

EdWinterFest comprises of Edinburgh's Christmas celebrations and Edinburgh's Hogmanay Festival

Created and designed by collaborators Unique Assembly and delivered on behalf of Event Owners The City of Edinburgh Council.







Charity Partners

As part of our EdWinterFest mission to be anchored in the community, EWF joined forces with local and national charity partners with plenty of opportunities to donate and participate throughout the Edinburgh's Christmas festive celebrations and Hogmanay New Year festival.

This year directly raising funds for One City Trust, fighting inequality and inclusions within the City of Edinburgh and Simon Community Scotland reaching homelessness on the Streets.

EC once again supported Social Bite's Festival of Kindness campaign and When You Wish Upon a Star children's charity through event support as well as fundraising opportunities.

EH were also proud to work with our Concert in the Garden's Headliner's Texas in supporting Children's Hospices Across Scotland (CHAS) with a donation included in every ticket purchased for the event.

Fundraising Opportunities

Each of the main charities receive an even share of fundraising raised across both Edinburgh's Christmas & Hogmanay, while CHAS receive funds from Concert in the Gardens donations.

- 50p from each Street Party ticket
- Donations from torch and ticket sales for Torchlight Procession
- £1 from each CITG ticket
- Charity volunteers at Torchlight Procession torch distribution
- Online donations made through both edinburgh-christmas.com & edinburghshogmanay.com
- Donation points across Edinburgh's Christmas sites/bars

Customers who booked for Hogmanay cancelled events were given the opportunity to refund their full purchase (minus booking fees) or to continue to support the charities by not refunding donations.

Overall more than £15,000 was donated by visitors to both Edinburgh's Christmas and Hogmanay Festival.













@edinburghschristmas



@edinburghschristmas



@edxmas

https://edwinterfest.com/edinburgh-christmas

#EDINBURGHSCHRISTMAS

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@edinburghshogmanay

@edhogmanay



@edhogmanay



https://edwinterfest.com/hogmanay



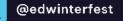




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EDINBURGH'S PRISTMAS





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#EDWINTERFEST

https://edwinterfest.com/home

EDINEURGH'S CHRISTMAS

UNIQUE assembly

Edinburgh's Christmas Light Night – photographer Andy Catlin



Core Programme - Princes Street Gardens

15 NOV - 04 JAN EAST PRINCES STREET GARDENS & MOUND PRECINCT

Traditional Christmas Market

- Festive F&B stalls with warming zones

- Seasonal Retailers offering traditional goods

Destination Funfair Rides

- LNER Big Wheel - Around the World Starflyer Ride

- Helter Skelter Slide & Bar

Festive lighting trail and garden illuminations and animation - Interactive lighting installations - Photo moments

16 NOV - 04 JAN WEST PRINCES STREET GARDENS

Festive Family Funfair

- Winter garden with family fun fair rides and games

- Warming Zone with selected market stalls and F&B

Festive lighting trail with garden illuminations

- Ross Fountain Illumination

- Winter Windows Schools Art Project

17 NOV - 08 DEC ROSS BANDSTAND (4 weekends)

Programme of community-focused, family-friendly entertainment

- Light Night Opening Concert & Silent Light Lantern Parade

- Community Events

- Charity Partner Events



Core Programme – New Town

22 NOV - 04 JAN **GEORGE ST** – Charlotte Sq to Castle St **Redesigned layout for 2024** - UNIQLO Winter Ice Rink - Spacious Boot-room - Sheltered viewing area - warming zone with café bar 22 NOV - 04 JAN **GEORGE ST** – Castle St to Frederick St **Redesigned layout for 2024** - Polar Ice Bar - Coorie Inn Warming Zone - Coorie Inn Festive Workshops, Demonstrations & Live Performances - Christmas Carousel 22 NOV – 24 DEC **CASTLE ST** – George St to Princes St Addition for 2024 - Festival of Kindness Tree and Donations Point - Supporting existing Castle Street Market Operators 23 NOV - 01 JAN **ST ANDREW SQ - SANTA'S WINTER GARDEN Enhanced attractions for 2024** - Santa Stories in the Piccolo - Santa Letter Writing Station and Post Box - Santa Village - Family Christmas Tree Maze - Covered Buggy Park





