



PART OF

PLAY
TO THE
CROWD

Hat Fair 2020 (Friday 3 – Sunday 5 July)

Information for Hatters

Hat Fair is the longest running street arts festival in the UK, named after the tradition of putting money in the hat at the end of the performance. On average 60,000 people visit the festival over three days and busking or “hatting” is a core part of the festival. Now heading towards its 46th year; putting money in a hat is something that our audiences are expecting and artists have regularly had record incomes from their generosity.

Each year we invite approximately 10 “hatters” to participate in the busking element of the festival. Please note that inclusion in the programme is strictly by invitation only.

The general offer for Buskers/Hatters is as follows:

- We offer at least 5 performance slots across the 3-day festival, but will try to make it 6 (usually 1 x Fri, 2 x Sat, 2 x Sun).
- 100% of any money collected in the 'hat' is kept by the performers.
- An allowance of up to £150 travel contribution is available for artists from within the UK, up to £200 contribution to travel from within Europe, or a maximum of £400 contribution for travel from outside Europe unless otherwise agreed with the Hat Fair Director or Hat Fair Co-ordinator.
- Accommodation allocated per artist from the night before the first performance until the night of the last performance in the Artist Village which is located at the University of Winchester; a ten minute walk from the city centre.
- Full listing in the festival brochure and website as well as the organisation’s social media accounts.
- Catering is provided on active festival days only (Fri-Sun) as follows: Light breakfast provisions supplied in the accommodation, a packed lunch and a hot meal in the evening. Refreshments of water, teas and coffee plus snacks are provided throughout the day.
- Certificate of sponsorships can be provided for those artists from outside the EU. The festival will also advise and support any artists with questions, actions required and any impact that the UK’s withdrawal from the EU may have on their participation in the festival.
- Any additional visas are the sole responsibility of the artist/company.
- All performers should provide their own PA and radio mics unless otherwise negotiated with the Hat Fair Director or Hat Fair Co-ordinator.
- Artists are to appear in all weather conditions unless this proves to be a hazard to either the artist or the audience. As part of our Wet Weather Plans, the festival will always do its best to relocate some of the scheduled performances. There is no wet weather retainer for hatters.

- We do require all our performers to have produced current risk assessments and public liability insurance documents prior to the event. **This is a condition of any offer to perform at Hat Fair.**

Hatting Pitches (Venue Sites):

Please note, that in the spirit of hatting, we provide you with a pitch for your performance, but cannot provide anything more than basic technical support. You are expected to be self-contained, bring a PA if required and able to perform independently. Winchester is a historic town with very few perfect, flat pitches - some on grass and some on an incline. Below is a list of the hatting pitch sites with pictures and gradients on which hatters can perform. Hatters will be expected to be able to perform on any of the sites unless otherwise arranged with the Hat Fair Director or Hat Fair Co-ordinator.

The following represent our regular hatting pitches:

Friday and Saturday at Hat Fair:

All hatting pitches on Friday and Saturday are in the city centre of Winchester in and around the civic and retail areas.

Cathedral Outer 1 - area in front of the cathedral which is relatively flat and has a hard surface. This is not to be considered a definite option every year due to events which may be occurring within the Cathedral.



Cathedral Outer 2 - This a flat pitch on grass in the main Cathedral grounds.



Cathedral Outer 3 - Situated in the main Cathedral grounds this pitch is on grass with a slight slope.



The Square - This is a relatively flat, paved surface as it is a closed section of road in the city centre.



High Street 1 - This is a popular pitch; situated on the High Street, it does have an incline to it so is not a flat surface although it is paved.



The Broadway - This pitch is flat but there is a camber to the road each side.



Abbey Gardens - This is a flat grass pitch located in the park. The actual spot that hosts the pitch will depend on any fixed installations in the programme i.e. not necessarily as depicted.





Sunday at Hat Fair:

On Sunday, all Hat Fair activity is on grass and occurs at a large, flat green space called North Walls Recreation Ground.

Essentially this is a large park. Food stalls are situated around the edges and pitches are placed within the area at a suitable distance from each other.

All pitches are on grass, and all are flat, without shade/cover. All pitches have great audience support.

It is important you consider these possible restrictions before agreeing to perform on the Sunday of the festival as there is limited capacity for pitch modifications on the day.

North Walls Recreation Ground - Example of a grass pitch site.



Hat Fair – core team:

Hat Fair is part of Play to the Crowd, an Arts and Education Charity. The core year-round Hat Fair festival team is:

Hat Fair Director – Andrew Loretto

Hat Fair Co-ordinator – Rose Slade

Engagement Producer – Kat Henderson

To express interest in performing as a hatter at Hat Fair:

Initial expression of interest can be made via the link on our website and should contain:

- Contact details
- Brief description of your show
- Video and/or website link.

Further information:

If you have any queries about this document or ‘hatting’ at Hat Fair then please don’t hesitate to contact:

Rose Slade, Hat Fair Co-ordinator

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T: 01962 673 750

Visit our website for more information hatfair.co.uk

Photos: Adrienne Photography