

247. fringe

2025

**YOUR FREE
WEEKLY GUIDE
TO THE BEST SHOWS
AT THE EDINBURGH FRINGE
WEEK 2 | W/C 11TH AUGUST**

MUSIC BY
REN OSBORN
CAMERON MACKINTOSH
AWARD WINNER

CRITIC'S CHOICE
EDINBURGH FRINGE

MOTHERHOOD, MADNESS AND...

...MOTHERHOOD, MADNESS AND...

A DARK AND VERY FUNNY NEW MUSICAL ABOUT MOTHERHOOD, MADNESS AND MAKING ART AT THE END OF THE WORLD

**Madonna
On The
Rocks**
BY MARIE HAMILTON
"delicious... captivating... hilar"

**Madonna
On The
Rocks**
BY MARIE HAMILTON
"delicious... captivating... hilar"

**Madonna
On The
Rocks**
BY MARIE HAMILTON

"Marie Hamilton is a force to be reckoned with! NORTH WEST END *****" *Marie Hamilton*

"Powerful... delicious... captivating... hilarious." ***** MUSICAL THEATRE REVIEW

@mariefestival @mariehamilton

11:55 | 31 JUL - 24 AUG
ASSEMBLY ROXY: ROXYBOXY

assembly
assemblyfestival.com
BOOK YOUR TICKETS HERE

CADEL

LUNGS ON LEGS

BUY TICKETS



THE EPIC TRUE STORY OF THE FIRST AUSTRALIAN TO
WIN THE TOUR DE FRANCE, LIVE ON STAGE

CREATED BY

WRITTEN BY
**CONNOR DELVES &
STEVE McMAHON**

**CONNOR
DELVES**

DIRECTED BY

MARK BARFORD



COWGATE

underbellyedinburgh.co.uk
0131 510 0395

1.00pm

31 JUL - 24 AUG

underbelly
AT THE EDINBURGH FRINGE

Welcome back to 24/7 Fringe!

24/7
fringe

BRITISH COMEDY GUIDE
www.comedy.co.uk

Your pocket-sized passport to the wild, weird, and wonderfully unhinged world of Fringe.

Week two is here, and the glitter is no longer just on the costumes; it's embedded in the pavement and possibly your soul. Shows are hitting their stride, word-of-mouth gems are emerging, and the streets are even more alive (and louder) than last week. Whether you're on your fourth standing ovation or your fifth espresso martini, 24/7 Fringe has your back.

Inside, you'll find fresh hot picks, sharp takes, wild visuals, and a few cheeky nods to the chaos around us. We're Out of Hand, Fringe fanatics and creative mischief-makers, bringing you this little mag as our love letter to the festival in full swing.

Week two. No time for subtlety. Fringe harder.

Let's go again.



If you want to get your show in our third and final issue, email us at
fringe@outofhand.co.uk or call us on **0117 953 6363**



Kanpur: 1857 Beneath @ Pleasance Courtyard

A gripping retelling of the Indian Uprising of 1857, blending live tabla music with intense storytelling—haunting, immersive, and unforgettable.



Parody of the Rings Other Yin @ Gilded Balloon Patter House

At the local cinema, chaos erupts when the ushers lose every single copy of The Lord of the Rings trilogy. With only the soundtracks to guide them, this clueless but determined crew must recreate the entire epic saga—live, on stage, and completely unprepared. What follows is a riotous blend of comedy, confusion, and heroic nonsense as they stumble through Middle-earth armed with nothing but props, poor memory, and wild imagination. Hobbits, elves, orcs—and zero planning. What could possibly go wrong?



Footballers' Wives: The Musical Music Hall @ Assembly Rooms

A brand-new British musical based on the iconic TV series, following the scandalous rise (and fall) of captain's wife Tanya Turner. It's 2002: Premier League football is the new rock'n'roll—glamour, money, bad behaviour, and no shortage of chaos. Tanya will stop at nothing to save her marriage and her husband's career, no matter how dirty the game gets. Expect sex, drugs, stilettos, scheming, heartbreak, hilarity, killer fashion, and zero actual football.



Tom at the Farm Lennox Theatre @ Pleasance at EICC

Winner of 26 international awards and a standout at the Avignon Festival, this searing psychological thriller arrives from Brazil. When Tom travels to a remote farm for his lover's funeral, he's shocked to find the grieving family knows nothing about him—or the truth of their relationship. As secrets fester in the mud and silence, the line between love and violence begins to blur. A raw, gripping confrontation with masculinity, repression, and the brutal legacy of patriarchy.



