

CULTURE FIX

FROM A BIG-BUDGET FILM FRANCHISE TO BRAND-NEW DIRECTION FOR THE EDINBURGH INTERNATIONAL FESTIVAL, THIS AUGUST IS BIG ON AMBITION, SAYS BRYONY GOOCH



Clockwise from top left: See the Alvin Ailey troupe in Edinburgh; Gal Gadot and Jamie Dornan in *Heart Of Stone*; Paapa Essiedu at the National Theatre; Julio Torres and Tilda Swinton in *Problemista*

FESTIVAL

Edinburgh International Festival

Marking Nicola Benedetti's first year as festival director, this August's programme asks the question: 'Where do we go from here?' As world-leading musicians flock to the Scottish capital for a month-long billing of genre-defying performances, Jake Bugg and Alison Goldfrapp unveil their solo festival debuts. From 4th to 27th August. Visit eif.co.uk

FILM

Problemista

This surrealist comedy directed by and starring Julio Torres (*Saturday Night Live*) follows Alejandro, an aspiring toy designer from El Salvador who fails to bring his creativity to New York when his work visa runs out. Instead, he takes a job assisting eccentric artist Elizabeth (Tilda Swinton) in the hopes she might sponsor his visa. In cinemas 4th August

STREAM

Heart Of Stone

Gal Gadot and Jamie Dornan unite in this spy thriller with great ambitions to become a female-driven franchise of *Mission Impossible* proportions, with a budget to match. Netflix was the first to nab the production at auction, which will see Gadot starring as Rachel Stone, an elite CIA agent harbouring a huge conspiratorial secret. On Netflix from 11th August

THEATRE

The Effect

The National Theatre brings to life an addictive romantic comedy by *Succession* writer Lucy Prebble. Taylor Russell (*Bones And All*) and Paapa Essiedu (*I May Destroy You*) play Connie and Tristan, who take part in a clinical drug trial and fall in love fast. But is their intoxicating chemistry real or just a side-effect of the drug they're testing? From 1st August; tickets from £20. Visit nationaltheatre.org.uk

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