

# AVALON ANNOUNCE EDINBURGH FESTIVAL FRINGE 2019 LINE-UP

**INCLUDING WINNERS OF BEST SHOW 2018 ROSE MATAFEO AND BEST NEWCOMER 2018 CIARÁN DOWD**

Avalon announce their full line-up for this year's Edinburgh Festival Fringe, including winners of Edinburgh Comedy Award for Best Show 2018 **Rose Matafeo** and winner of Edinburgh Comedy Award for Best Newcomer 2018 **Ciarán Dowd**.

Presenting the latest shows from award-winning comics **Al Murray**, **Frank Skinner**, **Russell Howard**, and **Simon Brodtkin**, critically acclaimed theatre from performance artist **Bryony Kimmings** and a debut play written by Olivier Award-winner **Sheila Atim**, political satire from **Matt Forde**, brand-new shows from **Phil Wang**, Amused Moose Comedy Award 2018 Winner **Tania Edwards** and Double Edinburgh Award Nominee 2017 and 2018 **Ahir Shah**, and musical comedy from rap jazz duo **Harry & Chris** among many others.

Fringe go-ers will also have a chance to watch debut hours from the rising stars of comedy including **Ray Badran**, **Susan Riddell**, **Steff Todd** and **Travis Jay**.

During the last 30 years, Avalon has promoted more Edinburgh Comedy Award winners and nominees than any other company including: **Chris Addison**, **Greg Davies**, **Dave Gorman**, **Harry Hill**, **The Mighty Boosh**, **Al Murray**, **Russell Kane**, **Alex Horne**, **Roisin Conaty**, **Kristen Schaal & Kurt Braunohler**, **Garth Marengi**, **Lucy Beaumont**, **Bilal Zafar**, **Glenn Moore**, **Ahir Shah** and **Ciarán Dowd**, and three of only six female winners of the prestigious Edinburgh Comedy Award; **Jenny Eclair**, **Laura Solon**, and 2018's winner **Rose Matafeo**.

Avalon's line-up for 2019 includes:

**Ahir Shah** – Dots

**Al Murray** – Landlord of Hope and Glory

**Brian Catling** – Resurrecting Bobby Awl

**Bryony Kimmings** – I'm A Phoenix, Bitch

**Ciarán Dowd** – Padre Rodolfo

**Eleanor Tiernan** – Enjoying the Spotlight Responsibly

**Eve Nicol and Stuart Murdoch** – If You're Feeling Sinister: a play with songs

**Flo & Joan** – Before the Screaming Starts

**Frank Skinner** – Live

**Harry & Chris** – This One's For The Aliens

**Jacob Hawley** – Faliraki

» AVALON «

**Jayde Adams** – The Ballad of Kylie Jenner's Old Face

**Jonny & the Baptists** – Love Edinburgh, Hate Bastards

**Kieran Boyd** – Crashing the Party

**Lucy Beaumont** – Space Mam

**Matt Forde** – Brexit, Pursued by a Bear

**Matt Forde** – Matt Forde's Political Party Podcast

**Matt Richardson** – Imposter

**Matt Winning** – It's The End Of The World As We Know It

**Naz Osmanoglu** – Scandinaveland

**Pierre Novellie** – You're Expected To Care

**Phil Wang** – Philly Philly Wang Wang

**Ray Badran** – Everybody Loves Ray, Man

**Rob Auton** – The Time Show

**Rose Matafeo** – Horndog

**Russell Howard** – Work in Progress (Afternoon)

**Russell Howard** – Work in Progress (Evening)

**Sheila Atim** – Anguis

**Simon Brodtkin** – 100% Simon Brodtkin

**Steff Todd** – Reality Check

**Steve Bugeja** – Single Mum

**Susan Riddell** – Duvet Day

**Tania Edwards** – Don't Mention It

**Travis Jay** – Funny, Petty, Cool

Follow [@livecomedy](#) for news and ticket info. For further information, interview requests or images please contact the Edinburgh press team at [edinburghpress@avalonuk.com](mailto:edinburghpress@avalonuk.com) or phone Florrie Sheehan or Lily Marriott on 0207 598 7222

# STAND-UP

## Ahir Shah – Dots

*“intricately crafted, profoundly moving, howlingly funny... he’s a blazing talent firing on all cylinders”*

★★★★★

**The Telegraph**



Double Edinburgh Comedy Award Nominee 2017 and 2018, Ahir Shah returns with a brand-new hour of stand-up following on from critically acclaimed show, *Duffer*, which was performed to packed houses at last year's Fringe, had a sold-out run in London's West End, and toured within the UK and internationally. Ahir has appeared on *Live at the Apollo* (BBC Two), *Have I Got News For You* (BBC One), *Frankie Boyle's New World Order* (BBC Two), *Stand Up Central with Rob Delaney* (Comedy Central), and *The Now Show* (BBC Radio 4). *“Magnificent”* ★★★★★ (The List), *“Outstanding”* ★★★★★½ (Chortle), *“Impassioned, probing and*

*unexpectedly moving”* ★★★★★ (The Mail On Sunday), ★★★★★ (The Times).

