

After twenty-four years of 37 successful productions, the GMG English Drama Group the fringe (founded 1996) is now an established group within the Bayreuth amateur theatres and in its 25th glorious year.

Every year, the group presents a new long play by an English-speaking author in the weeks immediately before Easter. It is the only secondary school English Drama Group in Bavaria that does so annually and which has taken its productions elsewhere, too, e.g. the Willstätter-Gymnasium in Nürnberg, the MGF in Kulmbach, and the Helene-Lange-Gymnasium in Fürth. Since 2006, the fringe has participated regularly in the "Bayreuther Schultheatertage".

The hard work and many hours of rehearsal (frequently more than 150 hours of rehearsal) have been rewarded by growing numbers of spectators and donations by sponsors. The audiences have grown from 450 spectators in 1997 to around 1,100 people in Bayreuth alone. Since our traditional venue (Kleines Haus der Stadthalle) was closed and we moved to the Tagungszentrum der Universität (formerly known as "Kolpinghaus", audiences have been limited to a maximum of 800.

Since 2004, workshop training days have become a regular feature of our group. We usually spend three days together, rehearsing and getting to know each other better. We spent time in Burg an der Wupper, Forchheim, Bamberg and (in 2014) in Regensburg. Thanks to the support by the Kulturred der Stadt Bayreuth, we are also able to work together with acting trainers like Ms. Zeitz (Leipzig), stage fight trainer Michal Sykora (Brno) and our regular choreographer, co-director and actor, Kay-Uwe Scholz (Bamberg).

During the Schultheatertage 2016, director Hans-Dieter Scholz was awarded the "Kulturpreis der Stadt Bayreuth" for his continued high quality theatre work with young people, which is a great honour and an award for the whole group. In 2017, he was nominated for the "Deutscher Engagementpreis".

In 2017, the group had to move performance space because of renovations work at the Stadthalle. The group is now continuing its work at the former Kolpingsaal next to the Stadtbad, a hall which is now Tagungssaal der Universität and which belongs to the most helpful Studentenwerk Oberfranken.

The fringe would like to thank all their sponsors, supporters, spectators and guests for their coming and their continued support. We hope we can go on providing you with good quality entertainment. We aim to please.