The Ruckus The Beauty @ Underbelly's Circus Hub on the Meadows

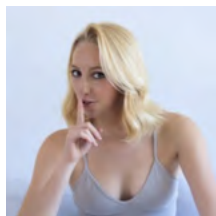
Nancy's throwing a party in The Beauty, and you're on the guest list. Just... don't show up early. She needs time to get ready! Oh, you're here already? No problem, she'll send out some of her ridiculously talented friends to keep you entertained while she pulls herself together.



Starring acrobatic clown Arielle Lauzon as the fabulously chaotic Nancy, The Ruckus is an explosive, inclusive circus celebration of female and non-binary strength, joy, and play. Expect wild energy, physical brilliance, and a whole lot of heart.

Olivia Raine Atwood: Faking It Jade Studio at Greenside @ George Street

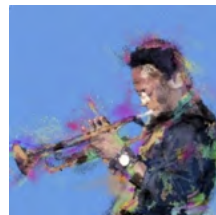
She's undercover. She's overwhelmed. She's terrible at her job. Based on a true story, this electric solo comedy follows Liv on a classified



mission in 2020: posing as a Covid patient to secretly evaluate New York hospitals. Armed with nothing but her "acting skills" and zero medical training, she's Patient O trying to save the American healthcare system. What could possibly go wrong?

MILES. TechCube 0 @ Summerhall

Addict to icon: the story of Miles Davis and the album that changed music forever.



Acclaimed theatre company :DELIRIUM: and Lauren Reed Productions present a bold new theatrical experience tracing the life of jazz legend Miles Davis through the creation of his groundbreaking 1959 masterpiece Kind of Blue.

Blending live performance from UK jazz star Jay Phelps with :DELIRIUM:'s signature multi-disciplinary style, this is a smoky, hypnotic fever dream rooted in the Birth of the Cool—where genius meets addiction, and history is made in blue.

Do All The Things Checkpoint @ Assembly Checkpoint

From the award-winning idiots behind Enter The Dragons and Witch Hunt comes a brand new blast of joy: Do All The Things.



Part cabaret, part game show, part house party—this is more than just a show. It's an interactive invitation to laugh, connect, and throw a glitter bomb at despair. Expect absurd antics, unexpected prizes, and a generous dose of dopamine as A&E Comedy celebrate the weird, the wonderful, and the wildly human. Play along. Feel better. Win big.

Priscillified: Drag, Disco and Desert Drama Band Room at Laughing Horse @ Freddy's

Two-time Fringe World Best Cabaret & Variety Show winner Dean Misdale is back – and this time, they're Priscillified.



From viral moments singing with Adele to strutting the stage in Priscilla the Musical, Dean lifts the sequined curtain on life in and out of drag. Expect powerhouse vocals, outrageous costumes, and a disco-fuelled soundtrack as they share hilarious and heartfelt stories of fame, identity, and fabulousness. A dazzling celebration of big dreams, bold choices, and even bigger heels.

Fast Fringe: Family Edition Orchard at Gilded Balloon @ Appleton Tower

So many comedians, so little time! This beloved Fringe institution serves up 12 top comedy and variety acts each night, each performing ridiculously short, lightning-fast sets. Hosted by the sharpest MCs and perfect for all ages, it's your ultimate bite-sized festival sampler.

With a fresh, handpicked line-up daily by Chortle's comedy experts, there's always something new to laugh at.



keep it fringe

★★★★★
The Reviews Hub

KAYLEIGH JONES

Musical Comedy Award Finalist

I FED MY DAD TO A PELICAN

A WILD TRUE STORY

Nominee
Best Debut Show
Leicester Comedy Festival

Winner
Best Show
Late Stage Comedy
Producer Awards

"I can honestly say this was one of the best comedy shows I've ever seen"
News.com.au

"A commanding performance"
The Comedy Nerd

"It was absolutely a comedy show, but it was also so much more"
Late Stage Comedy

"A talented storyteller... one you won't want to miss"
The Reviews Hub

GILDED BALLOON
19:00 (60 MINS)
30 JUL - 25 AUG
(NOT 12)
PATTER HOUSE - BLETHER

BOOK TICKETS
GILDEDBALLOON.CO.UK
0131 622 6552



GILDED BALLOON PRESENTS

AN ODE TO THE CASTING DIRECTOR

SOPHIE FISHER

11:40 (60 MINS)
30 JUL - 25 AUG
(NOT 12)
PATTER HOUSE - THE PINNY

BOOK TICKETS
GILDEDBALLOON.CO.UK
0131 622 6552

Kinetic Orchestra Presents

BOLERO

Dancers defy danger with a grin as Finnish choreographer Jarkko Mandelin pushes the limits of contemporary partnering.