## Al Murray – Landlord of Hope and Glory

*“Stand-up Gold”*

**The Guardian**



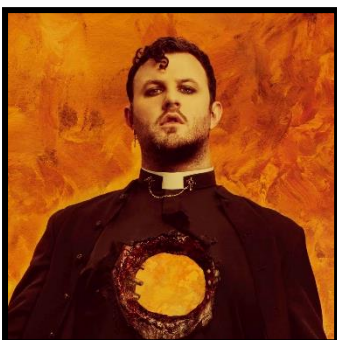
Citizens of Hope and Glory! A new tomorrow beckons. One that smells reassuringly of yesterday, but with Wi-Fi. One last heave and we will be there. And when the going gets tough the tough get going. Although the going won't get tough and anyone who tells you it is going to be tough is lying. Come join the Pub Landlord and step backwards into the future.

## Ciarán Dowd – Padre Rodolfo

*“A riot from beginning to end...a cult hit”*

★★★★★

**Chortle**



Winner of the Edinburgh Comedy Award for Best Newcomer 2018, Ciarán Dowd returns with a supernatural action-adventure and follow-up to the 2018 smash hit *Don Rodolfo*. In the wake of an unspeakable tragedy, world-famous lothario, swordsman and butthead Rodolfo turns his back on his lifestyle – rejects the sword, takes a vow of chastity and joins the priesthood. But as dark forces rise he must face personal demons and battle actual demons. Ciarán was nominated for Breakthrough Act at the Chortle Awards 2019 and has appeared in *Josh* (BBC1), *GameFace* (E4/Hulu), *Zapped* (Dave), and has made the most guest appearances on *Drunk History* (Comedy Central). *“The funniest show you will see this year”* ★★★★★ (Telegraph),

*“comedy of the most ridiculous variety”* ★★★★★ (The Guardian), ★★★★★ (The Times).

## Eleanor Tiernan – Enjoying the Spotlight Responsibly

*"Funny, Fanciful and Fearless"*

**Graham Norton**



Concerned about Gemma Collins ability to entertain after the icebergs melt? In bed gorging on True Crime while the actual crime outside your door fails to tantalise? Following a sell-out run at last year's Fringe, Irish comedian Eleanor Tiernan (BBC Radio 4's *New Quiz*, BBC Radio 4's *Where's The F in News*) is back to spark your joy. *"Amiably acerbic"* (Stewart Lee), *"Genuinely hilarious"* ★★★★★ (Funny Women), *"Tiernan boasts a magnificent curl in her lip and snarl in her voice"* (Sunday Times).

## Frank Skinner – Live

*"Provocative, remorseless, and very, very funny"*

**The Times**



An unmissable opportunity to see comic legend Frank Skinner perform brand new stand-up in an intimate space. *"One of Britain's funniest men"* (Evening Standard).

## Jacob Hawley – Faliraki

*"Intelligent and important, his self-aware set sees him explore themes of class and identity in the modern world expertly"*

★★★★★

**The Sunday Post**



Stevenage soft-Lad Jacob Hawley presents his 2<sup>nd</sup> solo show with ruminations on love, youth and mental health. Politics for idiots, feminism for lads, love stories for louts, self-care for those who don't. *'The distinctly millennial rising star of the Edinburgh Fringe'* (New Statesman), *'A down-to-earth talent who's got it in spades.'* ★★★★★ (The List), *"his show is an important contribution to a discussion we all need to be engaging with"* ★★★★★ (Peg Review). Creator and star of BBC Radio 4's *Welcome To Britain* and BBC Sounds' *Jacob Hawley: On Drugs*, as well as being a *BBC New Comedy Award* Finalist.

## Jayde Adams – The Ballad of Kylie Jenner's Old Face

*"There's little doubt that Adams is anything but stardom bound"*

**Evening Standard**



Following a sell-out Fringe in 2018, Jayde Adams is packing away the sequins and glamour for her 4<sup>th</sup> solo show to reinvent herself as a 'Successful Independent Woman Person'. "Britain's Funniest Woman comic" (Daily Mail) invites you to an incredibly serious keynote speech investigating what it means to be a feminist in 2019. "She's a star" (The Guardian), "Glam, glitter and a deconstruction of feminism? Now that's divine" ★★★★★ (The Arts Desk), "Adams has a highly original voice" ★★★★★ (Three Weeks).