Events Programme – Assembly Hall

ASSEMBLY HALL COURTYARD – OUTDOOR PROGRAMME New for 2024

- 18 Nov Norwegian Tree Official Light-up
- 01 Dec Nativity Carol Concert & Blessing

ASSEMBLY HALL – INDOOR PROGRAMME

New for 2024

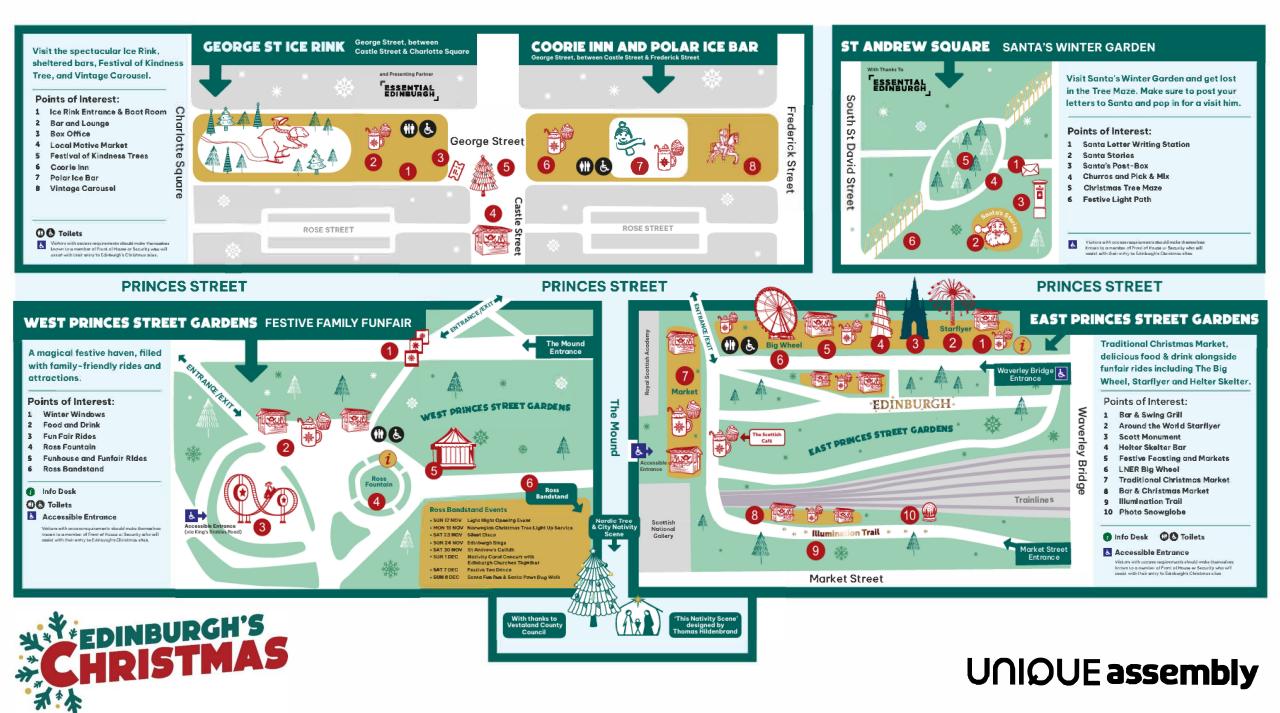
05 Dec – 04 Jan Swamplesque – Burlesque Parody
6-7 Dec Jason Byrne - No Show
15 Dec Val McDermid & Nicola Sturgeon – In the Company of Books
21-22 Dec The Bubble Show

THE MOUND – CITY INSTALLATIONS

Edinburgh's Christmas once again supported the installation of the city's Norwegian Christmas Tree and Nativity Scene, located on the Gardens area on The Mound. Support was provided both operational and through promotion, working with City Churches Together, the Norwegian Honorary Consulate General, CEC and lighting contractors Field and Lawn.