18:40 | 12 - 23 AUG
ASSEMBLY @ DANCE BASE: DB3

assembly
assemblyfestival.com

CHRISTINE FERRERA

THE SHY VAUDEVILLIAN

"THE SHY VAUDEVILLIAN SPARKLES!"
"TRENCHANT, INTELLIGENT AND FUNNY!"
"HILARIOUSLY PERSONAL!"

GREENSIDE AT RIDDLE'S COURT
VENUE 16
11TH - 23RD August
(No shows on Sundays)
22:00 (45m)
£10 (Full)
£4, £6, £8 (Pay What You Can)

fringe

Shoddy Theatre, Joshua Beaumont and Matthew Emery present

SHODDY DETECTIVE

AND PART OF DECEPTION

16:00 (60 MINS)
30 JUL - 24 AUG
(NOT 12)
APPLETON TOWER - MCINTOSH

BOOK TICKETS
GILDEDBALLOON.CO.UK
0131 622 6552

IF I BECAME PRIME MINISTER...

Comedians have a lot of good ideas, but would you elect any of the following based on these policy proposals?

"I'd ban crocs. They are the hunchback of shoes."
- Su Mi

"I'd sell the Houses of Parliament to Tim Martin so he could turn it into a Wetherspoons." - Becky Fury

"No more open kitchens. Put the walls back up, I don't wanna see any more chefs. And a 50% tax on 'small plates' restaurants." - Stuart McPherson

"I would make it illegal for pubs to charge the same price for a shandy as they do for a full pint. It's only half of the beer!" - Thor Stenhaug

"Mandatory pedicures for any man who wants to wear sandals. I've seen enough calloused heels to last a lifetime." - Candace Bryan

"I'd make it an offence to criticise the Royal Mail. Charles's job is hard enough as it is." - Angela Bra

"Farting in a lift would be a criminal offence. Unless it's me and I couldn't help it." - Laura Benanti

"Add the Welsh dragon to the Union Jack! And don't change the shade of red on either the dragon or the existing flag, so they clash obnoxiously." - Steffan Allan

"Toast on beans... because that's the future." - Steve Goodie

"To compliment the winter fuel allowance I would add a summer ice cream allowance. If it's over 30°C you get 2 free ice creams a day." - Adele Cliff

"For every roadwork in the city, you get 50p off your bus fare." - Dean T. Beirne

"I would deport all seagulls and build a wall to keep them out." - Josh Elton

"Bring back Galaxy Truffles to Celebrations boxes." - Robyn Reynolds

"All dogs must have a little hat, they don't have to wear it but they must have at least one." - Rosco McClelland

"I'd assemble an elite team of the country's best gamblers, and put all national debt on red." - Rohan Sharma

"I would introduce mandatory siestas for people of all professions, just to no longer feel guilty about my 3-6 hour afternoon power naps." - Shamik Chakrabarti

"Any food delivery e-bike riders that are riding on the pavement are shot by rooftop snipers." - Carl Donnelly

"I'd let monkeys run everything and see if there's any difference." - St. John McKay

"By law, every pub must have the thing it's named after inside the pub. A white horse. A crown and anchor. The King's head, etc." - Alasdair Beckett-King

"I'd nationalise 'X formerly Twitter', insist on it being renamed 'Twitter' in the UK and introduce a moderation policy based around literal scorpion pits." - Marc Burrows

"Write a theme tune for PMQs that I would perform live each week à la Cilla Black on Surprise Surprise." - Max Fulham

"Everyone has to be nicer to pigeons. We domesticated them and then abandoned them!" - Britt Migs

"I would introduce a cap on how much a supermarket meal deal is allowed to cost. It's one of the few things we do well as a country, we can't let it get out of control." - James Trickey

