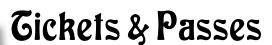


SEPTEMBER 151-10TH, 2023

Welcome, Festive One!

Elgin joined the worldwide Fringe movement in 2014 by bringing together artists and audiences of all kinds in an eclectic mix of venues in our historic downtown center. Over the past decade, we have hosted dozens of artists, hundreds of shows and thousands of guests for live performances of original theatre, dance, music, comedy, magic and the unexplained!

Our tenth straight year welcomes perennial fan favorites, new & emerging artists, and original material that offers something for everyone.



EFF show tickets are free, \$7 or \$12 each, and can be purchased online at **elginfringefestival.com** or at Fringe Central. Tickets purchased online must be picked up at Fringe Central. Tickets will not be offered at the performance venues, only at Fringe Central!

We also have a festival pass for all shows for \$95 (includes a button, see below). 100% of all the ticket revenue goes directly to the artists.

But First ... The Button!

Elgin Fringe Festival Buttons are on sale at Fringe Central for \$3. Because 100% of ticket revenues go directly to the artists, proceeds from button sales are needed to help cover the costs of producing the festival. You will need to buy a button before you can buy tickets. Having a button also gets you into FREE shows that don't require a ticket.



Located at Side Street Studio
Arts, Fringe Central is your
place to buy EFF Buttons,
purchase tickets, ask questions, view and purchase
EFF visual art, buy EFF merchandise, review shows, and more!
Come and see us at 15 Ziegler Court
during the hours listed below.
Free parking for Fringe Central
is available nearby.

All Fringe attendees MUST
VISIT FRINGE CENTRAL to pick
up tickets and buttons for show entry!
Please note that you will not be able
to enter any shows you may have purchased tickets to unless you pick up the

tickets from Fringe Central. You may purchase tickets at Fringe Central as late as 15 minutes before any given show begins.

Fringe Central Hours

Thursday, August 31	4 - 7pm
Friday, September 1	-
Sunday, September 3	11am - 4:30pm
Monday, September 4	3 - 6pm
Tuesday, September 5	3 - 6pm
Thursday, September 7	1:30 - 9:30pm
Friday, September 8	3 - 11pm
Saturday, September 9	2 - 9:30pm
Sunday, September 10	12 - 4:30pm

Buttons & tickets also available for purchase at the Preview Party, Weds, Sept 6, 5 - 7pm at Martini Room



Friday, Sept 1st

EFF Visual Art Gallery Opening 3 - 10:30pm at Fringe Central

See the work and meet the artists of the EFF Visual Art Exhibit! An official EFF button is required for entry, and buttons will be sold at the door. All ages.

2023 EFF Visual Artists

Andrew Vo • Anna Lentz

BaM! (Bruce Bachelder and Mike Rende)

Cherylyn Gnadt • Chris Block • Daniel James Burke

Danielle Piloto • David Bremer • Dream in Color

Emily Baughman • Erin Cramer • Have Camera Will Travel

Horror Floral & Freddy Lagunes • Ivette De Santiago

Janelle Rae • Jennifer Hauser • Jess Rocha

John E. French • Kathryn Fredrickson • Laurie Peters

Mal Hiraoka • Melina Scotte • Michelle Brinkley

Nicki Fortunati-Warren• Nikki Way• Rachel Balter

Sara Peak Convery • Suzanne Strom • Theresa Nollette

V Serviss • Yesenia Arroyo



The Mayfields 8:30 - 9:30pm Theater at SSSA \$12, see p. 9

MsPixy presents
"Barbilesque"
10 - 11pm
Theater at SSSA
\$12, see p. 6



Saturday, Sept 2nd

Family Fringe, 10am - 1pm at Elgin History Museum

Family Fringe is a FREE celebration of family and fun with performances, games, family resources, and more! We are thrilled to be back at the Elgin History Museum for 2023! All ages.

Side Street Art Mobile • Live painting Bounce House • Roving "Smarty Pants"

Sunday, Sept 3rd

\$12

Rachel Benzing 2:30 - 3:30pm at Theater at SSSA





Going Dutch 4 - 5:30pm at Theater at SSSA \$12, see p. 7

Wednesday, Sept 6th

2023 EFF Preview Party 5 - 7pm at Martini Room

Catch the Fringe spirit as Fringe artists give a sneak preview of their shows! EFF buttons will be on sale. Ages 21+.