In addition, city illuminations provide a spectacular backdrop across the city skyline, helping to transform Edinburgh into a magical festive city of light.







Edinburgh's Schools & Community Initiative

- Edinburgh's Christmas supported a number of local charities through a range of fundraising initiatives
- Once again, a series of free community events at the Ross Bandstand ran over four weekends. Events included a St Andrews Day outdoor family ceilidh, Opening Light Night Concert, Silent Disco and Festive Team Dance, Edinburgh Sings Choirs Concert,
- Edinburgh's Christmas also worked with When You Wish upon a Star Children's Charity helping them deliver their annual Santa Fun Run and Walk, celebrations their 20th Anniversary with increased registration for the <u>third</u> year running.
- Thanks to the Church of Scotland and the University of Edinburgh, the annual Nativity Carol Concert & Blessing organised in collaboration with Edinburgh Churches Together supporting The Salvation Army Christmas Appeal found a new home up in Assembly Hall Courtyard, as did the annual Norwegian Tree Light Switch-on.
- Edinburgh Diwali 2024 festival of light celebrations were held prior to the Christmas celebration in 2024 and were supported by Edinburgh's Christmas providing operational and promotional support. This support enabled Edinburgh Diwali to deliver another successful event with enhanced production within budget. Once again welcoming record numbers. Edinburgh Diwali have already confirmed that they would like to continue this partnership.
- Unique Assembly worked with Poppy Scotland and British Legion Scotland to light up areas red as a mark of respect as well as providing operational support on the ground. They have confirmed their desire to work more closely going forward.
- Over **160** local community groups and charities we're engaged with through the Edinburgh's Christmas Communities Initiative, with more than **8,000** free community tickets and ride tokens distributed through the community initiative for Edinburgh's Christmas attractions (last year over 7,500 tickets were allocated to 90 local community groups and charities).
- The popular Winter Windows Schools Competition saw 24-winning artworks displayed across West Princes Street Gardens
- **NEW FOR 2024** Silent Light Projection Show saw light and projection shows across four wards two Edinburgh schools, one community centre and Sick Kids Hospital.









Facts & Stats

	2024	2023	2022
No. of Operational Days	50	51	39
OVERALL FOOTFALL	2.8M+	3M+	2.4M+
EH local tickets	101,500	100,000	82,000
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Market Traders attended	91	94	90
Local Scottish	74%	61%	58.4%
People took a spin of the Big Wheel	190,000	210,000	140,000
People heard Santa's Stories	11,000 +	11,000+	9,000+
Skaters took to the Ice	59,000	72,000	66,000
Family Funfair Rides	14	15	15
Winter Windows School Art Exhibited	24	24	12
Ross Community Events	7 (+ Edinburgh Diwali)	8 (1 cancel due to weather)	6

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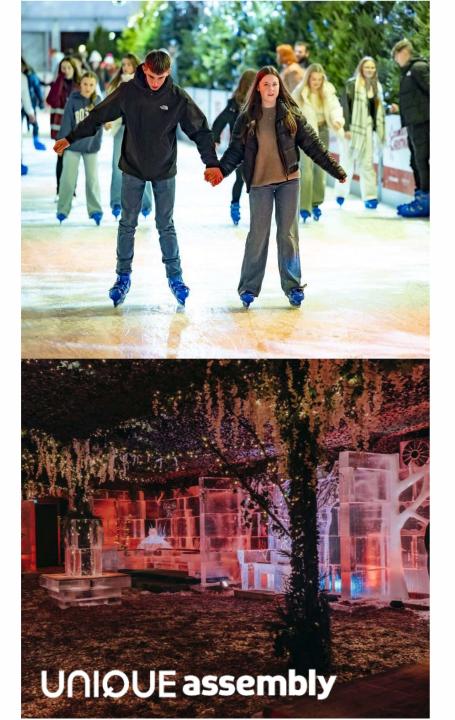


Comms - PR Stats.