## Kieran Boyd – Crashing the Party

*"Impressively funny... Terrific material"*

**The Scotsman**



What happens when the never-ending party ends? Kieran Boyd's brand-new solo hour gives you a backstage pass to 12 reckless years with the critically acclaimed and frequently disapproved of sketch group WitTank ("*dazzling*", The List). A hilarious patchwork of stories about life before, during and after the wheels come off and the tank runs dry. "*Brilliant, fresh and funny... Absolutely glorious stuff... Exquisite*" (Kate Copstick), "*The kind of acute social observations that would grace any mainstream stand-up showcase*" (Chortle), "*Genuinely funny...very talented comedian*" (ThreeWeeks).

## Lucy Beaumont – Space Man

*"Beaumont is a riot!"*

**The Scotsman**



Award winning comedian Lucy Beaumont presents her highly anticipated return to comedy with a brand new hour of life affirming laughter. The *Comedy Award Best Newcomer Nominee* is back to share stories from the front line of motherhood on the North East Coast. Creator and star of BBC Radio 4's *To Hull and Back*, Lucy can be seen on *QI* (BBC Two), *Ultimate Worrier* (Dave), *Alan Davies As Yet Untitled* (Dave), and *The Unbelievable Truth* (BBC Radio 4). "*Devastating comic timing*" (The Stage), "*A Star is born*" (Chortle), "*Heart-poundingly performed*" (The Times).

## Matt Forde – Brexit, Pursued by a Bear

*“Possibly the best political comedy show on the Fringe”*

★★★★★ **The Telegraph**



Following a completely sold-out 2018 Edinburgh Festival Fringe, Britain’s leading political comedian once again promises his last show as an EU citizen (maybe). As seen on *Have I Got News For You* (BBC One) and *The Royal Variety* (BBC One, ITV). *“Is there a better political comic than Matt Forde currently working in the UK? I can't think of another to touch him”* ★★★★★½ (Chortle), *“a stand-up of rare skill”* ★★★★★ (The Sunday Times), *“smart, funny ideas”* ★★★★★ (The Times).

## Matt Richardson – Imposter

*“Hilarious and charming”*

**The Mirror**



Virgin Radio presenter and comedian Matt Richardson is trying to navigate the world of adulthood, while feeling like an imposter. Join him for hour of unrestrained, raucous laughs where anything could happen. As well as being the only comedian to host a show on Virgin Radio, Matt has hosted *The Hangover Games* (E4), *The Xtra Factor* (ITV2) and *Just Tattoo Of Us* (MTV), as well as appearing on *Roast Battle* (Comedy Central), *Celebrity Juice* (ITV2), *Drunk History* (Comedy Central) and *I’m a Celebrity Get Me Out Of Here Now!* (ITV2). ★★★★★ (Voice Mag), ★★★★★ (Theatre Weekly), *“High wattage charisma from a talented young comic whose star is on the rise”* (The Guardian).

## Matt Winning – It’s The End Of The World As We Know It

*“hilarious, personal, inventive, and something that will stay with you for some time to come”*

★★★★★

**Ed Fest Mag**



A storytelling lecture from the *“attractively impish”* (Guardian) Dr Matt Winning about how we all cope with climate change. The critically-acclaimed Paisley professor is humanising our planetary predicament with his unique blend of bite-sized environmentalism, short stories, and some compelling slide show transitions. As seen on BBC Three, BBC Radio 2, and as the Environmental Correspondent on *Unspun with Matt Forde* on Dave. *“Winning’s sharp wit and intelligence allows him to educate as he entertains”* ★★★★★½ (Sunday Post), *“a terrifying statistic regarding our planet’s future before a joke which leaves the audience roaring with laughter”* ★★★★★ (National Student), *“an entertaining blend of facts, figures and accessible bits of stand-up”* (Chortle), *“Clever gags ... esoteric routines”* (Scotsman).



## Naz Osmanoglu – Scandinaveland

*"A comedic tour de force"*

★★★★ The List



*magnetic*" (The Guardian).

Award-winning comedian Naz Osmanoglu brings a brand new hour of Nordic Noir character comedy Scandinaveland to the Edinburgh Festival Fringe. Every case in Sweden is a cold case...Sweden's once famous, now hapless, homicide detective Lars Johansson revisits the case he never solved (mainly because he wants his own true-crime podcast): brutal murders, far-fetched twists, red herrings, actual herring and, of course, overwhelmingly polite and reasonable law enforcement officers. *"A high energy, no-holds-barred hour from the consistently funny Naz"* (The Telegraph), *"His material packs a punch"* (Kate Copstick, The Scotsman), *"Particularly*

## Pierre Novellie – You're Expected To Care

*"Brutally funny"*

★★★★½

Chortle



*team there is"* ★★★★★ (Sunday Post).

