

VIDEO – UNITE protest on Lothian Road



Despite the city being full of fun for the Fringe and the Festival life goes on as normal. We found proof of this yesterday outside Standard Life's offices on Lothian Road where UNITE were protesting about blacklisting of workers on the Crossrail project in London. They told us that in September 2012 sub contractor EIS was removed from the Crossrail project and 28 workers were made redundant.

The company had been employed by the consortium (BAM Ferrocial and Kier) to complete essential electrical work but the union says it has now become clear that it was not issues related to performance that led to the termination of the contract but something 'more sinister'.

They believe that EIS and their workforce were dismissed as a result of trade union activities raising legitimate health and safety concerns. UNITE shop steward Frank Morris was banned from the site after raising concerns over dangerous cabling in tunnels. The managing director of EIS has signed a witness statement declaring his understanding that the contract was terminated due to trade union activity. UNITE believe that this amounts to blacklisting, by which they mean denying employment to Unionised workers raising legitimate safety concerns.

The Edinburgh Reporter spoke to Willie Thomson, an organiser from UNITE, to find out why they were protesting at Standard Life's offices:-



TODAY'S COMPETITION – Win Tickets to Lady Carol and a CD



Today's prize is a CD signed by Lady Carol and two tickets to her show at [The Assembly Rooms Fringe](#) on your chosen date.

"Returning to the Edinburgh Fringe after a year of performing in places as far flung as Europe, Canada and South America. Lady Carol is back once again to where she first took the stage with a brand new show. A less than organised collection of tales and songs that may or may not remain the same. Invariably you will leave the show with your cockles warmed and your heart lifted. Come join Lady Carol on her latest flight of fancy."

The question is this:- Where is Lady Carol's show being staged within The Assembly Rooms?

Answers by email only to theedinburghreporter@gmail.com with Competition Lady Carol in the subject line to arrive by 8:00AM FRIDAY 9 August 2013.

Fringe performers react against the critics – with tomatoes!



This unique event will take place on Thursday, 15 Aug from 3PM – 4PM at Jawbone Walk on The Meadows, Edinburgh

Writer of the universally panned stage musical *Desperately Seeking Susan*, Peter Michael Marino, has organised a fun way for performers and writers at this year's Edinburgh Festival Fringe who receive bad or critical reviews to get their own back on critics at the first ever Critical Mass Tomato Toss.

Marino, who returns to the festival with his hit show *Desperately Seeking The Exit*, has first-hand knowledge of what it's like to have scathing criticism of "your literary baby" when his much anticipated 2007 stage musical of the film starring Madonna and Rosanna Arquette, featuring the music of Blondie, opened on London's West End stage ... and closed a month later after biting reviews. Indeed the title of his hit comedic autopsy – *Desperately Seeking The Exit* – is taken from one particularly bad review!

"The Critical Mass Tomato Toss was inspired by a sense of mischief and Spain's annual Tomatina Festival" says Marino. "But unlike its Spanish counterpart where participants toss rotten tomatoes at each other the squishy tomatoes will be aimed at pictures of reviewers who have, with their every

keystroke, crushed a writer or performer's dream. The gathering on Jawbone Walk is a fun way for scorned performers to publicly express their discontent in a safe, messy setting."

The Critical Mass Tomato Toss takes place on Thursday, 15 Aug from 3PM-4PM at Jawbone Walk on The Meadows, Edinburgh

Peter Michael Marino returns to Ed Fringe this year with his hit show Desperately Seeking The Exit a comedic autopsy of his flop juke-box West End musical of the film starring Madonna, Rosanna Arquette film Desperately Seeking Susan. Desperately Seeking The Exit @ The Counting House 6. 15pm; part of Edinburgh Festival Free Fringe

Edinburgh Festival Fringe REVIEW – Sex Lives Of Others *****

✘ The average Scot has five sexual partners during his or her lifetime. That's a small sample size when we want to know the answers to questions like: Will I still want it? Is it weird that I still want it? Is my interest in "force play" weird? The queue of ticketholders waiting to fill The Pleasance's tiny This Theatre suggests that the Sex Lives Of Others are of continuing interest, and this witty and assured first full-length, full-run production by writer Keely Winstone attempts to answer these questions for us.

Ms. Winstone is clearly as excited by word play as one of her

Boggle-obsessed characters, and the play is cleverly constructed so that there's enough going and, er, coming, to retain the spirit of a grand sex farce while the small space lets us feel like we have an intimate view into the bedrooms of parents Hilary and James and their younger neighbours Kerry and Sonny. The empathetic performances of Joanna Bending and Martin Miller, and Jessica Biglow and Matt Green, do justice to a script of easy and comfortable wit that gives us enough of the characters' backgrounds and history to make them seem real.

Throughout this hour-long show, the laughter of recognition fills the venue, and the punters file back out beaming happy smiles that are a compliment to everyone involved with the production, from director Hannah Eidnow to composer of the endearingly DIY riffs medley that welcomes us to the show, Ana Paola Ortiz.

Maybe we're not that weird after all. Or maybe we're all that weird.

