

2023 Toronto Fringe Festival Participation Policies

Issued: November 1, 2022

DEFINITIONS

- Where the terms: "Participant", "Main Admin Contact", "Artist", "Company", "Production" or "Applicant" may be used below, they are interchangeable, and refer to the individual entity who is applying to participate in the Toronto Fringe Festival and present a live performance production.

SINGLE ALLOTMENT AND ELIGIBILITY

- ®FRINGE and FRINGE FESTIVAL are registered trademarks of The Canadian Association of Fringe Festivals.
- Every application must have a company name and this name cannot be changed once the application has been received.
- The Main Admin Contact (the individual submitting the application, and whose name it is under) cannot be the Main Admin contact for a second company applying to The Festival.
- If the Main Admin Contact (considered to be the show's primary producer by the Festival) for a company is unable to continue with the production, The Festival reserves the right to remove the production from The Festival and apply the appropriate withdrawal policy.
- Companies accepted into The Toronto Fringe Festival cannot sell or transfer their spot in The Festival to another company. If a company/individual is found to be in violation of any of The Festival's application or participation policies, the company may be removed from participant status and may forfeit all or part of the participation fee at the festival's discretion.

MAIN VENUES CATEGORY

LOTTERY

- Slots in main venues are determined by a lottery draw.
- All slots will be drawn on December 13, 2022.
- Productions drawn in lottery slots are scheduled in main venues in rep with up to 8 other productions.
- Lottery slots are drawn from 95 main venue slots available, of what remains after the New Play and New Musical contest prizes are offered, community partner presentations (max 3), and CAFF touring lottery (max 6) slots are filled.
- 12 slots are set aside for productions that require over 60 minutes (up to a maximum of 90 minutes)
- All other slots have a max duration of 60 minutes. Show length should be 55min or less to fit in this slot.
- All lottery categories will be drawn 2-phase for IBPOC artists to fill the first 50% of available slots
- Slots will be drawn in each category and in each phase for the venue size tier:
 - LARGE (150+ seats, total tickets available 1050+ for 7 performances).
 - MEDIUM (80-149 seats, total tickets available 560-1043 for 7 performances).
 - SMALL (79 seats or less, total tickets available 632 or less for 8 performances)
- Applications are accepted through the 2023 Toronto Fringe Festival portal on Eventotron from November 1, 2022 until December 8, 2022, 11:59pm ET.

LOTTERY CATEGORIES

- International – Main Admin Contact’s citizenship is non-Canadian. This category does not include Canadians with dual citizenship
 - 60 minute slot
 - 90 minute slot
 - Participants from the CAFF Touring Lottery are eligible for International Category slots
 - Eligible for all venue tiers
- National – Main Admin Contact has landed immigrant status, permanent residency, or Canadian citizenship; Main Admin Contact’s permanent address is in Canada (exclusive of Ontario).
 - 60 minute slot
 - 90 minute slot
 - Participants from the CAFF Touring Lottery are eligible for National Category slots
 - Eligible for all venue tiers
- Ontario - Main Admin Contact has landed immigrant status, permanent residency, or Canadian citizenship; Main Admin Contact’s permanent address is in the province of Ontario, Canada.
 - 60 minute slot
 - 90 minute slot
 - Participants from the CAFF Touring Lottery are eligible for Ontario Category slots
 - Eligible for all venue tiers
- Dance – Dance/physical movement must be the primary method of storytelling for the show; max duration 60 minutes.
 - Eligible for all venue tiers, but Small Venues may not be suitable for most conventional dance productions
- Senior – The main admin contact must be 60+ years old, or the show must feature work specifically created by adults that are 60+ years old. At least 50% of the company (i.e. cast, creative team, key producing roles) must be 60+ years old; max duration 60 minutes.
 - Eligible for all venue tiers
 - Main Admin Contact has landed immigrant status, permanent residency, or Canadian citizenship; Main Admin Contact’s permanent address is in the province of Ontario, Canada.
- KidsFest – The show must feature work for children (ages 12 and under) and their families. Show duration is between 30-60 minutes.
 - Venue is pre-allotted for these slots by the Festival.
 - Single tickets may be sold at general admission price or child price (\$12 adult, \$6 ages 12 and under).
- Teen – The show must feature work specifically for and/or by youth between ages 13-18 years; max duration 60 minutes.
 - Venue is pre-allotted for these slots by the Festival
 - Main Admin Contact has landed immigrant status, permanent residency, or Canadian citizenship; Main Admin Contact’s permanent address is in the province of Ontario, Canada.
 - Single tickets may be sold at general admission price or youth price (\$12 adult, \$8 ages 13-18).