Total Edinburgh Christmas coverage:

- Broadcast coverage reach: 84,614,963
- Online coverage reach: 1,894,535,667
- Number of broadcast coverage: 193 (184 UK, 9 international)
- Number of online articles: 587 (458 UK, 129 international)











EDINBURGH'S

EDINBURGH'S HOGMANAY



2024/25 Programme

SUN 29 DECTORCHLIGHT PROCESSIONThe Meadows, processing through the Old Town to Castle Terrace

 MON 30 DEC
 NIGHT AFORE DISCO PARTY - West Princes Street Gardens

 NIGHT AFORE CONCERT - Assembly Rooms

SUN 31 DECBAIRNS REVELS - Assembly Rooms, George StreetCANDLELIT CONCERT @ ST GILES' - St Giles' CathedralHOGMANAY STREET PARTY - Princes StreetCONCERT IN THE GARDENS - West Princes Street GardensNEW YEAR REVELS - Assembly Rooms 'Festival Club', George StreetMIDNIGHT MOMENT - Fireworks and illuminations from Edinburgh Castle

MON 1 JANSPROGMANAY - National Museum of Scotland / Assembly RoxySPROGMANAY FAMILY CEILIDHS - Assembly Roxy & Portobello Town HallFIRST FOOTIN' TRAIL - Various venues across the cityVITAMIN C CLUB – Portobello Town HallHOGMANAY CLUB – Leith Arches





Core Outdoor Programme

Unfortunately, the cancellation of all planned outdoor events due to extreme weather conditions both experienced and forecasted during the build periods and event dates, meant the loss of the festival outdoor programme and the inability to entertain a large part of our audience. (sales for the main programme were on target to once again sell-out).

That said city centre hostelries remained open and reported a busy evening with restaurants, pubs and clubs across the city centre welcoming visitors up to and over the Bells into 2025. Unfortunately, those with children were unable to attend these establishments due to Scottish licensing laws.

The Torchlight Procession was cancelled by CEC Gold Commander on advice from the multi-agency Silver Group working with Bronze Teams on the ground; all agencies were in agreement.

The decision was made late afternoon of the event day, due to worsening weather experienced on site and along the route, with infrastructure and debris blown over, and wax and sparks flaring from torches. At key points on the route torches unable to stay lit/be relit and therefore was deemed unsafe to go ahead.

All remaining outdoor events were cancelled by CEC Gold Commander on the afternoon of 30 December with unanimous backing of all agencies, on the advice from the Silver Group following operational updates from UAL.

Due to welfare concerns for working personnel and contractors and that of public safety over the construction process of necessary infrastructure within the timescale, as well as concerns that the structural integrity of temporary structures already built could not be guaranteed under such conditions (given the forecasted and real-time weather conditions over 30th and 31st December, notably the wind speeds), UAL were unable to build and/or secure the arenas safely.

Although forecasted wind speeds meant it was safe to fire the fireworks, the decision was made not to go ahead with the Midnight Moment due to concerns by public agencies about public safety and crowds gathering without appropriate levels of safety measures in place.

It should be noted that weather conditions were as forecasted and were unsafe throughout the build period - from 9pm on 31st (as forecasted) conditions were unpleasant but not unsafe - adverse weather returned overnight into the late morning of New Year's Day.

UNIQUE assembly



2023-24 Concert in the Gardens



Indoor Events

Despite the cancellation of all planned outdoor events due to extreme weather conditions both experienced and forecasted during the build periods and event dates, Edinburgh's Hogmanay indoor programme played to packed audiences with many ticketed events sold out and free to enter events full, welcoming an estimated audience of 26,000 + over four days.

