

Programme Information Highlights

August 2018

Happening this month...

Thursday 2nd - Sunday 19th August

Melbourne International Film Festival

The largest and oldest film festival in the southern hemisphere will screen over 350 films from over 50 countries.

Friday 3rd - Monday 27th August

Edinburgh International Festival & Edinburgh Festival Fringe

The Scottish capital celebrates international theatre, dance and music with two festivals. The Edinburgh International Festival features invited performers. The Edinburgh Festival Fringe was established as an alternative and is the largest arts festival in the world.

Thursday 9th August

International Day of the World's Indigenous Peoples

Established by the UN in 1994 help problems faced by indigenous people in such areas as culture, education, health and human rights.

Sunday 12th August

Teen Choice Awards, Los Angeles

Annual awards ceremony that gives young Americans the opportunity to vote for their favourite music, fashion, TV, film and sports stars.

Wednesday 15th August

20 years since the Omagh bombing

Anniversary marking 20 years since a car bomb planted by the Real IRA detonated in the town of Omagh, County Tyrone, killing 29 people and two unborn babies. No one has ever been convicted of carrying out the attack.



A screen showing Mexico's presidential candidates during the first presidential debate in Mexico City on April 22, 2018. (L-R) Margarita Zavala, Jose Antonio Meade, Ricardo Anaya, Andres Manuel Lopez Obrador, Jaime Rodriguez Calderon. (Photo by Alfredo ESTRELLA / AFP)

Thursday 16th - Monday 20th August

World Science Fiction Convention (Worldcon), USA

Annual gathering of authors, editors, scientists and fans dedicated to science fiction and fantasy in San Jose, California. The event includes the Hugo Awards.

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Sunday 19th to Friday 24th August

Hajj annual pilgrimage, Mecca

Millions are expected to make the pilgrimage to Mecca in Saudi Arabia, the most holy city in Islam, a ritual which all healthy adult Muslims must undertake at least once in their lifetime.

Saturday 25th to Sunday 26th August

Pope Francis visits Dublin, Ireland

The Pope's visit will include delivering Angelus on the square in front of the Chapel of Knock Shrine and the celebration of Mass in Phoenix Park. He will also conclude the World Meeting of Families, a gathering to reinforce the position of the family within the Church.

Monday 20th - Sunday 26th August

Family reunions, North Korea

North and South Korea are to select 100 people from each country to meet relatives from across the border. The reunions will take place at the Mount Kumgang resort in North Korea. Millions of people were separated from family members when the Korean War ended in 1953.

Saturday 25th August (until Sunday 16th September)

La Vuelta a Espana, Spain

Three-week long Grand Tour dating back to 1935. The annual race was inspired by the Tour de France and Giro d'Italia.

Sunday 26th August (until Monday 3rd September)

Burning Man Festival, USA

A countercultural arts festival, which takes place in Black Rock City, Nevada. The highlight is the burning of a giant human effigy in the middle of the desert.



A view of Luzhniki stadium in Moscow before the lights are turned off for Earth Hour on March 24, 2018. (Photo by Dmitry SEREBRYAKOV / AFP)

Monday 27th August (until Tuesday 11th September)

US Open Tennis Championships at Flushing Meadows, New York

The hard court tennis tournament is the final Grand Slam competition of 2018. Rafael Nadal and Sloane Stephens won last year's men's and women's singles titles.