"Everyone in work gets a Mariachi band on their birthday." - Alex Stringer

"I would imprison anyone who drinks Huel." - Jacob Nussey

"I would move Edinburgh Fringe closer to my house then rent out my shed for 12 grand." - Dave Bibby

"Hugs must be 3 minutes minimum and all dogs must let me pat them." - Mel McGlensey

"If someone asks you for your best bit of gossip and you have some, you HAVE to tell them." - Alex Prescott

"Four words: Annual Nepobaby Hunger Games." - Jessie Nixon

"I'd arrest and incarcerate all comedians who aren't me. It's my best chance of getting on Taskmaster." - Hal Cruttenden

"Alan Bennett has to be the voice of every public transport announcement." - James Murphy

"I would make every single person in the country watch the movie Cats once a year so they have a deeper appreciation of how good their lives are." - The Burton Brothers

"THE MUST SEE MUSICAL OF THE FRINGE"
-THEATRE VILLAGE UK

Ghosted!

A New Musical



DIRECTION & LYRICS BY MAKENA MARGOLIN

MUSIC BY HAYDEN KLINE



Niddry Street
EH1 1TH

theSpace @ Niddry St
Aug 11-16 22:55 (1h15m)



A Fringe debut that's weird, witty, and way too relatable.

Edinburgh, meet Bea P. Deigh—your new favourite corporate overlord of the human mind. Equal parts absurdist comedy and emotional excavation, this sharply original debut heads to The Space Triplex from 11–24 August, promising a surreal ride through inner monologue, office politics, and mental health... all wrapped in one gloriously off-kilter solo show.

Bea, our charmingly unhinged narrator (played and written by Arden Winant), is the self-proclaimed Head Secretary at The Brain, Inc., an imaginary workplace inside the mind of an unnamed client. It's her first day, and she's got a lot to prove. The setup is bizarre, but behind the corporate lingo and office antics is something heartfelt, familiar, and quietly raw: the tangled mess of managing mental health, identity, and the absurd expectations of "functioning" in a world that often doesn't make sense.

Directed by Grainne Robson, the show straddles absurdist comedy and mental health theatre with poise and pace. Robson says it best: "Putting mental health on stage is difficult but important. Everyone has a different interpretation to a feeling, an experience, a diagnosis. This show is about honouring Arden's story while also taking care of the audience." Expect

moments of fast-talking comedy, unexpected tenderness, and the occasional existential side-eye.

The show arrives in Edinburgh off the back of glowing reviews:

★★★★★ "Absurd and heartbreaking in equal measure" – London Pub Theatres

★★★★★ "Amusing, heartrending, and brilliantly original" – Audience Review

It also comes with a seal of Fringe cred: Bea P. Deigh is a recipient of the Keep It Fringe Fund, supported by Phoebe Waller-Bridge and Fringe Society. Producer Hannah Jayne says the funding "meant we could actually afford a venue, not a life-size Gonzo puppet, unfortunately." Priorities.

With a single preview at London's The Glitch before its full Fringe run, this is one of those word-of-mouth gems in the making. Smart, strange, sincere and just the right amount of chaotic.

Fringe favourite in the making.
Tickets: [The Space Triplex, 11–24 August
Instagram: @beapdeigh_play



SCOTLAND'S GREATEST WONDER

PENMAN

THE IMAGINATOR

A fusion of mentalism, hypnotism, comedy, and audience participation—all set to a high-energy summer anthems soundtrack. Mind-blowing and unforgettable!
Break free from self-limiting beliefs and unlock your inner superhero as

PENMAN reveals the remarkable:

YOU

YOUR NAME
HERE

FRASER PENMAN

BOOK NOW —
BEFORE YOUR
MIND CHANGES!