Existing is exhausting. Endless empathy and engagement is expected of everyone. You've got to be aware of all the complicated, horrific things in the world, don't you? Even if they're absolutely nothing to do with you? Following a critically acclaimed run at last year's Fringe, Mash Report correspondent and comedian Pierre Novellie returns to bring some intellectual levity to various absolutely appalling subjects. *"The dawn of a major talent"* (The Guardian), *"hilarious...He will go far"* ★★★★★ (The Times), *"very close to being a stand-up masterclass"* ★★★★★ (The List), *"sharply crafted and intelligent comedy that pokes a satirically pointed finger at almost every*

## Phil Wang – Philly Philly Wang Wang

*"This is intoxicating stuff"*

★★★★

The Telegraph



*stand-up"* ★★★★★ (The Times), *"Perfectly intertwined personal-political belly laughs"* ★★★★★ (The Scotsman).

Following a sell-out run at the Melbourne International Comedy Festival, Phil 'Philly Philly Wang Wang' Wang returns to the Edinburgh Festival Fringe with a new hour of absolute gold. Phil has made a name for himself (that name being Phil Wang) exploring sex, romance, politics, and his mixed British-Malaysian heritage, in shows that delight in his unique Wang brand of smart/silly stupidity. This one is about morality and the modern sense of self. Swell! As seen on *Have I Got News For You* (BBC One), *Live at the Apollo* (BBC Two), *Taskmaster* (Dave) and *The Comedy Line-Up* (Netflix). *"Stand-up dreamland"* ★★★★★ (The Guardian), *"A unique and properly funny*

## Ray Badran – Everybody Loves Ray, Man

WINNER Best International Comedian  
New Zealand Comedy Guild 2017



Acclaimed Australian comedian Ray Badran presents his debut show following sold-out performances at the Melbourne International Comedy Festival and New Zealand International Comedy Festival. After moving to the UK, the rising star is ready to tackle the big issues in life such as pockets, Subway sandwiches and fridges with his characteristic whimsy and off-beat observations. As seen on Comedy Central's *No Experience Necessary* which he wrote and starred in (“*funniest local TV show in ages*”, New Zealand Herald), and heard on ABC’s comedy podcast *Positions Vacant* (Top 5 comedy podcasts in Australia). “*His style definitely struck the right chord for the night, getting the entire crowd in hysterics...*” (Arts Review Australia),

“*Hilarious... these stories are funny and well told*” (Sydney Morning Herald).

## Rob Auton – The Time Show

“*A genuine original. Poetical, philosophical, humane, completely charming and funny to boot*”  
The Guardian



Following on from the second best reviewed comedy show, *The Talk Show*, at 2018’s Edinburgh Festival Fringe, *The Time Show* is a comedy/theatre/spoken word show about time. It is suitable for people who know of time. Award-winning comedian and poet Rob Auton has previously performed shows about the colour yellow, the sky, faces, water, sleep and hair. A clip of Rob recently performing on *Stand-Up Central With Rob Delaney* (Comedy Central) went viral with over 7 million views on Facebook, adding to television credits including *The Russell Howard Hour* (Sky One), *Cold Feet* (ITV) and *Random Acts* (Ch4). “*A genuine original. Poetical, philosophical, humane, and funny to boot*” (The Guardian). “*We need him*” (Scotsman).

“*Charming, eccentric and uplifting, Auton is a talent to watch*” (Independent). “*Funny, baffling and deeply moving*” (Telegraph).

“*Just sad*” (Vanessa Feltz).

## Rose Matafeo – Horndog

WINNER Best Show  
Edinburgh Comedy Awards 2018



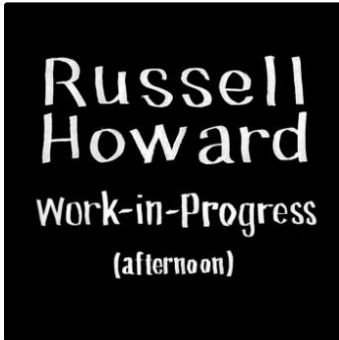
Comedy Award Winner Rose Matafeo returns to the Fringe for one week only with the celebrated show *Horndog*. A whirlwind of stand-up, sketch and mid 20s angst, *Horndog* has enjoyed multiple sell-out performances around the world and was consistently highlighted as one of the best shows at the Fringe in the Guardian, Vogue, Evening Standard, The Mirror, Chortle, and British Comedy Guide. “*Rose Matafeo is going to be huge*” ★★★★★ (The I), “*Matafeo is an astute, often hilarious observer of millennial life*” ★★★★★ (The Telegraph), “*Another storming set from a woman whose neuroses, intelligence and flamboyant sense of*

*her own ridiculousness make her a near-perfect comedian*” ★★★★★ (Guardian).



## Russell Howard – Work in Progress (Afternoon)

*“One of the world’s top comedians”*  
**The Sunday Times, UK**



Come join Russell for his early afternoon bonus hour. He'll be messing about and answering your questions. Some of it will be good, some will be rubbish but hey, it's only a fiver!