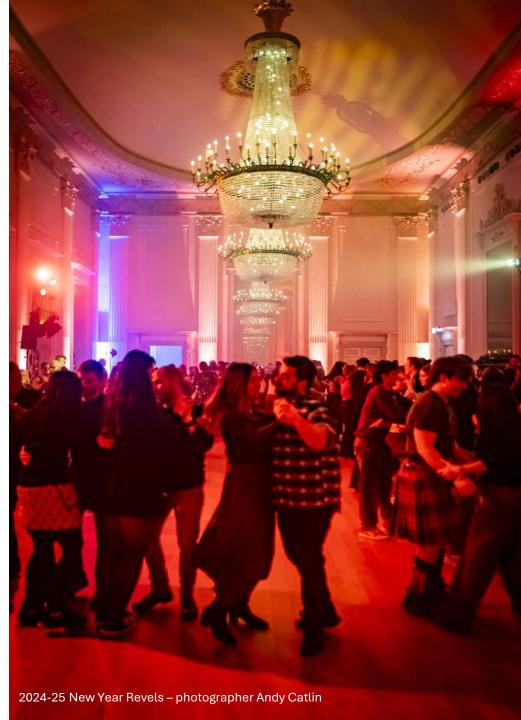
Please note on Hogmanay night Bairns Revels welcomed all ages, while NY Revels were 16+ due to licensing constraints.

Indoor Ticketed Shows to a total audience of 6,000

Night Afore Concert – Idlewild Swamplesque Hogmanay Candlelit Concert Bairns New Year Revels Family Ceilidh Hogmanay New Year Revels Maximum Ceilidh Hot Dub Time Machine (rearranged) Vitamin C Club

UNIQUE assembly

Assembly Rooms [SOLD OUT] Assembly Hall St Giles' Cathedral [SOLD OUT] Assembly Rooms [SOLD OUT] Assembly Rooms [FEW REMAINING] Assembly Hall [SOLD OUT] Portobello Town Hall Leith Arches





First Footin' Culture Trail Various city-centre venues and beyond...

First Footin' returned on New Year's Day with a packed programme of FREE live music and performance taking place in city centre attractions, pubs and venues throughout the Old & New Town areas, and introducing new outlying venues at Portobello Town Hall and Leith Arches, welcoming even more to the New Year's Day celebrations!

Presenting a feast of live music featuring artists from across Scotland and beyond, we embraced Hogmanay traditions of friendship, love, resolution and some delicious food and drink along the way.

As part of a participatory music event, *Come Away In,* renowned folk artist Karine Polwart welcomed 200 participants to join a community choir for uplifting performances on New Year's Day at St Giles.

New Year's Day welcomed visitors across the city centre with a known audience of 15,000 across the First Footin' venues [15,000 in 2024].

First Footin' is supported by: Scottish Government's Expo Fund Essential Edinburgh Cold Town House Bellfield Brewery Leith Arches





New Year's Day Sprogmanay National Museum of Scotland, Assembly Roxy, Portobello Town Hall

Free daytime programme for families and children in collaboration with the National Museum of Scotland on Chamber Street including arts and crafts, live music from the Unicorn Dance Party, a family magic show and a visit from European Street Theatre company Close Act's giant I-Puppets.

In addition, free family new year ceilidhs took place in Assembly Roxy and Portobello Town Hall offering a truly Scottish experience for families on New Year's Day both in the city and beyond.

Our **Sprogramme** programme welcomed an estimated audience of 5,500 [5,000 in 2024] with the majority enjoying the main programme in NMS.

NMS estimated over 7,000 visitors on New Year's Day with around two thirds there for Sprogmanay specifically.





Facts & Stats	2024-25	2023-24	2022-23
No. of Festival Days	4	4	3
ESTIMATED AUDIENCE FIGURES	expected102,000	100,000	65,000
Number of Official Events Torchlight Procession	expected 22,500	14 22,500	9
Street Party – Sold Out	expected 45,000	40,000	30,000
Concert in the Gardens	expected 9,000	10,000	10,000
EH local tickets (inc. in SP audience)	sold out 5,000	5,000	5,000
New Year's Day Estimated Audience	21,500	21,500	10,000
New Year's Day Venues	18 (smaller venues)	18	15
New Year's Day Artists	44 (298 performers)	38	30
Assembly Rooms Ticketed Audience	2,650	3,000	n/a
Assembly Rooms Indoor Shows	3	4	
Other Audiences various indoor events	3,250	3,000	5,000

UNIQUE assembly



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Comms - PR Stats.

