

The night before – final checklist

So, you're off to the Fringe tomorrow – ermahgerdexciting! Here's a list of what you need, to make sure you don't have to buy a bunch of stuff as soon as you get there. Some of this is really obvious, but y'know, peace of mind.

- Props** – if you're in a group, be sure to share them out between your fellow performers, or it'll be a nightmare. Make a list of who has what. Bring the list. Also have a list of any props you need to source in Edinburgh.

- Train / Bus / Plane tickets** – print off any e-tickets and have the booking reference to hand. If you're booking a car/van, have your reservation details – and be sure to bring your *paper driver's licence*, as otherwise they may charge you extra.

- Letter of introduction** – only required if you're not permitted to work in the UK/are coming from abroad. Edinburgh is a visa-free festival, but you will need a letter from your venue explaining that you're doing a show and that the people at the border should let you in.

- Your Edinburgh address** – you will either need this for your satnav, to ask for directions or to give at the airport if you're entering from beyond the EU.

- Toiletries** – especially important stuff like contact lenses, medication, show make-up. Of course, all of the regular stuff like toothpaste is available in Edinburgh, but you don't want to be wasting time in your first few days hunting it all down. Bring a stash of plasters for sticking over/preventing blisters (Edinburgh is a city for walking).

- Clothes** – including costume, if necessary. Layers are essential – it can be cold outside and boiling inside venues. A zip-up hoodie is ideal. Be sure to bring wet weather gear: raincoat, umbrella, and waterproof shoes are a must. You can always buy them up there, but bear in mind that you want to have comfortable, worn-in shoes: Edinburgh is a place where you'll do lots of walking.

- Camera** – plus any spare batteries or memory cards.

- Notebook and a pen** - this could come in handy for jotting down show notes, keeping track of your daily to-do list, advice about what to see.

- Phone/wallet/keys** – it might sound grossly patronising, but try fumbling for your house keys after a month of destroying yourself at the Fringe and having to jump the fence.

- Cables and chargers** – phone charger, laptop charger, camera cable. Don't be that dick that forgets their iPhone charger and has to borrow everyone else's. If you're living in shared accommodation, you may want to mark yours, or it could get permanently "borrowed".

- List of shows you want to see** – you'll discover plenty of great stuff while you're up at the Fringe, but it's very helpful to have an idea of what your must-sees are before you go. Book some things too! It's important to leave space in your schedule for experimentation and discovery, but having some highlights in your calendar before you leave is a great way of guaranteeing a high-quality Fringe.

- Music** – whether you're driving up, taking the train or flying, you're going to want some music. If driving, bring CDs, because in case the iPod connection doesn't. In Edinburgh you're going to get stressed and overwhelmed. Bring music.

- Laptop** – laptops are a great anchor for the festival: you'll use it for looking up and booking shows, finding out festival news and cool events, relentlessly checking what people are saying about your show. Also YouTubeing cats.

- Business cards** – musical comedian Jay Foreman describes it perfectly when he describes Edinburgh as one big trade show. You'll be constantly networking, so pack your good old-fashioned business cards and remember to take them with you everywhere.

- Posters and flyers** – some people get their printing done in Edinburgh and pick it up there. But if you're bringing yours with you, make sure you have them packed in a car or van, because otherwise you will have no audience.

- Scissors, stapler, sticky tape, Blu-tak, marker pens, highlighters, printer [!]** – Edinburgh has these things (Fringe Central in particular is great for cheap printing and copying), but if you have them available and have space, they can be really useful for printing and sticking on pull-quotes from reviews to your posters and flyers – and bringing them along is far cheaper than buying it all there. If you're flying, you'll want to pack the sharp stuff in the checked baggage, or have a security nightmare.