3

First Weekend & Preview Party

FRIDAY, SEPT. 1st

Visual Art Gallery Opening, Free, p. 3 The Mayfields, \$12, p. 9; Barbilesque, \$12, p. 6

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AT SSSA

SATURDAY, SEPT. 2nd Family Fringe, Free, p.3 Rachel Benzing, \$12, p. 3 Preview Party, p. 3 Elgin History Museum

Ghursday, September 7th, 2023

SUNDAY, SEPT. 3rd WEDNESDAY, SEPT. 6th

Going Dutch, \$12,

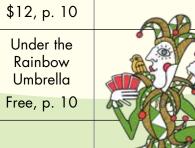
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The Light

\$12, p. 6

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	Free, p. 7 The Beast of	\$12, p. 10 Under the Rainbow		
6:00	Elgin Short Film Festival Screenings	Two Stars in the Vast Dark		



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Short Show Showcase B \$12, p. 8

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Bringer \$12, p. 9 Audacious Ignatius: They Were Ŕight Lost in Atlantis

Performing Arts Roundtak 2-4pm at Fringe Central, p. 9

Fringe Central

opens

1:30 pm

Time in a 9:00 Jacquesalope! Teacup Free, p. 10 \$12, p. 9

Hyperborea

\$12, p. 6

7:30

Night Moose Improv \$12, p. 9

I'm Not Joining the Marching Band \$12, p. 7

\$12, p. 10

Fringe Central Closes 9:30 pm

Friday September 8th 2023

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6:00	The Beast of Hyperborea \$12, p. 6	Under the Rainbow Umbrella Free, p. 10		Night Moose Improv \$12, p. 9		Big Dad Energy \$12, p. 6	Fringe Central opens 3:00 pm
7:30	Elgin Short Film Festival Free, p. 7	Two Stars in the Vast Dark \$12, p. 10	Air & Water Show \$7, p. 6	Short Show Showcase B \$12, p. 8	The Light Bringer \$12, p. 9	I'm Not Joining the Marching Band \$12, p. 7	
9:00	Time in a Teacup Free, p. 10	Texts from the Other Room \$12, p. 10	Short Show Showcase A \$12, p. 8	Couples \$7, p. 7	Audacious Ignatius: Lost in Atlantis \$12, p. 6	Comedians Who Would Bail You Out of Jail \$12, p. 6	
10:3	Heretic: The Eulogy of a Christian Expat \$12, p. 7	Theatre Kid Rehab \$12, p. 10	Haus A'Blaze Burlesque \$12, p. 6	Fringe U 1th Annual Conference \$7, p.7	Love is (Im)Perfect \$12, p. 9	They Were Right \$12, p. 10	Fringe Central closes 11:00 pm

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50%	1232	Saturo	day, Sept	ember 9t	h, 2023	3750	3516
3:00	Time in a Teacup Free, p. 10	Two Stars in the Vast Dark \$12, p. 10		Couples \$7, p. 7		5	Fringe Central opens 2:00 pm
4:30	Making Space Free, p. 9			Short Show Showcase B \$12, p. 8	Audacious Ignatius: Lost in Atlantis \$12, p. 6	I'm Not Joining the Marching Band \$12, p. 7	
6:00	Cats that I Know \$7, p. 6	Theatre Kid Rehab \$12, p. 10	Short Show Showcase A \$12, p. 8				
7:30	Heretic: The Eulogy of a Christian Expat \$12, p. 7	Under the Rainbow Umbrella Free, p. 10	Air & Water Show \$7, p. 6	Fringe U 1th Annual Conference \$7, p. 7	Love is (Im)Perfect \$12, p. 9	Ghostly Free, p. 7	
9:00	The Beast of Hyperborea \$12, p. 6	Light/weight \$7, p. 9	Haus A'Blaze Burlesque \$12, p. 6	Night Moose Improv \$12, p. 9	The Light Bringer \$12, p. 9	Big Dad Energy \$12, p. 6	Fringe Central closes 9:30 pm
10:00						Almost Closing Party!	
	558	Sunda	ay, Septe	mber 1011	n, 2023	7262	X-7-2
1:00	Cats That I Know \$7, p. 6	Theater Kid Rehab \$12, p. 10		Couples \$7, p. 7		Big Dad Energy \$12, p. 6	Fringe Central opens 12:00 pm
2:30	The Beast of Hyperborea \$12, p. 6		Air & Water Show \$7, p. 6	Fringe U 1th Annual Conf. Conference \$7, p. 7	Audacious Ignatius: Lost in Atlantis \$12, p. 6	I'm Not Joining the Marching Band \$12, p. 7	
4:00	Heretic: The Eulogy of a Christian Expat \$12, p. 7	Texts from the Other Room \$12, p. 10	Short Show Showcase A \$12, p. 8	W	The Light Bringer \$12, p. 9		Fringe Central closes 4:30 pm
5.00			Closing Party!	*			