MAIN VENUES SCHEDULE

- Company must be available to load in to the venue between June 30-July 6 (mandatory for all performers and crew).
- Companies which have slots in Hamilton Fringe or Winnipeg Fringe will have final performance on last Saturday of festival (or earlier by request)
- Companies are offered a max of 7 performances, or 8 if in a venue with less than 79 seats or if in the KidsFest or Teen Category.
- All performances will be scheduled between July 5-16, 2023 inclusive. Performances are scheduled by the Festival, each company receives a variety of time slots that will run between 12pm-12am. KidsFest productions will be scheduled between 11am-5pm.

MAIN VENUE FEES

- Fee to apply to the lottery: \$10 CAD (non-refundable)
- Fee to accept slot if drawn:
 - Large Main Venue Tier - \$800 CAD
 - Medium Venue Tier - \$780 CAD
 - Small Venue Tier - \$760 CAD
 - Teen Category - \$740 CAD
 - KidsFest Category - \$700 CAD
- 50% of the full fee is due by December 22, 2022 to confirm the slot. The final 50% is due by March 31, 2023

TWO-PHASE LOTTERY DRAW

- Toronto Fringe commits to reserving at least 50% of available slots in each lottery category for participants who are Indigenous, Black, or a Person of Colour (IBPOC). The two-phase lottery draw is a measure we are implementing to strengthen equity, diversity and inclusion at the Festival.
- When we hold the 2023 Lottery, each category's draw will have two phases:
 - **PHASE ONE:** Applicants who identify as Indigenous, Black, or a Person of Colour will be entered into the draw exclusively for the first 50% of all slots in the category.
 - **PHASE TWO:** Once at least 50% of total slots are filled by IBPOC applicants, or if no more IBPOC applicants remain to draw from (whichever occurs first), the remaining slots will be drawn from all applicants in the category.
- The Main Admin Contact is considered the individual applying who must identify as IBPOC for the application to be included in the first drawing phase. We strongly encourage that applicants who select this also commit to at least half or more of their creative and performance team identifying as IBPOC as well.
- IBPOC in this instance is referring to Indigenous, Black and People of Colour in a North American context, which may include:
 - Indigenous, First Nations, Metis, Inuit peoples
 - Black or (Afro) Caribbean or African
 - East Asian
 - Latinx/a/o or Hispanic
 - Middle Eastern

- South Asian
- Pacific Islander
- Southeast Asian
- Categories which have 2 or less open slots for the lottery will be pulled from the General draw. If there are an odd number of slots in a category, the swing slot will be drawn in the first phase.
- Waitlist slots for available categories will be pulled from the General draw.

SUB-DRAW BY VENUE TIER

- All applicants will be entered into a tier lottery based on the venue size they select.
- The Festival reserves the right to change or add main venues at any time, and the number of slots available in each venue size tier. The Festival will do its best to accommodate requested venue tiers, but cannot guarantee it. A company may not switch into another venue tier once the lottery draw is complete.
- In each category's draw, in each phase, slots will be drawn for each venue tier's allotment in that category.
- Categories and/or phases which have 5 or less open slots for the lottery will be pulled from an all-tier draw, and the venue size slot will be determined by the selected company.
- Venue size tiers:
 - LARGE (150+ seats, total tickets available 1050+ for 7 performances).
 - MEDIUM (80-149 seats, total tickets available 560-1043 for 7 performances).
 - SMALL (79 seats or less, total tickets available 632 or less for 8 performances)
- KidsFest and Teen category slots are pre-allotted to a venue by the Festival. Senior, Dance categories will be pulled from an all-tier draw, and the venue size slot will be determined by the selected company.

WAITLIST

- Waitlist slots will be drawn for each lottery category from a general draw, unconditional of phase or venue size tier.
- If a slot becomes available in the category, it will be offered to the first Main Admin applicant on the waitlist. If the applicant is unable to take the slot as is due to the venue tier, they can decline the slot without forfeiting their place on the waitlist. They will remain on the list and the Festival will offer the slot to the next applicant on the waitlist.
- Applicants on the waitlist do not need to pay a participant fee deposit until they are offered a slot in the Festival.
- Applicants on the waitlist can withdraw from it at any time.
- The Festival will cease offering vacant slots to the waitlist after June 23, 2023.