## Russell Howard – Work in Progress (Evening)

*“One of the world’s top comedians”*  
**The Sunday Times, UK**



Russell performs his work-in-progress show testing new material. Some jokes will last to his tour or TV shows, some will survive just one night. Regardless, it'll be fun. Come be part of the process. All profits from this run will go to [The Kiyan Prince Foundation](#).

## Simon Brodtkin – 100% Simon Brodtkin

*“if it's an hour of spit-your-drink moments you're after, there aren't many better comedians to turn to”*

★★★★

**Rupert Hawksley, The Daily Telegraph**



Award-winning, critically-acclaimed comedian Simon Brodtkin unveils his funniest character yet... himself! After three hugely successful BBC series as character Lee Nelson and having gained notoriety as a serial prankster, pulling off world-famous stunts on the likes of Donald Trump, Theresa May, Kanye West and Sepp Blatter, Simon will perform out of character for the very first time. He opens up about childhood growing up on the mean streets of Hampstead Village, moving on to adulthood as an out-of-his-depth doctor, inept parent and conflicted Jew. *“Prodigious talent”* (The Times), *“Get him out!”* (Donald Trump).

## Steff Todd – Reality Check

*"Absolutely incredible impressions"*

**The Mirror**



Award-winning comedian, impressionist and internet sensation Steff Todd presents her debut solo show Reality Check. Hailing from Yorkshire, Steff has gained worldwide attention with her viral impressions of stars from Reality TV and Pop culture ranging from the Kardashians, Love Island, X Factor and many more, making her one of the hottest emerging talents in comedy. Join her for her debut hour of hilarious stand up, razor sharp one-liners and amazing celebrity impressions. Steff has appeared on *The Dog Ate My Homework* for CBBC and has recently supported Iain Stirling, Sara Pascoe and Rob Delaney. *"Hilarious and brilliant"* (The Stand) *"Hilariously accurate impressions"* (Daily Star).

## Steve Bugeja – Single Mum

*"Plentiful jokes and compelling storytelling"*

**Scotsman**



own" (Guardian).

The host of BBC Radio 4's *Economics with Subtitles*, and award-winning (*BBC New Comedy Award*), critically-acclaimed Steve Bugeja returns with a twenty-first century kind of fairy tale, following his childhood helping his single mum find her Prince Charming all while learning his times tables. (He was 7). As seen on *The Russell Howard Hour* (Sky One), *The Zoe Ball Show* (ITV1), *Stand Up Central* (Comedy Central), *Love Island Aftersun* (ITV2) and *Comedy Up Late* (ABC TV) at the Melbourne International Comedy Festival, *"Steve's a charming, likeable stand-up with a set packed with gags"* ★★★★★ (Sunday Post), *"An eye for comic detail that's all his*

## Susan Riddell – Duvet Day

*"A Scottish talent on the rise"*

**The Scotsman**



*Best Scottish Newcomer Nominee and Funny Women Runner Up* Susan Riddell's debut show champions laziness in an increasingly manic world. The rising star's sharp observations and sparkling wit have already been highlighted as a *Must Watch Show* at the Glasgow International Comedy Festival (The Scotsman). *"A brilliant comedian ... a star on the rise"* (BBC Comedy Presents), *"Emerging talent ... original comic voice"* (Funny Women), *"Formidable, fearless ... quick with the audience. She's sharp make no mistake"* (The Wee Review).

## Tania Edwards – Don't Mention It

*"Packing plenty of punchy and self-aware insights into modern life...Tania Edwards is effortlessly funny"*

★★★★

**Ed Fest Mag**



How easy is it to be brazen yet bashful, courageous yet coy (and make sure everyone notices)? Winner of Amused Moose Comedy Award 2018, Tania Edwards returns with a brand-new hour, taking an irreverent look at love, marriage and parenthood, as well as a side swipe at our vanity in a social media saturated age. In a bold stand against a rising tide of self-obsession, Tania advocates a stiff upper lip - with quivering intensity. *"brilliantly dark jokes"* ★★★★★ (Voice), *"ram-packed with gags"* (Chortle), *"cuts daggers with sharp one liners"* (Glamour Magazine).

## Travis Jay – Funny, Petty, Cool

*"He's amazing"*

**Dave Chappelle**



From a throwback to the time Travis Jay accidentally became leader of a Black Lives Matter protest, to delving in to his South London upbringing and a raw look at the impact of his grandfather passing, this debut hour offers both a deeply personal and side-splitting socio-political insight in to his world to date. The Leicester Mercury Comedian of the Year nominee returns to the festival twenty five years on from watching his mother Angie Le Mar perform her comedy sketch show in 1994.

