenny Eclair
Marc Lamarr
Graham Norton
Stewart Lee
James Acaster
Jack Whitehall
Nick Mohammed
Rebecca Front
Matt Lucas
Lolly Adefope
Robert Webb
Nina Conti
Richard Herring
Ania Magliano
Sean Lock
Matt Forde
Pippa Evans
Rob Beckett
Bob Mortimer
Micky Flanagan
Dee Allum
David O'Doherty
Caroline Aherne
Ed Byrne
Lee Mack
Phil Wang
Marcus Brigstocke
Greg Davies
John Kearns
Miranda Hart
Jo Brand
Bill Bailey
Mel Giedroyc
Caroline Quentin
Steve Coogan
Lucy Porter
Trevor Noah
Suzi Ruffell
We Are Klang
Peter Kay
Michael McIntyre
Rachel Parris
Dara Ó Briain
Paul Merton
Arthur Smith
Alex Horne
Sophie Willan
Ed Gamble
Jamie Demetriou
Brett Goldstein





PLEASANCE LONDON

The Pleasance's year-round home in London, Islington, has provided some of the leading talents in the theatrical, comedy and local community with a platform to develop work, hone their craft and grow new audiences.

The artistic programme at Pleasance London runs in parallel with Pleasance Edinburgh, with curated Comedy, Theatre and Family programmes. Pleasance London comprises three performance spaces - the Main House, the Studio and Downstairs. With capacities ranging from 54 - 200 seats, these fully flexible venues provide performing companies with excellent facilities to develop and present many productions and events.

A PLEASANCE SCRATCH

As part of reaching out to artists, we now run 3 scratch nights throughout the year included:

A Pleasance Comedy Scratch

This scratch night was set up this year for comics to try something completely different. Rather than stand-up and sketch, we ask for applications from comics who are curious about moving into a more theatrical space.

A Pleasance Scratch Night

Due to the demand we have in submissions, A Pleasance Scratch runs across two nights in our main house space. Artists present brave, new work at the early stages of development that has yet to see an audience.

We also run a staff scratch night for members of our box office, bar and front of house teams, providing them a space to try out new material on our main house stage.

"A Pleasance Scratch is an opportunity for you to have the first glimpse at what these talented theatre makers are creating next."

- A Pleasance Staff Scratch



I Hate It Here, SWEET BEEF

FUTURES FESTIVAL

We run this twice yearly in May and December, allowing Associate Artists to curate their own mini festivals around a theme of their choice. We provide them with the transformative tools to take their work and craft to the next level.

Crucially, Futures Festival gave the selected performing artists a vital opportunity to bring their work to life and gain valuable feedback from audience and industry specialists at a crucial time in their work's development.

We would like to continue to grow Futures Festival through 2023-25, embedding and developing this strand of work into the ecology of Fringe Theatre whilst also creating a pathway of new work directly into our London and Edinburgh programmes.

Futures Fest Stats

- Over 100 artists applied for the Pleasance Futures Festival in 2023.
- 100% said that performing their work in front of a live audience was extremely beneficial.
- 90% said that forming a relationship with the Pleasance was extremely useful to their development.
- 90% said that meeting with the Guest Curators (the Associate Artists) was extremely useful.
- 100% said they would engage with the Pleasance and Pleasance Futures through future initiatives whilst 90% said they would definitely attend a show at the Pleasance in the future.
- There is a hunger from artists for this significant opportunity, with 100% of artists involved saying they're definitely likely to be involved in a future Futures Festival.

"Futures Fest provides us with a dream space to present the wildest ideas and share them with our loved community."

Ghost & John
Futures Fest Participant 2023



Giselle: REMIX, JACK SEARS

ASSOCIATE ARTISTS

Our Associate Artists programme offers bespoke, practical support to theatre artists, companies, creatives and writers.

Over 2 years our Associate Artists benefit from being part of one of London and Edinburgh's most exciting theatres, renowned for its mission for providing a platform for the talent of the future.

Associate Artists Alumni include: ShayShay, Katie Arnstein, Jack Sears, Lagahoo Productions, Part of the Main, Lauren Silver, Nouveau Riche, Spies Like Us, Bric a Brac, Burnt Lemon, Paula Varjack, Ginger Johnson, Figs in Wigs, W I L D C A R D, Silent Faces, Fran Bushe, Kat Woods, Wound Up.

We receive roughly 130 submissions for this programme every year, picking 6 artists that we work with on a bi-annual basis. As part of the programme, we offer:

- 100% subsidised rehearsal space
- Work and meeting spaces
- Practical mentoring
- Programming and curating opportunities through our Futures Festival

“Futures Festival was an amazing opportunity for us to network with and introduce ourselves to loads of Queer Artists in London through the Open Call. Programming work alongside our own, made us more aware of the queer theatre landscape and has led to creative collaborations between Sweet Beef & other artists and companies.”

Sweet Beef
Associate Artists 2023-25



SUPPORT PLEASANCE FUTURES BECOME A PATRON

Support from our patrons is vital. Our patrons directly support Pleasance Futures, which is at the heart of everything we do, as a charitable organisation that receives no regular public subsidy.

With your backing as a Pleasance patron, we can continue to mentor creative work and career paths that, without your support, might never come to light.

Presenting work at the festival is challenging, in order to continue this support, we need to raise £200,000 each year.

[Please join our Patrons scheme](#)

The Pleasance Would like to thank all of those that support us, in particular our Current Patrons :
Ellie and Duncan Mackinon, Claire and Anthony Tait, Valerie and David Lindsay Ali and George Grant,
Claire and Mark Bailey, Tor and David Crawley & Kirsty and Andrew Desson