UNCONVENTIONAL VENUES CATEGORY

FIRST-COME, FIRST-SERVED

- Slots are filled on first-come, first-served basis within each stream; applications are reviewed in order of submission.
- Applications are accepted through the 2023 Toronto Fringe Festival portal on Eventotron from December 5, 2022, 3pm ET until all slots are filled.

- Applications do not receive a place in the queue until they are determined to be complete and eligible. A slot is not confirmed until the Participant Fee is paid.
- There is a non-refundable application fee of \$10 CAD
- Producers must secure their own presentation venue.
- Production should be uniquely situated in and tied to the venue in a meaningful way, and demonstrate that it cannot be presented in a conventional/traditional (main) venue.
- Applications remain open until all available slots are filled.
- A Main Admin Contact can apply once in both the Main Venue and Unconventional Venue category, but may only accept one slot in the festival.
- More than one application with the same venue/site will not be accepted.
- Productions are being accepted to the Festival based on a submitted written proposal. The Festival must approve any proposed changes to the venue, the schedule or use of venue itself. The Festival reserves the right to remove an Unconventional Venue Category participant from the Festival if the proposal no longer meets the necessary requirements for acceptance.

CATEGORY STREAMS IN UNCONVENTIONAL VENUES

PHYSICAL VENUES

- The performance starts at a geographically specific location, audiences attend the performance in-person.
- Companies apply with a venue; the festival does not intervene in the occupancy agreement.
- The venue cannot be a conventional theatre facility (such as any venue in our Main Venue Category).
- The venue must be in the geographical limits of the City of Toronto, and accessible by TTC. Note that the City of Toronto does not offer permits to be able to sell tickets for events performed in city-run parks unless the event zone is entirely enclosed, or certain conditions are met. The company will be required to demonstrate valid permission/approval to gain access to the site for the application to be considered complete. The company will be required to provide proof of rental agreements, permits or other required records to the Festival by April 7, 2023
- The venue must be safe to the general public and meet Toronto Fringe requirements for physical accessibility for patrons.
 - Meet physical accessibility requirements to allow persons using an average-sized mobility device to access all areas of venue designated for patrons (entrance, passageways, performance space, restroom, etc.). This includes providing ramps, lifts, or elevators where level access is not available and ensuring that all passageways (doorways, hallways, etc.) have a clear width of at least 32 inches.
 - Offer an accessible restroom where restrooms will be expected to be available (i.e. any indoor spaces) either within or in-proximity to the venue.
 - Offer a designated accessible seating area.
- The space should be integral to the success of the work.
- Seating capacity per performance is capped at 250.

NON-PHYSICAL VENUES

- Audiences attend the performance remotely from where they are via an electronic or telecommunication device (computer, telephone, virtual reality headset).

- The application must meet Toronto Fringe requirements for safety and accessibility, including but not limited to:
 - Offer both visual and audible wayfinding cues or user options, e.g. closed captioning or visible text for audible-only information, compatibility with screen-reader technology or integrated audio cues for visible-only information.
 - Ensure the privacy and personal information of audience members that may be required for participation is safeguarded.

UNCONVENTIONAL VENUE FEES

- Fee to apply: \$10 CAD (non-refundable)
- Deposit to accept slot if application is approved: \$500 CAD. The deposit must be paid in order to secure the spot.
- Total Participant Fee is calculated based on total ticket capacity (number of tickets per performances x number of performances). In addition to the deposit of \$500, the remainder of the fee is calculated as the total ticket capacity multiplied by 0.24. The final installment is due by February 28, 2023
- Should the capacity change between accepting the slot and the Fringe Festival dates, the Festival reserves the right to adjust the participant fee.

PRE-APPROVAL PERIOD

- Since applications require significant information about physical venues in terms of infrastructure and accessibility, the Festival offers a period to submit proposals to offer applicants feedback about their submission specifically general eligibility and whether any components may be missing, before the actual applications open.
- Submitting a proposal does not replace submitting a proper application on Eventotron.
- Pre-approval proposals will be accepted from November 1-25, 2022.