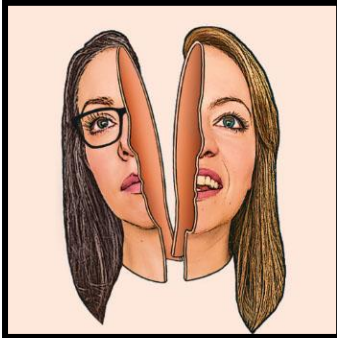
# VARIETY, MUSICAL COMEDY & PODCAST PRODUCTIONS

## Flo & Joan – Before the Screaming Starts

*“These intricately crafted, flawlessly performed numbers will have you howling with laughter one minute, wiping away a tear the next”*

★★★★

The Telegraph



In January, musical comedy sisters Flo & Joan watched the Bros documentary and saw a glimpse into their future; a lot of dog portraits and male pattern baldness. Following a sell-out run at last year’s Fringe, they return with a brand new hour of waggish songs to parade about the place. *“Musical comedy hasn’t been in such safe hands for years”* (The List), ★★★★★ (Sunday Post), ★★★★★ (Sunday Times). Chortle Awards 2018 Best Music & Variety Act Winners and Leicester Comedy Festival 2018 Best Musical Act nominees. As seen and heard on *Stand Up Central* (Comedy Central), *Horrible Histories* (CBBC) and *The Now Show* (BBC Radio

4).

## Harry & Chris – This One’s For The Aliens

*“A wonderful blend of infectious songs packed with sharp, clever wordplay”*

★★★★★

Sunday Post



Comedy-Rap-Jazz-Duo and *Guardian Pick of the Fringe 2018* Harry & Chris return to the festival following three sold out national tours. In an era where life on Mars is looking increasingly likely, their latest blend of award-winning wordplay, awe-inspiring musicality, eyebrow-raising bromance and unashamed joy takes on the mammoth challenge of spinning planet earth to the rest of the universe. As seen on *The Russell Howard Hour* (Sky), and heard on BBC Radio 2’s *Live From the Edinburgh Fringe*, and BBC Radio 3’s *The Verb*. *“Thoroughly feelgood”* (Chortle), *“Blisteringly talented”* ★★★★★ (Fringe Guru), *“a truly capturing and*

*uplifting show”* ★★★★★ (Edinburgh Guide).

## Jonny & the Baptists – Love Edinburgh, Hate Bastards

*“It’s thought-provoking, lyrically brilliant fun of the highest order.”*

★★★★★

Exuent Magazine



Multi-award nominated musical-activist-comedians Jonny & The Baptists are sick of these politically fragmented times. The musical comedy duo’s 6<sup>th</sup> show hopes to cross the divide and bring people together the only way they know how, with musical brilliance and thought-provoking lyrics. Stars of BBC Radio 4’s *The Now Show*, *“Excellent”* ★★★★★ (Guardian), *“Wickedly funny”* ★★★★★ (Times), *“Superbly crafted”* ★★★★★ (Metro), *“biting satire”* ★★★★★ (Edinburgh Reporter), *“a real Edinburgh highlight”* ★★★★★ (British Theatre Guide).

## Matt Forde – Matt Forde’s Political Party Podcast

★★★★★

The Telegraph



Following a 5-year sold-out residency in London, Matt Forde (as seen on *Have I Got News For You*, *Mock the Week*, *The Royal Variety Performance* and *Question Time*) returns to Edinburgh for two live shows. The Political Party Podcast is regularly in the Top 10 comedy podcasts on iTunes and has over 50,000 subscribers. Previous guests include: Tony Blair, Nigel Farage, Ruth Davidson, Michael Portillo, Tessa Jowell, Anna Soubry, Liz Kendall, Ken Clarke, John Swinney, Alistair Campbell and George Osborne. *“Is there a better political comic than Matt Forde currently working in the UK? I can't think of another to touch him” ★★★★★½ (Chortle), “a*

*stand-up of rare skill” ★★★★★ (The Sunday Times), “smart, funny ideas” ★★★★★ (The Times).*



# THEATRE

## Anguis

Praise for Sheila Atim in *Girl from the North Country* at The Old Vic

*"Sheila Atim makes the skin shiver"* ★★★★★ **The Telegraph**



Olivier award-winning actor **Sheila Atim** (*The Old Vic's Girl From The North Country*) will bring her first-ever written play *Anguis* to the Edinburgh Festival Fringe. Written by Sheila and directed by **Lucy Jane Atkinson** (Vault Festival and Trafalgar Studios' *A Hundred Words For Snow*), *Anguis* is set in a broadcast recording studio where an interview exploring alternatives to popular truth takes place between two women, the great pharaoh Cleopatra and contemporary virologist, Kate. The conversation unpacks the common myth of Cleopatra's "death by asp", and as they explore Cleo's story, the reality of Kate's own past is also called into question.

## If you're Feeling Sinister: a play with songs



Scottish band **Belle and Sebastian's** iconic 90s album will be adapted into a brand new play, *If You're Feeling Sinister: a play with songs*. He was exhausted by life. She was tired of waiting for it to begin. Now Boss and Kid are on the run. A reckless artist waiting to be found and an academic looking to lose himself could pull off Glasgow's greatest heist if they can keep their hands off one another and on the steering wheel. This is a story about dreaming, shame and the fear of being left behind. Written by **Eve Nicol** (Middle Child Theatre's *One Life Stand*) with music from Belle and Sebastian and lyrics by the band's frontman **Stuart Murdoch**.

