

Female solo artists search for hope and joy at the Edinburgh Fringe

At C ARTS, a dynamic slate of female solo artists explore complex themes in the search for hope and joy at this year's Edinburgh Festival Fringe.



Returning live this year to the Fringe, C ARTS has curated a wide-ranging collection of award-winning work, including a diverse slate of female solo performers, many making their Fringe debuts.

A powerful line-up of women from across the globe offer a wide range of performances. In genres from musical/cabaret, comedic storytelling, solo theatre, clowning, and puppetry, each artist takes a different approach to addressing personal and societal challenges, with the common thread of searching for levity, even in the darkest of human moments.

C ARTS' venue **C cubed**, on the Lawnmarket (Royal Mile) is home to many of the solo performances. From Los Angeles-based **Unmuted Participants** solo collective, **Elise Robertson's *Imagining Rachel*** uses puppets and found objects to explore the life and work of environmentalist Rachel Carson, searching for inspiration in facing today's climate emergency. In Irish performer **Aoife Fagan's *Glimmer of a Rainbow***, a vintage jewelry shop is the backdrop for an examination of society's fixation with image and material things. From Brighton, UK-based performer **Anjali Singh** comes ***A Matter of Time***. Part cabaret, part history lesson, her show explores the ways we measure and experience time in an attempt to understand why time often feels so oppressive. From Norfolk, UK artist **Beverley Bishop's *Finding Magic*** incorporates magic into her story about surviving her son's tragic death, offering hope to those suffering loss.

C ARTS' venue **C aquila**, on Johnston Terrace/Royal Mile, hosts playwright **Eloise Coopersmith** (California)'s ***My (Unauthorized) Hallmark Movie Musical*** is a creative collaboration of theatre and cinema. Addicted to rom-coms, our heroine, with the help of cliché singing and dancing film characters, finds her voice. C ARTS' newest venues add the mix of voices. At **C piccolo**, on Cockburn Street, **Verona Verbakel** (Belgium) brings light to patriarchal stereotypes, dated gender role-patterns, and the loneliness of dating. At **C place**, on York Place, **Diana Varco's *Shattered***, is a satirical, searing and moving piece of personal storytelling about dating and relationships.

The award-winning C ARTS digital programme, launched at Edinburgh Fringe 2021 where it won the Infallibles Awards for Best Venue and Best Show, and winner of the LiveWire Innovation and Excellence Award for Digital Arts Programme of the Year, 2022, features even more female solo artists. **Terra Taylor Knudson** premieres ***Willy's Lil Virgin Queen***, about finding strength and a voice as a woman through the words of William Shakespeare. Also making their debuts digitally at this year's Fringe from the **Unmuted Participants**

C ARTS | C venues

The home of international independent arts at the Edinburgh Fringe and online, showcasing vibrant vivacious variety, celebrating diversity.

Experience new and classic theatre, physical performance, musicals, opera, dance, circus, cabaret, music, spoken word, children's shows, film, video, talks, discussions, workshops, visual and performance art.

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press@cvenues.com

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collective are artistic director **Ann Noble** (*Little Parts Hunts a Baby-Daddy*), **Ann Loud** (*Hot Dog Play*), **Kelsey Siepser** (*Antennae*), **Jo Dellapina** (*Boy Crazy Psycho Slut*), and **Cecelia Settem** (*I'm Just Saying*).

C ARTS aims to bring the best independent theatre, dance, music, live performance, film, visual and interdisciplinary arts to audiences and followers of culture worldwide, and to enable creative companies and artists to connect across the globe for sustainable and meaningful exchange of ideas and artistic collaboration. For this reason, **C ARTS** is proud to host this rich collection of female voices that widen and deepen our understanding of the human experience.

Bookings for all C ARTS shows at: www.CtheArts.com

For further information, images and interview availability please the **C ARTS** press office on +44 (0)131 581 5550 or press@cvenues.com or the individual artists at email addresses below.

Show Listings:

A Matter of Time Anjali Singh (Brighton, UK) Part history lesson, part cabaret, part heart-rending personal quest, this theatrical, musical show attempts to come to terms with a world in which the clock is always ticking. 'Special... Do not miss it' **** (BroadwayBaby.com).

www.instagram.com/anjalisingh/

C ARTS | C venues | C cubed 3-28 August (not 16) 17:50 (1 hr) Theatre (Solo show, Cabaret) (recommended for ages 12 +) Language: Performed in English

Bookings: <https://res.cthearts.com/event/34:3674>

anjalisingh88@gmail.com

Antennae Kelsey Siepser with Unmuted Participants (California, USA) When a gender nonconforming praying mantis named E appears in Kelsey's study, she is forced to take a twisty trip down memory lane into a more uncomfortable realm. Consequently, she explores the binaries she has chosen to occupy and considers leaping past her old behaviors into the possibilities of the unknown.