RESPONSIBILITIES OF PARTICIPANTS IN 2023 TORONTO FRINGE FESTIVAL

- Acquiring all applicable permits (permissions, visas, tax, waivers) and for the payment of all applicable taxes and fees (GST, federal tax, play rights, Equity, ACTRA, SOCAN, etc.) for the company.
- All fees and expenses related to the production, including but not limited to cast, crew, production, rehearsal, promotion and marketing, liability, licenses.
- Ensuring that any working conditions that the production will result in are in adherence with provincial and municipal bylaws and safety guidelines to prevent the spread and reduce the risk of COVID-19 infection in any members of cast or company. For company members who are a part of a professional association or union (i.e. CAEA or ACTRA), additional safety measures may be required to be met. It is the Main Admin Contact's responsibility to ensure they are aware of these and remain informed.
- Sourcing accommodation for any company member traveling from out of town.
- Providing an electronic copy of the transcript, or detailed synopsis of the show if a script does not exist, for patrons with disabilities who request communications support, as required under Ontario Legislation. In cases where an alternate format or communications support is requested but is not practicable or presents an undue burden (financial or otherwise), the participating company/artists

are required to provide a written statement to the Festival, and work in good faith with the Festival and patron(s) making the request to find a viable alternative. Failure to comply may result in a penalty fee of \$25, which will be deducted from the final box office revenue payout following the festival.

- Adhering to the accessibility standards of the Festival where applicable if offering one or more assisted performances during the festival. The standards are outlined in an additional Letter of Agreement available before the commitment deadline. Adherence will be assessed and must be approved by a Festival representative.
- Adhering to the accessibility standards of the Festival where applicable in any/all digital content submitted to the Festival for distribution. At minimum this includes providing closed captions, transcripts, and/or formatting text-based content to be compatible with screen-reader technology.

ADDITIONAL RESPONSIBILITIES OF SUCCESSFUL UNCONVENTIONAL VENUE PARTICIPANTS

In addition to the above requirements, successful participants in the UV Category are responsible for:

- Vetting and demonstrating the safety and accessibility of the venue/site for patrons meet Toronto Fringe's requirements. It is strongly encouraged to create a venue accessibility and wayfinding guide for patrons (the Festival has resources to support creating documents like this).
- All expenses and negotiated agreements with the venue/site directly, as well as obtaining any permits required with the City of Toronto, if applicable.
- Ensuring that the venue can provide a safe and accessible space to set up the venue Box Office, as well as a table, a chair, and a secure space to store a tote bin and A-Frame for Festival staff to use, and/or any other items or supplies needed for the Front of House Department.
- Ensuring that the venue/site (and said storage space for in-person events) can be accessed by Festival staff at least 90 minutes before the first show of the day.
- Providing any on-site technical support that is required to run the show.
- The applicant must propose the performance schedule as part of the application. All performances must take place between July 5-16, 2023 inclusive. The Festival reserves the right to adjust the performance of all shows in the festival as may be required. There is no minimum number of required performances. Duration of consecutive performances in one day cannot exceed 4 hours, inclusive of audience turnover time between multiple performances. It is recommended that the length of one performance not exceed 90 minutes.
- NOTE: Productions are being accepted to the Festival based on a submitted written proposal. The Festival must approve any proposed changes to the venue, the schedule or use of venue itself. The Festival reserves the right to remove Unconventional Venue Category participant from the Festival if the proposal no longer meets the necessary requirements for acceptance.

WITHDRAWAL POLICY

- Companies in either category may withdraw and receive a refund 100% of Participant Fees paid thus far until January 9, 2023. Any refunded fees are subject to a \$10 CAD admin processing fee. Application fees are non-refundable.
- Companies that are accepted into the 2023 Toronto Fringe Festival from the Main Venue Lottery that withdraw from the event after January 9, 2023 until and including April 1, 2023 can receive a 50%

refund of the participation fee. All refunded fees will be subjected to a \$10 CAD admin processing charge.

- If a main venue company withdraws from the festival after April 1, 2023, they forfeit 100% of their fees.
- In the event of a Main Venue company withdrawing at any time up until June 23, 2023, the Festival will then contact the next company on the waiting list of the specific category. Those companies on the waiting list may withdraw from the list at any time.
- Companies that are accepted into the Unconventional Venue Category that withdraw from the event after January 9, 2023 until and including March 1, 2023 can receive a 50% refund of the participation fee. All refunded fees will be subjected to a \$10 CAD admin processing charge.
- If an unconventional venue company withdraws from the festival after March 1, 2023, they forfeit 100% of their fees.

