

# Edinburgh Festival Fringe 2019                      REVIEW                      Camille O'Sullivan Sings Cave ★★★★★

**The queen of the Fringe reminds us that Nick Cave is one of the greatest songwriters of our time.**

Camille O' Sullivan's interpretation of The Mercy Seat is reminiscent of another Fringe show, Myra starring Lauren Varnfield in the role of child-killer, Myra Hindley.

The character suggests "I have asked God for His forgiveness, but I couldn't ask for yours." Similarly, O' Sullivan takes on the role of a woman on death row who admits her crime in the end.

It is a shocking and brutal moment of truth, revealed before she is sent to her death. Likewise, her performance of the American folk song Stagger Lee, recorded by Cave & The Bad Seeds for his Murder Ballads album is both blood-curdling and breathtaking, leaving one woman in the audience ashen-faced.

While the French-Irish singer takes us to a dark abyss, we are not left there. The light begins to crack with a spellbinding Ship Song and the audience sing-along as if they are belting out a church hymn: "Come sail your ships around me. And burn your bridges down. We make a little history, baby. Every time you come around".

In the end, there is nothing left to do but rejoice.



Photo by Richard Purden