Total Edinburgh Hogmanay coverage:

Pre-Cancellation Coverage

Total Articles: 4,000 Total Broadcast: 112 Online Reach: 13,430,606 Broadcast Reach: 3,614,002

Cancellation Coverage

Total Articles: 1162 Total Broadcast: 609 Online Reach: 105,500,000 *NB: Picked up by New York Times, BBC News - hence increased reach* Broadcast Reach: 13,469,158

Post-Cancellation Coverage of Events

Total Articles: 155 Total Broadcast: 96 Online Reach: 4,590,000 Broadcast Reach: 102,012,285 *N.B. Picked up by BBC Parliament repeatedly - hence increased reach*



EDINBURGH'S HOGMANAY

2024-25 Hot Dub Time Machine – photographer Cameron Brisbane



The majority of sales take place onsite using "tap and go" facilities with no data held.

However, a breakdown using pre-booked, online sales is below. This is the same method as used in previous years.

Geo Split	2024	2023	2022
Edinburgh & Lothian	37%	38%	48%
Rest of Scotland	21%	23%	26%
Rest of UK	32%	31%	20%
International	10%	8%	6%
	100%	100%	100%

EDINBURGH'S HOGMANAY

Incomplete Edinburgh's Hogmanay Geographical split this year due to sales slowing down as soon as Torchlight Procession cancelled and ultimately stopped on the afternoon of 30 December.

Last minute sales are traditionally largely local audience.

Geo Split	2024*	2023	2022
Edinburgh & Lothian	33%	23%	26%
Rest of Scotland		12%	10%
Rest of UK	36%	35%	34%
International	31%	30%	30%
	100%	100%	100%
* Sales stopped 30/12 late afternoon			





EDINBURGH'S HOGMANAY

Our annual post-events audience survey told us:

- Over 70% of visitors cited Edinburgh's Christmas as the primary reason for travelling to Edinburgh
- Over 90% of respondents were satisfied to extremely satisfied with their experience
- Over 95% agreeing that Edinburgh's Christmas is a valuable and iconic part of Edinburgh's winter identity, bringing a festive spirit to the city
- 90% said they are more likely to return to Edinburgh during the festival season because of their experience.
- Visitors stayed an average of 1.85 nights
- The average spend was £537 across eating out, attractions, retail and in bars and pubs.
- Despite the cancellation of outdoor events, a survey of attendees at Edinburgh's Hogmanay saw 71% say they were satisfied to extremely satisfied with their festival experience
- 93% agreed it is a valuable part of Edinburgh's winter identity
- 89% said the event made them feel proud to be part of Scotland's celebrations
- 90% would recommend Edinburgh's Hogmanay to friends or family.
- Visitors stayed an average of 2.25 nights
- The average spend was £958 on their stay
- 87.5% of visitors spent money on eating out, 79.5% in bars and pubs, 56% on attractions or tours, and 56% on retail.



"Hot Dub Time Machine saved the day for us!! Amazing event."

We are yearly attenders to Edinburgh for Market Shopping & Pantomime can't wait fir 2025 visit

I absolutely loved our whole 3 day stay. It was the best trip of my life and I would go back tomorrow if given the chance!

> I loved it! Will hopefully be back next year for my third time in a row!

> > It was a great experience. Our family will definitely visit again!

> > > Have a Christmas stay in Edinburgh every December

The resident discount was

a huge bonus for us.

My 3 year old nephew

loved west Princes Street

gardens

The Christmas events in Edinburgh is something truly magical which brings back the excitement of Christmas to Adults and Children alike. Well done to all those

involved.

Everything was amazing! My wife and I had a fantastic time both nights we attended.