HILARIOUS MIND-READING HYPNOTIST

He'll open your eyes!

www.worldsmostuniquehypnotist.com

Edinburgh
fringe

GILDED BALLOON

17:30 (60 mins)

30 JUL - 24 AUG

(NOT 31, 11)

APPLETON TOWER - MCINTOSH
11 CRICHTON STREET, EH8 9LE

VENUE
140

BOOK TICKETS
GILDEDBALLOON.CO.UK
0131 622 6552



👤👤👤👤👤
"A FANTASTIC NIGHT
OF AMAZEMENT"
👤👤👤👤👤
"FUN AND LAUGHTER,
GREAT SHOW"

8+



Listen on



LADY MACBETH

PLAYED WING DEFENCE



CASH
PROJECT
BEXX

assembly
assemblyfestival.com

HOUSE OF OZ

AN EXTRAORDINARY TALE OF LOVE, LOSS AND HUMAN CONNECTION
- TOLD WITH TEA AND BISCUITS

TROUBLED



'AN EXCITINGLY HONEST
DEPICTION OF THE POWER OF
HUMAN CONNECTION TOLD
WITH EXQUISITE LANGUAGE
AND DARING VULNERABILITY'

HALEY MCGEE

FRINGE FIRST WINNER 2022

OLIVIER NOMINEE 2023

'AGE IS A FEELING'

WRITTEN & PERFORMED BY

SUZY CROTHERS

PRODUCED BY

RACHAEL HALLIWELL

DIRECTED BY

AMIE BURNS WALKER

Edinburgh
fringe

POW

Edinburgh
FRINGE

Supported by the
EDINBURGH
ARTS COUNCIL
ENGLAND



FULL PROGRAMME

SUMMERHALLARTS.CO.UK

0131 226 0000

31ST JUL-25TH AUG

11.45AM



SUMMERHALL
ARTS

venue
26

THE PRODUCTION GARDEN PRESENTS



PARODY OF THE RINGS

GILDED BALLOON 13:30 (10 min)
30 JUL - 25 AUG
(NOT 13 AUG)
PATER HOUSE - OTHER YIN

BOOK TICKETS
GILDEDBALLOON.CO.UK
0131 622 6552



JUST THE TONIC
LEGENDS CLUB ROOM
253 COWGATE
EH1 1NN

BECKY FURY BRITISH-ISH

1-25th AUG (ex 12th)
16.00

PWYW or £5 TICKETS

ON THE MEG
GUARDIAN



A TRAGICOMEDY BY NATALIE GROVE

"Grove's performance is honest and raw"
- Stage Raw, 2025

OFFICIAL
UK DEBUT

TWO SOLD OUT
RUNS IN
HOLLYWOOD

*"Natalie Grove is
an absolute marvel"*
- NOHO Arts District, 2025

JELLO BRAIN

DIRECTED BY TERRA MACKINTOSH

Andrew Coleman is a BIG Dumb Dumb

INGTE AWARD 2022
WINNER

THE BLACKOUT
MAY 2024
WINNER

MAX TURNER 2022
FINALIST

07591 850202



13:55 - 14:40 / 13TH - 24TH (16+)
SNIFTER ROOM / THE MASH HOUSE
PAY WHAT YOU WANT

@andrew.jokes

**GREENSIDE AT
GEORGE STREET
VENUE 236**

OLIVE
STUDIO

Jello Brain
1ST — 23RD August
1 - 9 August 11:20 (1hr 0m)
11 - 23 August 23:00 (1hr 0m)

PWYC : £5, £9, £12, £15

BUY TICKETS HERE



fringe



"Bipolar Badass showed real strength."

-Humza Yousaf,
Former First Minister of Scotland

BIPOLAR BADASS

WRITTEN & PERFORMED BY MARI CRAWFORD

DIRECTED BY NADIYA ATKINSON



theSPACE UK

BOOK NOW
www.thespaceuk.com
0131 510 2384



9 Niddry St
EH1 1TH

theSpace @ Niddry St
Aug 11-16 15:55 (1h00m)

38 Hill Place
EH8 9DP

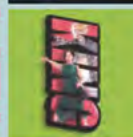
theSpace Triplex
Aug 18-23 21:15 (50m)



THEATRE



**SWAN?
KING**
Tree of Dreams



COMEDY



**Wage Against
The Machine**
Tonight! A Clown Who
Wanted to Be Loved?

MUSIC / MUSICAL



Candlelight: Classic Rock in the Round
Formosa Viva
Echoes of Ghost Lake
Bob Marley: How Reggae Changed The World

DANCE

FAMILY



Baby Shark and the Mystery of the Sphinx
Messy Magic Adventure
Escape from the Bubble Tub & The Ultimate Bubble Show

A.M.

FROM CREATION TO GLOBAL STAGES
YOUR PERFORMING ARTS PARTNER.

