

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

September 2024

Elgin Fringe Festival Celebrates 11 Years of Artistic Innovation

Downtown Elgin, IL – The Elgin Fringe Festival (EFF) returns for its eleventh year, running from Friday, September 20, through Sunday, September 29. This vibrant celebration of artistic experimentation will feature an uncurated, inclusive, and affordable experience, drawing both local and national talent to Elgin's historic downtown.



More than 80 performances will captivate audiences, showcasing dance, theater, comedy, music, magic, and other innovative art forms. Festival-goers can easily walk between venues and enjoy local dining and entertainment. The festival also includes a Visual Art Exhibition, outdoor performances for all ages, a Preview Party, an Almost-Closing Party, and a Closing Party. Festival Entry Buttons cost just \$3; performance tickets range from free to \$12. A festival pass, offering access to all events, is available for \$95. All ticket sales go directly to the artists, supporting the creative community.

Fringe Central, located at the Side Street Studio Arts (SSSA) Gallery at 15 Ziegler Ct., will serve as the festival's hub, offering ticket sales, festival buttons, and information. SSSA, the festival's producer, will host the Visual Arts Exhibition and performances in its two upstairs venues. Favorite local gathering places, including the Elgin Public House, Martini Room, and Vern's Tavern, have donated additional venues.

"We strive to create the most unique and engaging festival experience possible," said EFF Founder and Technical Director Tanner Melvin. *"Working alongside the amazing business owners, city staff, friends, and volunteers who make this festival possible is truly a privilege. Our downtown is the heart of Elgin and the heart of the Elgin Fringe Festival."*

This year's festival will feature 33 producing artists and more than 75 performers from across the United States. True to the fringe philosophy of "whatever happens...happens," all performances are uncurated and uncensored, guaranteeing a one-of-a-kind experience.

"We are thrilled to present a diverse group of artists this year, bringing fresh perspectives and innovative performances across a variety of media," added EFF Artistic Director Nick Mataragas.

The festival starts with "Next In," a special screening of six short films on Friday and Saturday, September 20 and 21, from 7-8 p.m. at Vern's Speakeasy. Audiences can vote on which films will advance to the Elgin Short Film Festival in October. This event is open to all ages and requires a \$3 Festival Entry Button for admission.

An Opening Reception for the Visual Arts Exhibition will take place on Saturday, September 21, from 6-9 p.m. at the Side Street Studio Arts Gallery. Attendees can meet 20 visual artists from the Elgin area, including Featured Artist Andrew Vo, who designed this year's EFF poster and button.

The Elgin Fringe Preview Party, scheduled for Wednesday, September 25, at Martini Room, will offer sneak peeks of performances from this year's artists. The festival will also bring back the popular Almost-Closing Party at Elgin Public House on Saturday, September 28.

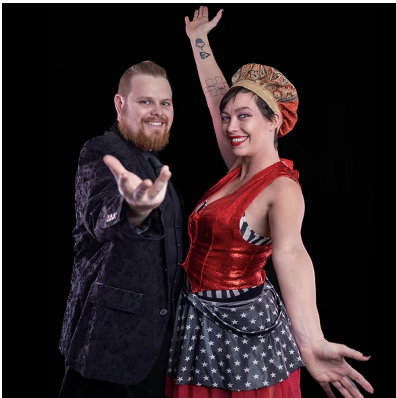
EFF Founder and Executive Director Erin Rehberg shared, *"We're excited to see engaged, enthusiastic crowds again this year. We encourage everyone to grab a program or visit our website to start planning their Fringe experience. We look forward to seeing you there!"*

The Elgin Fringe Festival is proudly affiliated with the Canadian Association of Fringe Festivals, the United States Association of Fringe Festivals, and World Fringe.

Produced by Side Street Studio Arts, the festival is supported by the Elgin Cultural Arts Commission, Elgin Public House, Grand Victoria Foundation, Illinois Arts Council, The Logan Foundation, Martini Room, Palmer Foundation, Seigle Foundation, Elgin School of Rock, and Vern's Tavern.

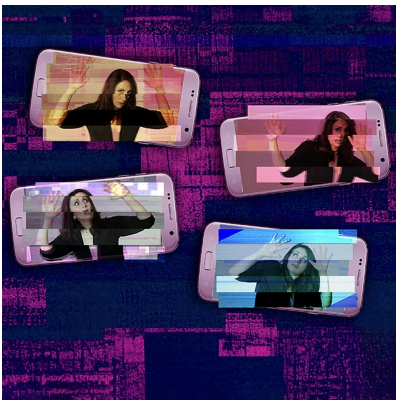
For tickets and more information, visit elginfringefestival.com

Here's a glimpse of some of the talented groups performing at the 2024 Elgin Fringe Festival:



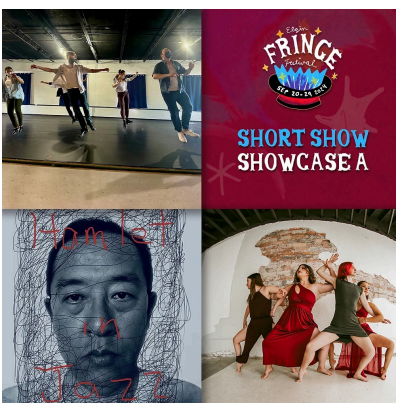
The Dinder Brothers Circus presents a thrilling performance featuring the high-flying, pain-proof princess, Claira Bell, alongside her marvelous counterpart, Magic Rob, the award-winning deaf magician. This free, all-ages show will take place at noon on Saturday, September 28 in Elgin's newly renovated DuPage Court.

[\(LINK TO PHOTO AND FULL SHOW DESCRIPTION\)](#)



Lightbringer Productions returns to the Elgin Fringe with a new production, **The Chase: A Light Bringer Story**, a solo drama that explores how choices, sacrifices, and consequences often come back around. The story follows Laila through intense high-speed chases and virtual manhunts as she races against time to uncover the identity of her cyberstalker. Don't miss one of the four performances of *The Chase* at Elgin Fringe.

[\(LINK TO PHOTO AND FULL SHOW DESCRIPTION\)](#)



Elgin Fringe's Short Showcases offer three performances for the price of one! **Short Showcase A** includes Ambo Dance Theatre's *keeping/tracking/passing*, an a-cappella tap and modern dance performance; *Hamlet in Jazz* by Makoto Yamaguchi, an improvised theatre piece blending jazz-like spontaneity with movement and vocal sounds; and Dance Uprisings' *Body Works*, featuring excerpts like *Stretch Marks*, celebrating changing bodies, and *Duality*, highlighting LGBTQ+ struggles in straight-presenting relationships. Catch one of the three performances of *Short Showcase A* during Elgin Fringe.

[\(LINK TO PHOTO AND FULL SHOW DESCRIPTION\)](#)



In '**Memories In Motion**,' a multidisciplinary one-woman show, past recollections swirl, and identities shift like colors in a kaleidoscope. Through dance, spoken word, and visual art, the performer navigates themes of self-doubt and identity, inviting audiences into a fragmented yet vibrant exploration of the human psyche and its kaleidoscopic nature.

[\(LINK TO PHOTO AND FULL SHOW DESCRIPTION\)](#)