This was the best Christmas market i have visited and I'm super excited to go again this year. Everything was beautifully setup and in easy reach. I had the best time and made magical memories. Can I also say how fantastic the community is in Edinburgh - we were made to feel so welcome :) EDINBURGH'S CHRISTMAS



We just love 👺

Good job 👍

Absolutely wonderful 👺

Wider feedback for review and to help event design for 2025 ad going forward includes disappointment around the Hogmanay outdoor events cancellation and dissatisfaction at the reduced scale of the Christmas Market and the long stretch from the gate to the top-level attractions without sufficient spread of attractions (only applicable when the one-way system is in place during peak periods).

Research into additional "weather-proofing" is currently ongoing although this comes at increased cost. UAL continue to work closely with CEC, annually reviewing all arena layouts and constantly looking at ways to mitigate potential damage to Princes Street Gardens and ensure citywide spread of festivities. Hosting a sustainable and enjoyable festive experience for audiences to Edinburgh's Winter Festivals.







Edinburgh's Christmas celebrations & Edinburgh's Hogmanay festival are created, designed and delivered by **Unique Assembly** on behalf of event owners and principal funding partner **The City of Edinburgh Council.**

Unique Assembly is a collaboration between local festival producers Unique Events and Assembly Festival.

UNIQUE ASSEMBLY SENIOR MANAGEMENT TEAM

Chairman & Artistic Director:Project Lead & Festival Director :William Burdett-CouttsPenny Dougherty

Creative & Commercial Director: Alan Thomson

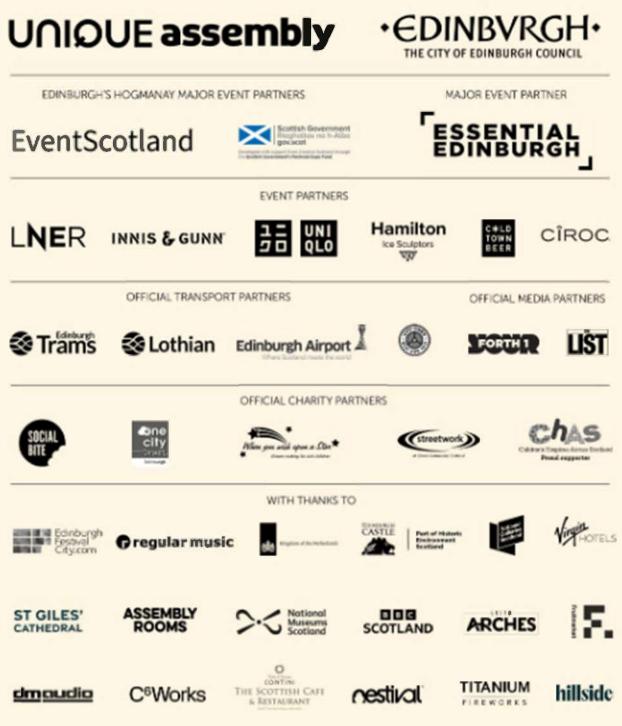
Business Director : Dani Rae Director of Operations : Nik Whybrew

The total economic impact of the Edinburgh's Winter Festivals was calculated last year at **£198M**, combining the financial impact of both Edinburgh's Christmas **£150M** and Edinburgh's Hogmanay **£48M**). This represents a return **of £244 for every £1 invested by the City of Edinburgh Council** (£812,456 towards Hogmanay), whilst making a significant contribution to the year-round health and prosperity of the city.

Edinburgh's Christmas and Edinburgh's Hogmanay are brought to you by

CREATED & PRODUCED BY

PRINCIPAL FUNDING PARTNER



With thanks to: City of Edinburgh Council, EventScotland, Scottish Government, Police Scotland, Scottish Ambulance Service and Scottish Fire & Rescue for their continued support, all funders supporters, organisations and individuals in Edinburgh and beyond, who assist in bringing together Edinburgh's winter festivals, including all at Unique Assembly, Festivals Edinburgh, Edinburgh Airport and our colleagues across the Edinburgh Festivals.