Air & Water Show

La Groove Fatale

La Groove Fatale is back at the Elgin Fringe Festival with a modern belly dance fusion show inspired by the power and flow of air and water. These dedicated dancers have been working to bring you something spectacular! Ages 21+.



Fri 7:30, Sat 7:30, Sun 2:30 Martini Room • \$7



Audacious Ignatius: Lost In Atlantis Kylo B. Dokkor

Kyle B. Dekker

A true history storytelling show about Ignatius Donnelly, a titan of 19th Century

Minnesota politics. Today he is known as a crackpot tied to pseudoscience, pseudohistory, and Shakespeare conspiracies. A legacy Lost in Atlantis. TW: Descriptions of 19th century politics that includes racism, misogyny, and antisemitism. Ages 12+, educational and PG rated with PG-13 topics.

Thu 7:30, Fri 9:00, Sat 4:30, Sun 2:30 Vern's Tayern • \$12

Barbilesque

MsPixy Productions

It's a celebration (and send-up) of all things Barbie! Dress up and take photos at the Barbie Career Girl station! Give a thrift-store rescue barbie a makeover at our costuming tables. And enjoy some risque and ridiculous striptease interpretations of Barbie (and friends) at their best and most bizarre. Professionally costumed "burlesque barbies" will be available for raffle. Barbie dress-up encouraged — prizes will be given for best audience attire. Ages 21+.

Friday, September 1st, 10-11pm Theater at SSSA • \$12

The Beast of hyperborea

Audacity Theatre Lab/ Brad McEntire

A thrilling and humorous new one-person show, presented as a Victorian adventure tale. It concerns a fabled beast, a mysterious island and the brave team of eccentric explorers who set off to discover them both. All ages.

Thu 7:30, Fri 6:00, Sat 9:00, Sun 2:30 Theater at SSSA • \$12



Jamie Campbell

In a show about fatherhood from a guy who doesn't have any children, comedian Jamie Campbell details what it's like to approach middle-age and realize you're going to let the clock run out on the possibility of parenthood. The pop culture

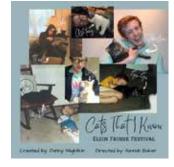
nostalgia, and humor-filled soul-searching will resonate with anyone who grew up in the 80s/90s. TW: Drug references and mild sexual innuendo. Ages 15+.

Fri 6:00, Sat 9:00, Sun 1:00 Elgin Public House • \$12

Cats Chat I Rnow

Danny Wightkin

A solo performance wherein Danny Wightkin basically shows you cat pictures for fifty minutes. To support these magnificent felines, there is a script full of jokes, a PowerPoint full of gags, and a piano full of songs. But we never move off topic, so hopefully you are a cat person! All ages.



Sat 6:00, Sun 1:00 Theater at SSSA • \$7



haus A'Blaze Burlesque

FRIDAY 9/8: Burlesque Hotline: Call on the Burlesque Hotline for whatever you're looking for, this sexy, eclectic cast of burlesque babes has a little something for everyone.

SATURDAY 9/9: Blaze's DollHaus: A burlesque show featuring a diverse cast of dancing dolls that will totally rock your Barbie World. Ages 21+

Fri 10:30, Sat 9:00 Martini Room • \$12

Comedians Who Would Bail You out of Jail

These are comics who helped the host out when I was in a tight spot and needed a few bucks. Actually they didn't bail me out of jail. Or did they ...?

TW: Rated R.

Fri 9:00 Elgin Public House • \$12



Couples

Elgin Theatre Company

A wildly funny and witty look at modern marriage, written by Sean Grennan. Dr. Sharon Mercer, a marriage counselor, runs her group sessions virtually so that the couples involved can

be more open and honest in their responses. Dr. Mercer now has given three couples the assignment of going on a "date" with their estranged partner. The outcome of this assignment will have you laughing uncontrollably! TW: Some mature adult language is present! Ages 18-100.