Website: <https://www.unmutedparticipants.com/kelseysiepser>

Trailer: <https://vimeo.com/690685551>

C ARTS | C venues | C digital on-demand (40min) Theatre (Solo show, Contemporary, New writing, Multimedia, Theatre, Storytelling) (recommended for ages 16+) Language: Performed in English

Digital bookings: <https://res.cthearts.com/event/34:3475>

ksiepser@gmail.com

Boy Crazy Psycho Slut Jo Dellapina with Unmuted Participants (California, USA) Jo has been called a lot of things during her life – but which ones are true? And who gets to decide that?

Website: <https://www.unmutedparticipants.com/jodellapina>

Trailer: <https://vimeo.com/690685687>

C ARTS | C venues | C digital on-demand (1hr05) Theatre (Solo show, Contemporary, New writing, Multimedia, Theatre, Storytelling) (recommended for ages 16+) Language: Performed in English

Digital bookings: <https://res.cthearts.com/event/34:3477>

jdellapina@gmail.com

Finding Magic Beverley Bishop (UK) A remarkably uplifting true story of personal survival and triumph.

Following her son's death Bev thought she'd lost her magic forever. Magic and captivating storytelling help demonstrate how she continues to survive her grief and find new hope.

Website: www.beverleybishop.com/finding-magic

Facebook: https://www.facebook.com/finding_magic_cic

Trailer: <https://vimeo.com/582945689>

C ARTS | C venues | C cubed 10-13 August 14.00 (1 hr) Theatre (solo show, Universal, New writing, Theatre, True-life, Storytelling) (recommended for ages 15 +) Language: Performed in English

Live bookings: res.cthearts.com/event/34:3666

Digital bookings: res.CtheArts.com/event/34:3414

beverley@beverleybishop.com

Glimmer of a Rainbow Aoife Fagan with Unmuted Participants (California, USA) Set against the backdrop of a vintage jewellers, Orla struggles with a malicious boss and her own internal dilemmas in this thought provoking exploration of what beauty is and what society deems valuable.

Website: <https://www.unmutedparticipants.com/aoiefagan>

Trailer: <https://vimeo.com/690687095>

C ARTS | C venues | C cubed main space 19, 21, 23, 25 August 15:10 and **C ARTS | C venues | C digital** on-demand (1hr06) Theatre (Solo show, Contemporary, New writing, Multimedia, Theatre, Storytelling) (recommended for ages 16+) Language: Performed in English

Live bookings: <https://res.cthearts.com/event/34:3710>

Digital bookings: <https://res.cthearts.com/event/34:3479>

aoifeonora@gmail.com

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Hot Dog Play Ann Loud with Unmuted Participants (California, USA) Hot Dog Play is a candid examination of what it means to live in a post-Dumpling world. Part love letter, part hate mail, this short confessional wrestles with the difficulties of accepting oneself and living life bravely.

Website: <https://www.unmutedparticipants.com/annloud>

Trailer: <https://vimeo.com/687783885>

C ARTS | C venues | C digital on-demand (1hr05) Theatre (Solo show, Contemporary, New writing, Multimedia, Theatre, Storytelling) (recommended for ages 12+) Language: Performed in English

Digital bookings: <https://res.cthearts.com/event/34:3480>

annmofo@gmail.com

Imagining Rachel Elise Robertson with Unmuted Participants (California, USA) Explore **Silent Spring** author Rachel Carson's nature in this wildly inventive solo show. Fellow Pittsburgher Elise Robertson uses puppets and stagecraft to unravel her own messy coming-of-age alongside Rachel's in this poignant, comedic journey into environmental activism.

Website: www.eliserobertson.com/imaginingrachel

Trailer: vimeo.com/582946107

C ARTS | C venues | C cubed main space 20, 22, 24, 26 August 15:05 and **C digital** on-demand (1hr15) Theatre (Solo show, Contemporary, New writing, Multimedia, Theatre, Storytelling) (recommended for ages 12+)

Language: Performed in English

Live bookings: res.cthearts.com/event/34:3698

Digital bookings: res.cthearts.com/event/34:3400

elise@eliserobertson.com

I'm Just Saying Cecelia Settem with Unmuted Participants (California, USA) What do you do when you don't know whether to laugh or cry? Take a journey with Cecelia as she works through adulting, discovering her parents are just humans as she wonders how to be an adequate parent herself.

