

Edinburgh Festival Fringe REVIEW – Emma Sidi Telenovela



Photo by James
Deacon

Emma Sidi is back this year at the Edinburgh Fringe with a fabulously fresh new show, *Telenovela*, a dramatic-beyond-reason Spanish-language soap opera comedy that incorporates Mexican passion, television obsession and the most crucial element, interpretative dance.

Emma has written, performed and directed her own material across the globe. First grabbing attention with a collection of online character comedy shorts, Emma is returning to the Fringe this year with her second solo show. Not only a comedian, Emma is also known for her acting work which spans from the Manchester International Festival where in 2015 she starred alongside Simon Bird in *The Crocodile* to the Soho Theatre where she performed with Adam Riches.

Her character comedy this year is bonkers, unique and her confidence is fierce. Interacting with the audience in a way that evokes her versatility, using them as proxies to fuel the Spanish drama, her livewire eccentricity excretes more snorting and guffawing in that one room than has been heard in a long time.

Vanessa, a recovering drug addict, from such drugs as Tixylix and Calpol, recounts her story of murder, revenge, love, passion and rehab. Sidi gets this character to engage with her audience, blurring soap drama detachments and also introduces us to another character, Britta. This TV addict who has lived in so many EU countries that her accent is impossibly repugnant to decipher attempts her hand at the news, which has

funny bouts when realising that she has completely ruined her prioritising of the news.

Refreshingly novel, Emma Sidi's *Telenovela* is fantastically written and developed material, which should be on your Fringe to do list. It would hardly surprise if this inventive lass takes away some awards this Fringe 2016.

Emma Sidi's Telenovela is at Pleasance That | Until 28th Aug | 20:15-21:15