Fri 9:00, Sat 3:00, Sun 1:00 Elgin Art Showcase • \$7

Elgin Short Film Festival

Elgin Short Film Festival (ESFF)

Films will be shown to determine final films entered into the ESFF. All ages.

Thu 6:00, Fri 7:30
Theater at SSSA • Free



Fringe U 1th Annual Conference

Augie Morado

Fringe U 1th Annual Conference is the "oneth" (not "first") academic meeting of minds hosted by the newly minted Fringe University. Academics come to present interesting papers on little-explored topics, such as cryptozoology, NFTs, alternative medicine, and game

design. Tournament style! "Why be first when you can be oneth?" All ages.

Fri 10:30, Sat 7:30, Sun 2:30 Elgin Art Showcase • \$7

Ghostly

Ghostly Podcast

Ghostly is a podcast that debates ghost stories from around the area. Are you a believer or skeptic? Either way, Ghostly will entertain you with

spooky stories. Ghostly is free because of its wonderful sponsors: MayfieldMagic.com. TW: Death. All ages.

Sat 7:30 Elgin Public House • Free



Going Dutch

The Going Dutch Festival, a celebration of female and nonbinary voices in the arts takes over the Elgin Fringe Festival! Featuring the performance works of dropshift dance (IL), Chris Johnson (IL), Hannah Seidel (MI), and Gina T'ai (WI), this GD exhibition will

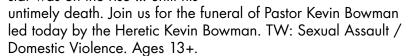
connect with and inspire audiences through the physicality of the performers and provocative performances in SSSA Theater's intimate setting. All ages.

Sunday, September 3rd, 4:00 - 5:30pm Theater at SSSA • \$12

heretic: The Eulogy of a Christian ExPat

Kevin Bowman

Kevin Bowman was a pastor and leader in his local church, and an upand-coming speaker in conferences and events across the country. His star was on the rise ... until his



Fri 10:30, Sat 7:30, Sun 4:00 Theater at SSSA • \$12



I'm Not Joining the Marching Band: Gwo Gruths and a Lie about Righ School Band

Sarah Beth Nelson

Three personal stories about my experiences in high school band, in the suburbs of Atlanta, across the turn of the millennium. Two of the stories are true as best I can remember them. One

story takes a turn toward the fantastic. Can you guess which is the lie? TW: Hazing involving non-consensual touching; schoolsanctioned hazing involving students temporarily sold to other students. Ages 13+.

Thu 9:00, Fri 7:30, Sat 4:30, Sun 2:30 Elgin Public House • \$12



TW = Trigger Warning



Short Show Showcase A

Ace Flamingo Live at Fringe Fest

ace flamingo

Live performaces of songs co-written by ace flamingo. TW: Kinda gay. Ages 21+.



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Percolate

Creative Moves

Percolate

- 1. to ooze or trickle through a permeable substance : SEEP
- 2. a: to become percolated b: to become lively or effervescent
- 3. to spread gradually
- 4. SIMMER
- MerriamWebsterDictionary

Let's get to brewing and see what bubbles up. An experiment in movement and sound. Ages 21+.





Unhinged

jicknostes

An immersive
experience with a
DJ set that dives into
the human psyche
and demonstrates
the effects of mental

illness. A show to comfort the disturbed and disturb the comfortable. TW: Mental illness, profanity, addiction, drug references. Ages 21+.

Fri 9:00, Sat 6:00, Sun 4:00 Martini Room • \$12

TW = Trigger Warning

Short Show Showcase B



Carnival of the Aminals

Ambo Dance Theatre

Carnival of the Aminals is a romantic comedy in Dance! Set to composer Camille Saint-Saens' musical suite *Carnival of the Animals*, this lighthearted and silly performance pokes fun at the awkwardness of new relationships, encouraging you to embrace your inner weirdo. Ages 16+.



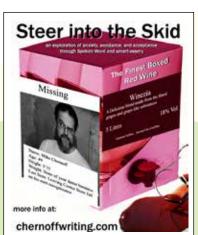
Moving On Up Dusty Feet

Moving On Up is a light hearted sketch show that explores how humans navigate the world, love, and friendship. In 20 minutes. Ages 16+.