## Bryony Kimmings – I'm A Phoenix, Bitch

*"a choking and exhilarating ride"* ★★★★★ **The Guardian**



Following a critically acclaimed extended run at Battersea Arts Centre and an Offies 2019 Award win, Bryony Kimmings brings *I'm a Phoenix, Bitch* to Edinburgh Festival Fringe, which will also feature as part of the British Council Edinburgh Showcase 2019. *I'm a Phoenix, Bitch* sees Kimmings combine personal stories with epic film, soundscapes and ethereal music to create a powerful, dark and joyful work about motherhood, heartbreak and finding inner strength. "One of the most extraordinary things I have ever seen" (Emma Thompson), "a metaphysical glitter cannon of trauma being fired straight at your chest" (TimeOut), "exceptionally raw" (New

Statesman). Further critical praise for Bryony Kimmings' previous work includes ★★★★★ from Evening Standard, Independent, The Scotsman, Time Out, The Stage, and Herald Scotland. Commissioned by Arts Centre Melbourne, Attenborough Centre for the Creative Arts, Battersea Arts Centre, and financially supported by Arts Council England.

## Resurrecting Bobby Awl

*"Brian Catling is simply a genius. His writing is so extraordinary it hurts"* **Terry Gilliam**



Critically acclaimed RA sculptor, poet, novelist, film maker, academician and performance artist **Brian Catling** will bring his first-ever play *Resurrecting Bobby Awl* to Edinburgh Festival Fringe. This new play, directed by **Josh Roche** (JMK Winner 2017) charts the story of disabled street urchin Robert Kirkwood, a beggar better known as Bobby Awl who survived in the bleak gritty poverty of 19<sup>th</sup> century Edinburgh. Between Bobby's parents giving him up at birth for being less than human, and his tragic death in 1820 from a mule kick in the groin, he was famous. All said his name would live forever, but instead it was wiped out of Scottish history.

## SHOW DETAILS

Act/ Talent	Show	Venue	Dates	Time
Ahir Shah	Dots	Monkey Barrel 3	1 <sup>st</sup> – 25 <sup>th</sup> August	1:45pm
Al Murray	Landlord of Hope and Glory	Assembly Spiegelent	2 <sup>nd</sup> – 11 <sup>th</sup> August	5:00pm
Brian Catling	Resurrecting Bobby Awl	Summerhall, Anatomy Lecutre Theatre	31 <sup>st</sup> July – 25 <sup>th</sup> August (excl 1 <sup>st</sup> , 12 <sup>th</sup> , 19 <sup>th</sup> Aug)	4:00pm
Bryony Kimmings	I'm A Phoenix, Bitch	Pleasance One	31 <sup>st</sup> July – 25 <sup>th</sup> August (excl 12 <sup>th</sup> Aug)	5:30pm
Ciarán Dowd	Padre Rodolfo	Pleasance Upstairs	31 <sup>st</sup> July – 25 <sup>th</sup> August (excl 14 <sup>th</sup> Aug)	9:45pm
Eleanor Tiernan	Enjoying the Spotlight Responsibly	PBH, Banshee Labyrinth	3 <sup>rd</sup> – 25 <sup>th</sup> August (excl 13 <sup>th</sup> Aug)	2:20pm
Eve Nicol and Stuart Murdoch	If You're Feeling Sinister: a play with songs	Gilded Balloon, Downstairs	31 <sup>st</sup> July – 26 <sup>th</sup> August (excl 12 <sup>th</sup> Aug)	3:45pm
Flo & Joan	Before the Screaming Starts	Assembly Piccollo	1 <sup>st</sup> – 25 <sup>th</sup> August (excl 10 <sup>th</sup> Aug)	6:00pm
Frank Skinner	Live	Assembly George Square Theatre	31 <sup>st</sup> July – 19 <sup>th</sup> August	9:00pm
Harry & Chris	This One's For The Aliens	Underbelly White Belly	1 <sup>st</sup> – 24 <sup>th</sup> August	6:40pm
Jacob Hawley	Faliraki	Just the Tonic, The Attic	1 <sup>st</sup> – 25 <sup>th</sup> August (excl 12 <sup>th</sup> Aug)	5:15pm
Jayde Adams	The Ballad of Kylie Jenner's Old Face	Pleasance Two	31 <sup>st</sup> July – 25 <sup>th</sup> August	9:30pm
Jonny & the Baptists	Love Edinburgh, Hate Bastards	Assembly Roxy Downstairs	31 <sup>st</sup> July – 25 <sup>th</sup> August (excl 13 <sup>th</sup> , 19 <sup>th</sup> Aug)	7:00pm