PLAYHOUSE

MAKING THE MOST OF THE FESTIVAL

Here are some tips from comedians for how best to ensure you have a brilliant time whilst enjoying the Edinburgh Fringe.

"Sabzi on Ferry Road is a phenomenal family run restaurant (I recommend the apple pie samosas), Razzo Pizza in Leith is the best pizza in the city and for streetwear, go to Focus and Pieute." - Robin Grainger

"My favourite restaurant is Chez Jules - not just because it's my nickname but because it's a neurodivergent's dream; candle light even at midday, simple but great French food, lots of corners to hide in. Please DON'T go there as it gets so busy I'm unlikely to find a seat." - Juliette Burton

"Keep a printed ticket in your hand if possible, this will act as flyering repellent. A strategy that has served me well for years." - Richard Wright

"Walking the beautiful cobbled streets of Edinburgh can be tiring - when I get tucked out, the warm, dark performance spaces of my enemies can make the perfect place to nap." - Andy Barr

"I want to mention the museums or the Arthur's Seat or whatever. But ultimately, you haven't lived unless you've had a haggis pie and tattydog chaser from Piemaker on the South Bridge." - Steve McLean

"The Dagda Bar, 93-95 Buccleuch St. Feels like a snug, but has lots of chatter, and a great selection of whisky and session ales; I saw a pub quiz with two teams of geologists from the University get crazy nasty one night." - Mike McShane

"The Royal Botanic Garden. A peaceful escape with stunning gardens, less crowded than the city's other attractions, and a great place to relax and recharge during festival madness." - Sikisa

"Remember that, when it comes to venues on Cowgate, Google Maps only works on a certain level..." - Angela Bra

"Calton Hill is the Arthur's Seat for people who don't like hiking. It's amazing." - Thor Stenhaug

"Watch the military tattoo exit the castle on the Royal Mile after their evening performance. It is free!" - Jessie Deopp

"The Globe Bar is the cheapest place for a drink in centre of Edinburgh (it's also a comedy venue)." - Ian TC

"My best Ed Fringe hack is to take a packed lunch and flask of tea/coffee each day. Money saved on food is money spent on tickets to see more shows." - Yvonne Hughes

"Have a little sleep in the middle of the day." - James Campbell

"Till's bookshop is delightful. Second-hand books but a curated selection - a perfect escape from overstimulating shows." - Ben Pope

"Edinburgh can feel rather basic and/or touristy, especially during the festival. If you're looking for something with a more authentic, underground vibe, I can highly recommend having a drink at Paradise Palms!" - Carly Blair

"The REAL Edinburgh is a small tucked away alley called the Royal Mile. During August there is a paper festival where people all over the country hand out free origami kits as you walk by." - Josh Elton

"For travellers, especially Australians looking to save money because the conversion rate is crazy. There is a place called £2 pizza on South Bridge. New York-style slices for only £2. Cheap, fast, and delicious. Good for running between shows or a quick meal before your show starts." - Matt Harvey

"Stand in any patch of sunlight you find for as long as possible." - Abby Wamburgh

"There is not legally a maximum number of times you can visit the free sample counter at the Royal Mile's House of Fudge. Do what you will with that information." - Lil Wenker

"Get a bag and write 'prop' on the side of it - you can just fill that up with cans and take it into the places where it's about £9 for a pint." - Jack Traynor

"One year I tried every falafel and hummus wrap within about 2 miles of the city centre, carefully making notes. The best one is Elfalafal, on Bristo Place, just over the road from Bristo Square as you walk down to the Grassmarket." - Marc Burrows

"I love going to the Warrender Swim Centre. They have a sauna next to the pool and a glass ceiling above the water. Best place to relax." - Jessica Aszkenasy

"Hula is great for getting some fresh fruit and vegetables in during the Fringe, and City Restaurant does amazing gluten-free fish and chips." - Liz Guterbock

"The best tip is to create a really dramatic playlist for when you're walking around the city, so you can pretend to be, for example, Claudia Winkleman walking into the castle to announce a shock twist. It gives being a pedestrian some much-needed stakes." - Will Owen

"Buy a used bike for 10 quid, use it all festival, on the last day sell it to an American hipster for 40 quid." - Barnie Duncan

"My biggest hidden gem is Wings. It's not really a hidden gem but it's really good - they sell chicken wings and a hundred different sauces. It's really good and tasty." - Ayo Adenekan

"I will scream from the rooftops that you should all go to Uplands Roast for the best hot chocolate of your life." - Jessie Nixon



HardLove – When the Masks Slip, What's Left?

