

FREEDOM festival

WHAT TO EXPECT GUIDE

For audiences who may need to know more about Freedom Festival before they attend



FREEDOM FESTIVAL: A WHAT TO EXPECT GUIDE

Hello! We are Freedom Festival Arts Trust, and we make events such as Freedom Festival and The Awakening happen.

This guide is going to explain what you can expect at Freedom Festival this year. We know for some audiences with additional access needs that knowing more about our shows can help you prepare for your visit. A **What To Expect Guide** will tell you what the Festival will be like as an audience member, so you can decide when to visit and what you would like to see. This guide is to be used alongside our **Festival Guide**. You will also find an Access Page on the Freedom Festival website, which covers accessible toilets and parking.



If you need any further information or have any questions, we want to hear from you. Email access@freedomfestival.co.uk or call 01482 214036 and ask to speak to someone about access.



FREEDOM festival

What is Freedom Festival?

Freedom Festival is an arts festival, which means for five days there are lots of events happening indoors and outdoors, including circus performers, music, exhibitions and dance.



Zebedee's Yard



Princes Dock Street



Trinity Square and Market


Where is Freedom Festival?

There will be events across the city centre for the whole Festival. We've listed three locations on this page where multiple events will be happening, particularly at the weekend.



What will it be like on the day?

Most of Freedom Festival happens outdoors in public spaces. This means you can watch a show and leave at any time if you need to. There is no pressure to stay for the whole show if you can't do so, and you're welcome to leave and come back at any of our outdoor shows.

- Freedom Festival is a busy event, so there will be crowds, like at a concert or a sports event. It won't get too loud, but it may be noisier at certain shows!
- At most shows, at any time, you can move around if you need to, and you can ask questions.
- Shows with a speaker icon next to it, like this one,  means you can make noise at any time.
- If you need a break, **Gig Buddies** and **Nice Twice Club** have relaxing spaces on Princes Dock Street. These are designated chill-out spaces and their staff can help if you need more access information or help.
- Most events happen during the daytime and use natural light, but some shows will use different lighting. Any strobes or flashing will have a warning.
- Our indoor shows are all different, so we advise you check their description in the **Festival Guide**. If you need support accessing these shows, please let us know!

If you have any questions, you can ask a volunteer! They are here to help. They will wear purple t-shirts that say **Freedom Volunteer** on them.



Some shows we recommend you come and see:

We've picked these shows as they are easy to follow, fun and suitable for all ages.

Check out our **Festival Guide** for more information!



Circle

Vilk Collective and Squid Soup
Installation and music



Encore une Foix

Tripotes la Compagnie
Circus



Fast Food Megaverse
The Herd
Theatre show



HIPPOS

Zum-Zum Teatre
Dance



EXIT

Circumstances
Circus

This What To Expect Guide is
a companion to the full
Festival Guide, which you
should use alongside this
guide.



The following pages
cover what to expect at
each show at Freedom
Festival 2023. This is
designed for audiences
with additional access
needs, to support your
visit and to help you plan
what to see.



TICKETED EVENTS



INSTANT LONELINESS

Traditional indoor theatre set-up with audience in seats and performers on stage.



RÉSISTE

**CONTAINS FLASHING
LIGHTS**

The show is outdoors and has an audience capacity of over 1000. There should be room to move around.



THREE MINUTE MONOLOGUES

This show is seated indoors. There will be breaks and you can leave the space and come back as needed during these.



FAST FOOD MEGAVERSE

This show is described as a relaxed performance. A full Access Guide is available for this performance, which we can share via email!



CIRCLE

This show is more relaxed than others. The space is calm, with soft background music and gentle light. There is a dedicated relaxed performance of this piece on Friday 1st September at 1pm.



OTTO AND ASTRID'S JOINT SOLO PROJECT

**CONTAINS FLASHING
LIGHTS**

This show contains live music which can be loud, and is only suitable for audiences aged 14+.

CIRCUS

Circus shows at Freedom Festival often get busy. All circus performances are outdoors, so you can move around and use as much space as you need. It's encouraged you make noise, talk, clap and cheer. Most shows use natural lighting.



PRIMUS



UNITY

CONTAINS FLASHING LIGHTS



EXIT



REFUSE



HIPPOS

ENCORE UNE FOIS



WE AGREE TO DISAGREE

Performers interact with audience



DANCE

There are three dance shows at Freedom Festival. There is no spoken word in any of them.

EXIT is performed at Stage @ The Dock, so there will be outdoor theatre seats to watch from.

Refuse and HIPPOS are performed on Princes Dock Street. There will be people moving around on the street whilst the performances are happening - but we think these performances will make a lot of people stop and watch.

STREET PERFORMANCES

Funny Business, Parasite Circus and Variety Spectacular are all comedy shows in public spaces, so you can stand anywhere and move around. The other two shows move around the city centre. Apart from Parasite Circus, performers in all of these shows will interact with the audience!

FUNNY BUSINESS



BEAUTIFUL BONES

PARASITE CIRCUS

**CONTENT WARNING:
DARK HUMOUR**



ORCHESTRA DE LA MENAGERIE

VARIETY SPECTACULAR



MUSIC

Music at Freedom Festival takes place across three locations. Zebedee's Yard will have much more of a 'festival' feel, so you can come and go as you like, although there will be crowds coming in and out, and in the Yard itself. At Social, the Festival Club will be happening, so expect good music and a full audience. Social have outdoor areas where you can take a break anytime. The final music locations are much more relaxed. Performances by Kinetika Bloco and The Skiband will walk about in multiple locations on Saturday and Sunday. Expect moving crowds, plenty of places to stop and rest and lots of noise and colour.

INSTALLATIONS AND EXHIBITIONS

All installations and exhibitions at Freedom Festival are open spaces. You are invited into each space to ask questions and discuss. There will be times in some exhibitions when quiet is expected, but we want to remind audiences that you're encouraged to enjoy artwork in a respectful way, but most importantly in a way that works for you. We encourage talking, sharing and taking as long as you need in a space. Two artworks we want to share here are:



TOMORROW

This exhibition is a journey of hope, belief and self-determination. It touches upon stories and themes of displacement.



INVISIBLE CITIES

This installation involves sitting by yourself, inside the box pictured above, and touches upon negative emotions. We regret that this installation is **not wheelchair accessible** due to a tight space for entry to and exit from the installation.

If we have missed anything from this Guide, please get in touch. No question is too big or too small! Please check our Access Page for more information on things like wheelchair access, BSL interpretation and audio described shows.

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