Kieran Boyd	Crashing the Party	Just the Tonic, Marlins Wynd	1 <sup>st</sup> – 25 <sup>th</sup> August (excl 12 <sup>th</sup> Aug)	2:45pm
Lucy Beaumont	Space Mam	Pleasance Upstairs	31 <sup>st</sup> July – 25 <sup>th</sup> August	4:45pm
Matt Forde	Brexit, Pursued by a Bear	Pleasance Forth	31 <sup>st</sup> July – 25 <sup>th</sup> August	8:30pm
Matt Forde	The Political Party Podcast	Gilded Balloon, Debating Hall	14 <sup>th</sup> and 20 <sup>th</sup> August	3pm and 1:30pm
Matt Richardson	Imposter	Just the Tonic, The Tron	1 <sup>st</sup> – 25 <sup>th</sup> August (excl 12 <sup>th</sup> Aug)	9:00pm
Matt Winning	It's The End Of The World As We Know It	Pleasance Downstairs	31 <sup>st</sup> July – 25 <sup>th</sup> August	4:25pm
Naz Osmanoglu	Scandinaveland	Just the Tonic, The Fancy Room	1 <sup>st</sup> – 25 <sup>th</sup> August (excl 12 <sup>th</sup> , 17 <sup>th</sup> Aug)	4:50pm
Pierre Novellie	You're Expected To Care	Pleasance Beside	31 <sup>st</sup> July – 25 <sup>th</sup> August	7:15pm
Phil Wang	Philly Philly Wang Wang	Pleasance Cabaret Bar	31 <sup>st</sup> July – 25 <sup>th</sup> August (excl 12 <sup>th</sup> Aug)	8:00pm
Ray Badran	Everybody Loves Ray, Man	Pleasance Cellar	1 <sup>st</sup> – 25 <sup>th</sup> August (excl 12 <sup>th</sup> Aug)	9:45pm
Rob Auton	The Time Show	Assembly Studio 5	31 <sup>st</sup> July – 26 <sup>th</sup> August (excl 13 <sup>th</sup> Aug)	2:50pm
Rose Matafeo	Horndog	Pleasance Beyond	21 <sup>st</sup> – 25 <sup>th</sup> August	9:20pm
Russell Howard	Work in Progress (Afternoon)	Heroes @ The Hive, The Big Cave	1 <sup>st</sup> – 13 <sup>th</sup> August	2:20pm
Russell Howard	Work in Progress (Evening)	Assembly Studio 1	1 <sup>st</sup> – 13 <sup>th</sup> August	6:30pm
Sheila Atim	Anguis	Gilded Balloon, Dining Room	31 <sup>st</sup> July – 26 <sup>th</sup> August (excl 12 <sup>th</sup> Aug)	3:00pm
Simon Brodtkin	100% Simon Brodtkin	Pleasance Baby Grand	1 <sup>st</sup> – 24 <sup>th</sup> August	9:30pm

<b>Steff Todd</b>	<b>Reality Check</b>	<b>Just the Tonic, Out Of The Box</b>	<b>1<sup>st</sup> – 25<sup>th</sup> August (excl 12<sup>th</sup> Aug)</b>	<b>2:00pm</b>
<b>Steve Bugeja</b>	<b>Single Mum</b>	<b>Just the Tonic, The Fancy Room</b>	<b>1<sup>st</sup> – 25<sup>th</sup> August (excl 12<sup>th</sup> Aug)</b>	<b>7:30pm</b>
<b>Susan Riddell</b>	<b>Duvet Day</b>	<b>Monkey Barrel</b>	<b>2<sup>nd</sup> – 25<sup>th</sup> August (excl 12<sup>th</sup> Aug)</b>	<b>7:30pm</b>
<b>Tania Edwards</b>	<b>Don't Mention It</b>	<b>Monkey Barrel 2</b>	<b>2<sup>nd</sup> – 25<sup>th</sup> August (excl 14<sup>th</sup> Aug)</b>	<b>4:00pm</b>
<b>Travis Jay</b>	<b>Funny, Petty, Cool</b>	<b>Just the Tonic, The Attic</b>	<b>1<sup>st</sup> – 25<sup>th</sup> August (excl 12<sup>th</sup> Aug)</b>	<b>2:35pm</b>

**Notes to the Editor:**

*Avalon Edinburgh Comedy Award winners include:*

1991 – Frank Skinner

1995 – Jenny Eclair

1999 – Al Murray

2001 – Garth Marengi (Matthew Holness, Richard Ayoade)

2005 – Laura Solon

2010 – Russell Kane

2018 – Rose Matafeo

*Avalon Edinburgh Comedy Award – Best Newcomer winners include:*

1992 – Harry Hill

1998 – The Mighty Boosh

2010 – Roisin Conaty

2018 – Ciarán Dowd