

# ThreeWeeks EDINBURGH

**Richard Tyrone Jones's Big Heart**  
A spoken word show about heart failure. But with jokes.  
'Ringmaster of spoken word'  
★★★★ Three Weeks  
'fascinating, sobering, hilarious'  
New Scientist  
6pm to 25 August (not 19)  
Banshee Labyrinth Cinema  
Accessible Saturday matinees:  
Supported by **welcome** trust  
www.richardtyronejones.com

**seeing double: FIGURES VISION**  
Edinburgh's first simultaneous farce: two venues, two shows, two audiences linked by a live video stream.  
Pleasance Courtyard, 11:30am  
★★★★ The New Current  
★★★★ Three Weeks  
33 PLEASANCE COURTYARD

**NICK PYNN**  
with Kate Daisy Grant  
'Delightfully off-kilter'  
The List  
'Highly, highly recommended'  
5/5 Three Weeks  
'A musical find'  
The Scotsman  
VENUE 258 - INLINGUA EDINBURGH

**some News**  
Are you addicted to news?  
**FREE SHOW**  
@ Captain Taylor's Coffee House, South Bridge  
5:30pm Aug 4-26 ed.somenews.co.uk

TIME: 22:30 MON TO SAT  
**ALL AN ACT**  
CLOWNS WITH ISSUES  
7/5 POUNDS @SURGEONS HALL

## COMEDY

### Graham Rex Graham

It is performed with the style and confidence of Festival veterans; so much so that you would never guess that 'Graham Rex' is the debut Fringe show for sketch troupe Graham - a winning quartet made up of Luke Andrew, Tom Moore, Arthur Sturridge and Paddy Delaney. Based sporadically around the narrative of Graham's route to Edinburgh, there's a great mix of sharply-written sketches and an esoteric set of cultural references - it's not often 'Pokémon' and 'Frasier' are mentioned within one show. The boys have great on-stage rapport and are all equally talented as performers. My personal highlight was Sturridge's unusual take on Alan Yentob - in a perfectly-pitched sketch about BBC4 documentaries - though Moore's Gandalf impression comes a close second. Definitely ones to watch.

Underbelly Bristo Square, 1-27 Aug (not 14), 12.10pm. tw rating 5/5 | [Holly Close]

### Graters: Julian Ignores His Friend And Talks To A Pretty Girl

Graters

Julian protests that he's not a creep; he's an entertainer, and performing is "kinda [his] raison d'être". This UCL sketch show then revolves around his unsuccessful attempts to pick up girls in a bar by presenting them with a series of sketch ideas. The subsequent scenes are somewhat erratic but the script is cuttingly funny and satirises everything from IVF clinics to game show culture to Orange Wednesdays. The acting is of a good standard overall, though the performers vary in their ability to exploit the witty dialogue. The high point of show comes with a tragi-comic moment when Julian's co-star serenades the drunken, sodden, miserable entertainer with a guitar and an Oedipal ode to mother's milk.

Underbelly Cowgate, 2-26 Aug (not 13) 11.50am. tw rating 4/5 | [Eve Lacey]

### Hal Cruttenden CKP

Hal Cruttenden is a very charismatic man. He is so endearing that, despite being ushered to the front row centre seat and bearing the brunt of his mockery for sixty minutes, I left the venue with a cheerful spring in my step. Fortunately, it was teasing in the kindest way possible - entertaining without being overly malicious. Cruttenden's non-improvised material was equally as impressive, featuring dexterous wordplay aplenty and smooth transitions between each anecdote. The show's social and political critiques were thoughtful without being too preachy, and peppered with enough disarming self-deprecation to keep viewers on his side. An hour in Cruttenden's exuberant company will pass quickly. Enjoy it while it lasts. But perhaps avoid sitting in my place.

Pleasance Courtyard, 1-26 Aug (not 13), 9.45pm. tw rating 4/5 | [Joseph Fleming]



**SNAP OF THE DAY: So what style do you want the caption in? Oh, straight plug. The Bedlam Theatre's Improverts are improvising their way through another Fringe, each night at half past midnight.** Photo: Charlotte Mortimer Talman

### Hannah Gadsby - Mary. Contrary.

Token Events

If you have ever dozed in church then have no fear, as Hannah Gadsby is here to fill the gaps with her alternative education. The Australian comedian fuses her degree in Art History with her quick wit to take you on a tour of the many faces of the Virgin Mary. The show concept is genius: Gadsby looks deeper into paintings of the Madonna and picks out humorous observations that would usually go unnoticed - silly asides between portrait characters made Gadsby instantly loveable. Sometimes the show dragged because of a classroom-like feel, due to the hour long slide show. However, thou shalt not let the Powerpoint dissuade thee, as Gadsby's show is an innovative treat!