Steer Into the Skid

Mike Chernoff

"Steer into the Skid" explores anxiety, avoidance, and acceptance through spoken word punctuated with sarcasm and humor. Topics include existential benders with Alpaca and drunkenly swinging Tarzan-style through Costco. Immature audiences only. Burritos



sold separately. More info at https://chernoffwriting.com/steer-into-the-skid-elgin-fringe-arts-festival TW: Adult Language, anxiety and mental health are discussed. Ages 16+.

Thu 7:30, Fri 7:30, Sat 4:30 Elgin Art Showcase • \$12

T.J. GREEN AND CALVIN VO

Jacquesalope!

Haus Of Ruckus

"Deep in Reno, Nevada lurks a terrifying antlered rabbit of unbelievable skill. And fur." This is a surreal comedy about two slackers, a French Cryptid and their quest to make it to Burning Man on time. This irreverent production utilizes cartoonish characters, live music, and puppets. TW:

Light hearted drug references and uses, mild adult language and light gun shot sound effects. Rated PG13 for adult language and cartoon violence.

Thu 9:00 Backspace at SSSA • \$12

The Light Bringer

Lightbringer Productions

"SOLD! Off to the American Dream!"
Freedom, at what cost? In this true-life
storytelling show, Laila sheds light on her

experiences growing up Muslim in the South, discovering her own place in the world, and having to make an ultimate sacrifice. TW: Language. Ages 13+.

Thu 6:00, Fri 7:30, Sat 9:00, Sun 4:00 Vern's Tavern • \$12



Light/weight

Grey Noise

Our musical styles and backgrounds are different to say the least. In this performance we explore each other's ideas and find a common ground. A little light entertainment, and a bit of heavy lifting. All ages.

Sat 9:00 Backspace at SSSA • \$7

Love is (Im)Perfect

CatBomb!

Come see this fully improvised love story featuring John and Denise, two perfectly imperfect, but relatable 50-somethings who embark on a

quest for togetherness leading them on an unlikely adventure through time, trials and triumphs. Inspired by audience suggestions, they encounter the people and places, music and magic that ultimately shapes their destiny. Ages 18+.

Fri 10:30, Sat 7:30 Vern's Tavern • \$12

Our Favorite Secrets

The Mayfields

"Our Favorite Secrets" is a captivating evening of mind-reading by the enigmatic Mayfields. Join the Mayfields as they rifle through your mind in this daring display of psychic phenomena. To commemorate their years of performing at Elgin Fringe, the Mayfields will present a remarkable selection of their rare and exclusive mentalism pieces, alongside some of their most beloved performances. All ages.

Friday, September 1st, 8:30-9:30pm Theater at SSSA • \$12

Making Space

The Making Space project

grew out of a desire to document the summer of 2020 and Elgin's response to the murder of George Floyd. The project created a mural in downtown Elgin and a video documentary. Learn more at https://elginhistory.org/making-space/

making SPACE

Sat 4:30

Theater at SSSA • Free

Night Moose Improv

Night Moose Improv

Prepare to be hilariously hoofstruck by Night Moose, the improv troupe with antler-sharp wit! They prance onto the stage, armed with comedic brilliance

and the musical talents of their very own "Moose-ician." Get ready for a wild ride of spontaneous laughs, and see what they've been working on! NIGHT MOOSE! TW: Laughter. Ages

Thu 9:00, Fri 6:00, Sat 9:00 Elgin Art Showcase • \$12

Performing Arts Roundtable

Fox Valley Performing Arts Community

Join us for a discussion of the current state of the performing arts scene and how we can all collaborate to foster growth and creativity. This roundtable is open to all performers, producers, venue managers/owners, writers, techs, and audience members

in the Fox Valley. All local artists are invited, and we would love to welcome the touring artists at the Fringe to join us, and share their thoughts and experiences. All ages.

Thursday, Sept. 7th, 2-4:00pm Fringe Central • Free



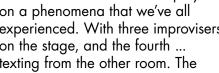




Gexts From Ghe Other Room

Memoriam Development

Texts From The Other Room plays on a phenomena that we've all experienced. With three improvisers on the stage, and the fourth .. texting from the other room. The



three on stage need to find a way to make a cohesive show out of texts from someone that has no idea what is going on. Ages 13+.

