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## **OXFRINGE ANNOUNCES 2008 EVENTS PROGRAMME** **Oxfringe 2008: 29 March – 6 April**

After a successful launch party for local press and arts bodies at the Oxford Castle Unlocked Café on Monday 25 February, the Oxfringe team is pleased to announce the official line-up for Oxford's first fringe festival.

The full programme is now online at [www.oxfringe.com](http://www.oxfringe.com), and includes a wealth of talent from Oxfordshire and beyond. Theatre highlights include a series of shows at the Burton Taylor Studio and Moser Theatre, two of them Edinburgh Fringe First winners. Local pubs will see a range of popular stand-up comedians and performance poets, including Iszi Lawrence, Sassy Clyde, George Chopping and one of Boris Johnson's speech writers, Tom Greeves.

Literary events at Borders – the headline sponsor for Oxfringe 2008 – include two workshops for children and young people by popular authors Katherine Langrish and Dennis Hamley, both based in Oxfordshire, as well as readings by a host of poets and novelists, including members of the Back Room Poets, Writers in Oxford and OxPens.

And there's plenty more... music events will see everything from jazz to pop, from acoustic sets to a unique evening of choral music in the Sculpture Gallery of the Ashmolean Museum with the Blackbird Leys and Afropean Choirs. A series of workshops at Oxford Playhouse will invite creative new talent to learn music or theatre improvisation, or even write a play in a day. Oxfringe is also curating its own art show across two gallery spaces!

Speaking after the launch party, which showcased just a small sample of these, Oxford Castle Unlocked events executive Dee Jeffery said: "We thoroughly enjoyed being the hosts for Oxfringe's launch night and look forward to being one of the key venues for Oxfringe 2009. All acts were fantastic and also professional – a great night was had by all."

Another of Oxfringe's supporters is Yasmin Sidhwa, head of arts education at the Pegasus Theatre. She said: "Oxfringe opens the doors for newer, emerging and alternative groups to showcase their work and will enhance the cultural map of Oxfordshire."

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### Notes for Editors

Oxfringe is a non-profit organisation, financially supported by local sponsors. The team can be contacted via [info@oxfringe.com](mailto:info@oxfringe.com), [www.oxfringe.com](http://www.oxfringe.com) or **0870 803 3475** (answerphone). Oxfringe began with just two events in 2007. In 2008 there are 39 shows across 60 performances, and the festival is expected to grow larger still for 2009. The Oxfringe printed brochure will be distributed across the city in the second week of March.

Further press information and photographs are available at [www.oxfringe.com/press.php](http://www.oxfringe.com/press.php)