In HardLove, intimacy isn't romanticised, it's scrutinised. Directed by Jee Duman, this electric two-hander dares to ask what remains when two strangers are stripped of performance, left only with their stories, silence, and each other.

Originally written in Turkish and adapted into English, the play brings more than translation, it brings transformation. The translation across cultures deepens its themes of identity and displacement without demanding center stage. This is not a tale of assimilation or struggle, but of presence and what it means to exist, to connect and to be fully seen.

Duman steers the narrative with sharp attention to the tension between fantasy and truth. The characters — raw, awkward, funny, aching, even teeter on the edge of revelation and retreat, caught in the messy choreography of trying to reach someone who might never meet you halfway.

HardLove confronts themes of femininity, masculinity, depression, sex-positivity, and the performativity of both theatre and self. However, it never announces these topics. Instead, it lives them, in glances, in gestures, in the uncomfortable space between lines.



Urgent, disarming, and unexpectedly funny, HardLove isn't a relationship drama. It's something more dangerous, a mirror. As the characters wrestle with their own masks, audiences are quietly invited to examine their own.

Ivy Studio at Greenside
@ George Street

Lime Studio at Greenside
@ George Street

11th-16th August





Josh Bergasse Brings World's Greatest Lover to Life at the Edinburgh Fringe

When Emmy Award-winning choreographer and director Josh Bergasse was approached with the idea for World's Greatest Lover, there was no script, just a wild, theatrical concept about five of history's most iconic lovers vying for the ultimate romantic title. Intrigued by its comedic potential and collaborative spirit, Bergasse dove in, helping shape a bold, fast-paced musical that now makes its UK debut at the Edinburgh Festival Fringe.

With original music, cheeky choreography, and a healthy dose of irreverent fun, World's Greatest Lover premiered in New York before evolving through audience feedback into the tight, crowd-pleasing spectacle it is today. "It's comedy first," Bergasse explains, "but each character reveals something about how we view love, there's substance beneath the silliness."

Each lover, from Romeo to other legendary lotharios, gets their own musical moment, all underpinned by Bergasse's signature style: high energy, narrative-rich movement, and an inclusive spirit that welcomes the audience into the action.



Despite his extensive experience on Broadway and television, this marks Bergasse's first time at the Edinburgh Fringe. "It's been on my bucket list," he admits. "There's nothing else like it. To bring a new, joyful piece here, it feels right."

With heart, humor, and a touch of theatrical chaos, World's Greatest Lover is primed to charm Fringe audiences this August. Under Bergasse's dynamic direction, the show doesn't just spoof the world of romance, it celebrates it.

Pleasance One at Pleasance Courtyard
11th - 24th Aug (excluding the 13th & 20th)



GET YOUR NERD ON!

Every day, 31 July - 24 Aug

Starting at 2:15

PAY WHAT
YOU
CAN

at **Freddy's**
24 Frederick St
Edinburgh
18+

"A blast...
a standing ovation!"

- *Quintessential
Review* ★★★★★

"An hour of warmth
and nerdiness"

- *Starburst* ★★★★★

"Incredibly
charming, high
energy
entertainment"

- *Broadway Baby* ★★★★★

Show #1 @ 2:15 pm

AL! THE WEIRD TRIBUTE!

(And how Daniel Radcliffe
got mixed up in this
nonsense)

FREE
FESTIVAL

"Thank you for
everything, Steve,
we love you!"

- *Weird Al
Yankovic*

in
TWO FUNNY
SHOWS!

A STANDING OVATION
EVERY TIME!

2 SHOWS

STEVE GOODIE

2 SHOWS

BACK
TO BACK!

and then...

Show #2 @ 3:30 pm

STEVE'S BIG DUMB SHOW!

"I certify that
Steve's Big Dumb
Show is funny,
funny, FUNNY!"

- *Dr. Demento*
Beloved radio host
50+ years

it's
FUNNY
SONGS!

Voted dumbest show of the
Fringe, three years running!
And this is our first year!

"It's a safe space for an
American to vent...
through soon-to-be-
illegal songs and stuff!"
- *Steve*