BOX OFFICE

- The Toronto Fringe operates and manages all ticketing and box office requirements, and by applying to the Festival, the participants agree to abide by the ticketing and box office policies of the Toronto Fringe.
- All tickets are sold as general admission. Ticket prices, discount rates, and services fees are set at the discretion of the Festival. Single adult ticket price \$12 CAD.
- Participants are entitled to receive 100% of the ticket price set by the Toronto Fringe Festival and are responsible for remitting any HST or applicable taxes on that revenue.
- The Toronto Fringe collects all moneys on your behalf, and distributes reconciled revenue payments up to 5 weeks following the festival close. It is the Participant's responsibility to ensure all payment detail requested by the Festival is submitted on time, is correct and is complete, otherwise the Festival may be delayed in revenue disbursement.

CODE OF CONDUCT

- The Main Admin Contact and full company agrees to adhere to the laws of Ontario, the policies, procedures and safety guidelines as set forth by The Toronto Fringe Festival as well as act in the best interest of The Festival at all times. The Festival reserves the right to remove any company or cancel any/all performances of a company that does not abide by the policies of The Festival, and/or for behaviour that The Festival deems intolerable and in violation of its code of conduct towards staff or volunteers, other companies or artists, or patrons, with no requirement to return any fees paid, and The Festival will not be liable for any loss of revenue or expenses incurred.
- The Main Admin Contact and full company agree to:
 - Act with integrity and honesty
 - Not participate in or condone any activities that may be considered unethical or illegal
 - Maintain positive, respectful relationships with fellow community members
 - Maintain the Festival as a safe space by not participating in or condoning any activities that may put patrons, volunteers, staff or the public at risk
 - Maintain the Festival as a welcoming place for all people in our community by refraining from participating in or condoning activities that may be bullying or non-consensual
 - Respect and uphold all policies for use of venues and Festival sites, such as the patio

- The Main Admin Contact is required to ensure they and the full company have read and understand all of the public policies issued by the Festival

COVID-19 POLICIES

- The Main Admin Contact is responsible for ensuring all company members meet any and all COVID-19 vaccination and testing requirements needed to travel to Toronto.
- Under section 4.D of Toronto Fringe's COVID-19 Vaccination Policy, participants in the Fringe Festival are considered a third-party attending any Toronto Fringe premises. As of October 24, 2022 the COVID-19 vaccination policy is suspended until further notice.
- The Festival will set health and safety policies for staff, volunteers, patrons and participants at its discretion, which may include but not be exclusive to indoor masking requirements, health screening, physical distancing, etc.

FESTIVAL PROVISIONS

The Toronto Fringe provides:

- Main performance venues and technical staff (we do not enter into any agreements with unconventional venues, nor do we provide any technical staff)
- All front-line operations and patron engagement including Front of House staff, Box Office staff, Volunteer staff, security, ticketing system, as well as festival-wide marketing and promotion
- A listing for each production in the printed program guide, as well as on the Toronto Fringe website
- Collection and management of all ticketing revenue, which is reconciled and distributed within 5 weeks following the festival close.
- A certificate of insurance made out for each unconventional venue containing a Cross Liability and Severability of Interest Clause (liability insurance for the Festival).

CANCELLATION POLICY

If for any reason the Toronto Fringe must cancel the scheduled dates for the 2023 festival, currently scheduled for July 5-16, 2023: If the 2023 festival is cancelled by the Toronto Fringe due to COVID restrictions before July 5, 2023 all companies still in the festival may be eligible to receive 100% of their participant fee back.

GENERAL CONDITIONS

If the Toronto Fringe Festival or participant performances are delayed, interrupted or prevented by reason of an act of nature, fire, flood, war, public disaster, strikes, labour difficulties, government enactment, regulation or order, certified illness, or any other case beyond The Festival's control, The Festival will not be liable for any loss of revenue or expenses incurred.

Please note that any photography taken by the Festival, including image stills from video content, during and in the lead up to the Festival may be used for publicity purposes through our website, social media, and documents now and in perpetuity. Consent for use of image can be withdrawn by the individual in writing to the Festival, the Festival will do its best within reason to comply.