Fri 9:00, Sun 4:00 Backspace at SSSA • \$12



Gheatre Rid Rehab Claire Jolie Goodman

From a Z-List celebrity once called "very Broadway" by pop sensation Katy Perry, this solo musical comedy follows a starry-eyed little girl with undiagnosed ADHD who woke up one day with an office job, big titties, and a whole lot of imposter syndrome. TW: Contains

sexual content, strong language, and mentions of eating disorders, self-harm, and suicide. Ages 17+, rated R.

Fri 10:30, Sat 6:00, Sun 1:00 Backspace at SSSA • \$12



They Were Right

Dustin Drew

A stand-up comedy show full of self discovery that becomes everyone else's problem. "They Were Right" explores various themes including identity, masculinity, race and stories of growing up as a nerdy black dude on the South Side of Chicago. TW: Racism, Sexism, Homophobia. Ages 18+.

Thu 7:30, Fri 10:30 Elgin Public House • \$12

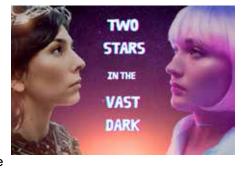
TW = Trigger Warning



Gwo Stars in

Productions

A trans-centric sci-fi event with original music and movement! A young space trucker and oddly self-aware



bio-computer confront each other while stranded in the void. Can we connect across distance and difference? Are we ever really alone? TW: Adult language, Flashing lights, Mental illness, Suicidal ideation/Self-harm. Ages 16+.

Thu 6:00, Fri 7:30, Sat 3:00 Backspace at SSSA • \$12

Under The Rainbow Umbrella

Kenzie Jean

"Under The Rainbow Umbrella" aims to explore emotions on a spectrum of color. Through wardrobe, film, music and live



experience that aims to engage and immerse the audience in the spectrum of Kenzie's emotional journey. From fear, anger, and sadness to joy and peace, "The Rainbow Umbrella" serves as a Fringe Festival Production and art therapy project, emphasizing the therapeutic and transformative power of art. All ages.

Thu 7:30, Fri 6:00, Sat 7:30 **Backspace at SSSA • Free**



Thu 9:00, Fri 9:00, Sat 3:00 Theater at SSSA • Free

Gime In A Geacup

THE RAINBOW UMBRE

Jay Sebastian

Original songs and audiovisual aids tell humorous tales of family vacations. Christmas, love and baloney sandwiches. An all ages oneman show you don't want to miss! All ages.



The Elain Fringe Festival is a proud member of the United States Association of Fringe Festivals, the Canadian Association of Fringe Festivals and World Fringe.

Festival Sponsors

The 2023 Elgin Fringe Festival is produced by Side Street Studio Arts with support from the Elgin Cultural Arts Commission, Martini Room, Elgin Public House, Elgin Art Showcase, Elgin History Museum, Vern's Tavern, Palmer Foundation, Seigle Foundation, Grand Victoria Foundation, and Logan Foundation.

























Tell Us What You Think

Is this your first time at the Elgin Fringe or are you a seasoned festival fringer? Either way, tell us what you think by writing a review and sharing it on our Facebook page or stop in at Fringe Central and post it on the Review Window.

Your EFF Committee

The Elgin Fringe Festival Committee donates many hours of time year-round to bring you the finest in

> Erin Rehberg, Executive Director Nick Mataragas, Artistic Director Tanner Melvin, Technical Director Amanda Harris, Managing Director Jess Rocha, Assistant Director Adrian Mesino, Chair, The Elain Group

Special Thanks

A project of this size does not happen without the support of many volunteers, who have shared their time, energy, services and homes to put together all the moving parts. We want to thank all of them for helping to make the tenth Elgin Fringe Festival a success.

Ivette de Santiago • Janelle O'Malley • Gary Swick Butch Wilhelmi • Katrina Syrris • Amanda Davila John French • Danikka Preradovic • Karl Jahnke Tony Ilivanov • Nick Jostes • The Routzahns Paul and Gay Bouwmeester • Springbird

Elgin Fringe Festival Poster art and creative direction provided by Kathryn Eli



Fringe Faces the Fox

2023 marks the kick off of our Fringe Faces the Fox program, in collaboration with Friends of the Fox. The two organizations will work together to bring creativity to the Friends of the Fox messaging, bring environmentally conscious ideals to the Elgin Fringe Festival, and get more eyes on both organizations.