Gilded Balloon Teviot, 1-26 Aug (not 13, 14, 15, 20, 21, 22), 2.00 pm. tw rating: 4/5 | [Emma Obank]

### Humans vs. Nature: Engineering FTW

Matt Parker and Timandra Harkness  
Unlike most comedy shows at the Fringe, 'Humans vs. Nature' is a delightful combination of goofy stand-up and educational programming on the history of mankind's achievements. Matt Parker and Timandra Harkness produce a boxing match arena in which a robot dressed as a tree nymph advocates for nature against a spunky Timandra who champions for mankind in a series of thought-provoking

rounds in order to determine which entity is superior. Using a plethora of comical flow charts, poorly constructed top hats, moustaches, and monocles (to illustrate the past obviously), the duo delivers an entertaining and unique show. Suffice it to say, the premise is somewhat outlandish but the facts are interesting and the comedy genuine.

Assembly George Sq, 2-16 Aug, 10.40am. tw rating 4/5 | [Ellie Willis]

### Iszi Lawrence's Wotnot

Iszi Lawrence

Although appearing to be a bit of a jumble of anecdotes, jokes and ideas, Iszi Lawrence's stand-up has some exceptionally funny moments. Centring on her white middle-class Oxford upbringing and the awkwardness of being a teenager who doesn't fit in (and her attempts to win the heart of her Geography teacher), quirky Lawrence's set is delivered masterfully with infectious enthusiasm. She possesses a very assured manner on stage, and is a comedian who fully engages with her audience; I think it'd be hard for anyone to not like her. And despite the hour of somewhat unorthodox stand-up, Lawrence's set had me leaving the club beaming. A wonderful way to spend an afternoon; see her before she hits the big time.

The Stand Comedy Club, 2-26 Aug (not 13), 1.10pm.

tw rating 4/5 | [Simon Thornton]

### Jessica Fostekew: Brave New Word

CKP

Jessica Fostekew sure does have a way with words. And in fact, she returns to Edinburgh this year with a show exploring and analysing the etymology of words and phrases. I know what you're thinking: this doesn't sound like a fun hour of laughs. But rest assured, Fostekew delivers her lesson with wit and well-honed comedic talent. Her confident stage presence immediately puts the audience at ease as she takes us through a school day, from assembly to history to the end of school talent show, exploring the origins and meanings of a whole range of words and expressions. Even a mid-performance power-cut couldn't disrupt this tour de force. This is stand-up with an educational twist. A+.

Gilded Balloon Teviot, 1-26 Aug (not 14), 6.30pm. tw rating 5/5 | [Simon Thornton]

### Heath Franklin's Chopper In A Hard Bastard's Guide To Life

Chopper / Underbelly Productions

When a comedian walks on-stage with joggers on and a beer in hand, you know it's going to be a relaxed show. He does swear a lot, but it's all part of the character's Australian charm and honest style. I love nothing more than watching someone incredibly funny doing observational jokes about the things I personally hate, and cont>

**JOIN US FOR BREAKFAST**  
Free at all 10:30 performances  
*Going Green the Wong Way*  
4 - 18 Aug (not 6 or 13)  
**CaLARTS Festival Theater**  
**VENUE 13** Lochend Close  
100m past Cannongate Kirk  
**JOIN US FOR TEA**  
On the Venue13 lawn at 15:30  
Free with a same day ticket  
4 - 18 Aug (not 6 or 13)

**'Daring... imaginative'**  
Stage 'Must See' Show  
Kipper Tie Theatre and I Theatre  
with C theatre  
**Our Island**  
2-27 Aug at 1.20pm  
**venue 4**  
ST COLUMBA'S BY THE CASTLE  
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www.CtheFestival.com

**JONNY-&-THE BAPTISTS**  
★★★★★ 'Awesome' Fringe Biscuit  
★★★★★ 'Hilarious' Remote Goat  
★★★★★ 'Genius' Exeunt  
★★★★★ 'Foot-tapping' Broadway Baby  
★★★★★ 'It rarely gets better than this' Ed Fest  
★★★★★ 'Wild, raw... fieriness & heart' The List  
**The hit debut act! Underbelly, 9.10pm**