Website: <https://www.unmutedparticipants.com/cecелиasettem>

Trailer: <https://vimeo.com/690788671>

C ARTS | C venues | C digital on-demand (44min) Theatre (Solo show, Contemporary, New writing, Multimedia, Theatre, Storytelling) (recommended for ages 16+) Language: Performed in English

Digital bookings: <https://res.cthearts.com/event/34:3481>

ccd110@hotmail.com

Little Parts Hunts a Baby-Daddy Ann Noble with Unmuted Participants (California, USA) An always-pregnant, over-intellectual clown decides it's time to interview a series of potential Baby-Daddies for her Maybe Baby aka "the baby that might never come". Part confessional, part Bachelorette wannabe, part puppet show, the selection process swings from absurdly funny to brutally honest as the identity of the real Baby-Daddy dares to come into view.

Website: <https://www.unmutedparticipants.com/annnoble>

Trailer: <https://vimeo.com/690692013>

C ARTS | C venues | C digital on-demand (1hr12) Theatre (Solo show, Contemporary, New writing, Multimedia, Theatre, Storytelling) (recommended for ages 16+) Language: Performed in English

Digital bookings: <https://res.cthearts.com/event/34:3483>

sparksjacks@gmail.com

My (Unauthorized) Hallmark Movie Musical Love Always Wins (California, USA) Hallmark meets Broadway: a match made in heaven! Technical wizardry abounds in an innovative combination of live theatre and cinema.

A Writer, with the help of cliché Rom-Com characters, realizes a lifelong dream. Enjoy utterly delightful ditties in this frivolous, fractured and fun musical where love always wins! 'A lovely little show is showing us just how grand some dreams can be!' TheTVolution.com

Website: www.lovealwayswinsmusical.com

Trailer: <https://vimeo.com/724078426>

C ARTS | C venues | C aquila 3-21 August 2022 (not 15) at 14:00 (1hr30) Musicals and Opera (Multimedia, Performance art, Contemporary, Musical Theatre, Storytelling) (recommended for ages 12+) Language: Performed in English

Live bookings: <https://res.cthearts.com/event/34:3678>

lovealwayswinsmusical@gmail.com

Shattered Diana Varco (California, USA) A fast-paced, comedic and heartbreakingly raw solo show – about dating, dysfunction, and sexual devastation, told through the voices of 35 characters. ‘Truly epic’ (NoHoArtsDistrict.com). ‘Brave, soul-baring piece’ **** (BouquetsBrickbatsReviews.com). ‘Varco inhabits the stage expertly and effortlessly’ **** (BroadwayBaby.com) <https://traumaresearchfoundation.org/the-role-improv-performance-and-storytelling-played-in-my-trauma-recovery-journey/> Website: www.dianavarco.com Trailer: vimeo.com/587630496

C ARTS | C venues | C place 25-28 August at 16:10; **C ARTS | C venues | C digital** on-demand (1hr00) Theatre (Solo show, Satire, Drama, Theatre, True-life, Storytelling) (recommended for ages 16+) Language: Performed in English

Live bookings: <https://res.cthearts.com/event/34:3712>

Digital bookings: <https://res.cthearts.com/event/34:3452>

diana.varco@gmail.com

Willy's Lil Virgin Queen Terra Taylor Knudson (California, USA)

A madcap comedy about discovering love, overcoming tragedy, and finding your voice through the words of Shakespeare. Award-winning actress and playwright Terra Taylor Knudson brings enormous wit, heart, stamina, and frankness to the stage.

Website: www.terrataylorknudson.com

Trailer: <https://vimeo.com/721548616>

C ARTS | C venues | C digital on-demand (1hr15) Theatre (True-life, Satire) (recommended for ages 12+)

Language: Performed in English

Digital Bookings: res.cthearts.com/event/34:3716

olioinfo@hotmail.com

Well-Behaved Women Seldom Make History Verona Verbakel (Belgium)

A shameless ode to puppy love in all its mundane, absurdist glory, featuring toads, sperm banks and carrots. A tragicomic true-life theatre monologue examining patriarchal stereotypes, dangerous gender role-patterns, and the loneliness of dating.

Website: www.veronaverbakel.com/well-behaved-women-seldom-make-history.html

Trailer: <https://vimeo.com/724712336>

C ARTS | C venues | C piccolo 5-28 Aug at 18:55 (11-12 Aug at 22:35) (0hr55) Theatre (Comedy, Cabaret, Solo show, Contemporary, True-life) (recommended for ages 16+) Language: Performed in English

Live bookings: <https://res.CtheArts.com/event/34:3689>

verona_aurora_verbakel@hotmail.com

For further information, images and interview availability please contact

Name at Company on [number starting + then country code then number] or [email address]

or the C ARTS press office on +44 (0)131 581 5550 or press@cvenues.com

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