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OXFORD'S FIRST FRINGE FESTIVAL LAUNCHED **Oxfringe 2008: 29 March – 6 April**

A cherished dream become reality in a few weeks' time for four Oxford arts enthusiasts, when Oxford becomes the next city to boast its very own fringe festival. It's been a long time coming, but at last Oxford will join the elite band of wacky, fast-paced and fun-packed fringes which includes Brighton, Bath, Cambridge, Dublin and of course the giant of them all, Edinburgh.

Sponsored by Borders bookshop, the Oxfringe programme is packed with almost 40 exciting shows, spread across 60 performances, the majority of them staged by talented local performers. There's drama at the Burton Taylor Studio and the Moser Theatre, including plays by two Edinburgh Fringe First winners; stand-up comedy and readings by local writers at Borders and elsewhere; acting, playwriting and music workshops; and even an evening of choral music in the Sculpture Gallery of the Ashmolean Museum with the Blackbird Leys Choir and the newly formed Afropean Choir!

Organising all these events, across 23 venues, has been a huge project for Oxfringe directors Andrew Chapman, Heather Dunmore, Sarah Jones and Deirdre Ruane, all of whom have worked hard in their spare time to put Oxford on the fringe map.

"We're really excited that it's all come together," said Andrew Chapman. "A full fringe festival for Oxford is long overdue. Everyone has been very enthusiastic about the idea, and we couldn't have put it together without the help of many people, from venues and performers to local businesses and arts organisations... and the support of Borders is a real bonus, along with the Oxford Castle Unlocked Café for helping us with the Oxfringe launch party."

Borders' regional events manager Charlie Hayes is delighted to be part of Oxfringe. "Borders Oxford has always been committed to supporting the local community in any way we can, so join us at the store and celebrate the best of Oxford's vibrant arts scene," he said.

The Oxfringe printed brochure will be distributed across the city shortly, and meanwhile a full programme of events is available to view at the website, [**www.oxfringe.com**](http://www.oxfringe.com).

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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.