Sex Lives Of Others: 5-26 August at 2:15pm, This Theatre at The Pleasance Courtyard

Submitted by [Ricky Brown](#)

Mercat Bar running a new whisky tasting tour this August



Got Guests this August? Why Not Treat Them (or Yourself) to

the Mercat's New Whisky Tasting Tour

Isn't it funny how you become very popular with friends and family during August, which just happens to coincide with the Edinburgh Festival??!! Well, if you've got guests and you're looking to give them a true taste of Scottish hospitality – the award-winning Mercat Bar & Restaurant in Edinburgh's West End, is running full-day whisky tours, every Wednesday this month, including a visit to the renowned Rosslyn Chapel.

For £75pp they'll take you on an escorted tour, departing from the Mercat Bar at 10:30am to the Glenkinchie Distillery in East Lothian, followed by a sumptuous, three-course Scottish lunch at their sister venue the Mercat Grill with whisky matching to complement the courses, a visit to Rosslyn Chapel and returning to the Mercat Bar late afternoon.

The price includes all transport, entrance fees, lunch + whisky tastings and you'll even get a complimentary Mercat whisky glass as a memento!

For further details or to book, call The Mercat on 0800 124 4112 or email info@mercatbar.com.

Please note – the tours will run subject to there being sufficient numbers.

The Mercat Bar & Restaurant

28 West Maitland Street

Edinburgh

EH12 5DX

www.mercatbar.com

Stockbridge Photography Club

Photo of the Week



This week's photo is a fantastic sunset from the Salisbury Crags by Col Walder!

Col lives in Edinburgh working as a Computer Game Programmer and in addition to photography, he lists Martial Arts and playing music as his hobbies, as well as teaching Cuban Salsa!

"Photography reveals a hidden world, from details that would normally be passed by unnoticed to immersing oneself in a scene of natural beauty, or even allowing the photographer to express themselves creatively." said Col. "I'm very interested and inspired by the idea that photography can express more than what is seen but also what is felt and experienced."

More of Col's work can be found at colwalder.500px.com

The Stockbridge Photography Club is a non-profit photography club that aims to operate in a different way from the traditional photography club mold. We're currently without a home after the sad closure of Kiss The Fish studios, however, we still have informal monthly meetings where we discuss our photos over a cup of coffee and learn about the month's theme- albeit slightly more nomadic than usual!

Outside of this, we arrange photowalks and trips to various locations and landmarks in and around Edinburgh, providing our members with something interesting to photograph, whilst always having someone on hand to answer any questions.

More info about the club is on their [Facebook](#) page or follow

them on [Twitter](#)

Submitted by [Stockbridge Photography Club](#)



Edinburgh Festival Fringe REVIEW Paul Zerdin ****

✖ In an age when The X Factor, Britain's Got Talent and The Voice are the staple diet for British television, it's easy to forget that 40 years ago variety shows were quite often the highlight of the weekend's viewing. These shows, often on a Sunday evening, would be compered by a comedian wearing a dinner jacket and bow tie and would include acts such as singers, dancers, comedians and ventriloquists. The latter artists seemed to have faded away from British television in recent years – no doubt affected by the public's disdain for the likes of Keith Harris and Orville the Duck. However, the art of ventriloquism is, if the brilliance of Paul Zerdin is anything to go by, well and truly back.

Zerdin, who says he was inspired by the great Ray Alan, took to the stage at the Edinburgh Fringe Festival on Tuesday night and simply wowed his audience, some of who had queued patiently to see him for some time (a wee tip to those organising the queues at the Gilded Balloon – try placing the 'Queue Here' signs to where you actually want people to queue...)

Zerdin's skill with his sponge puppets from Boobies, the tantrum throwing toddler, to Sam, the cheeky wee boy and Albert, the old man with attitude had the audience in

raptures. Even when Zerdin made a minor slip early on he covered it brilliantly with his puppet declaring 'Don't laugh – I can't talk if you laugh'

Impressive though that was, I found Zerdin's final act with two 'volunteers' from the audience utterly hilarious. Wearing mouth masks, the volunteers were taken on stage to be at the mercy of Zerdin's vocal mockery – but they and, in particular, the audience couldn't get enough and the standing ovation at the end for this hugely talented ventriloquist was richly deserved.

Already a huge star, Paul Zerdin has entertained members of the Royal Family at the Royal Variety Performance in London. Tonight, in Scotland's capital city, Zerdin's show was fit for a King.

Submitted by [Mike Smith](#)

Five things you need to know today



King's Theatre Dome – Low Carbon Property Festival – Edinburgh Festival Fringe Pick of the Day – Police advice to public during the Festival – Today at the Cameo

Yesterday The Edinburgh Reporter got a preview of what audiences at the King's Theatre will see from this weekend, presumably for many years to come. We also got to speak to the man behind the new design, the artist John Byrne as you can see here.

We saw this on the [Greener Leith](#) website and think it might be of interest to some of you who own properties in the town. It takes place between 13-15 August.

The Low Carbon Festival will feature speakers from across the industry who will explain the benefits of low carbon installations and help save you energy and money!

It is part of the Fringe....yes really it is.

[Booking details here.](#)



JOHNNIE WALKER'S GUEST NIGHT – UNIVERSAL QUIDEM

Date, Time & Price Aug 1-25 18:15 (1hr) £14.00 (£12.00)

Venue New Town Theatre – *music, talk*

Join BBC Radio 2 legend Johnnie Walker, the original pirate DJ on Radio Caroline, as he covers the real person behind the celebrity. Revealing interviews with daily celebrity guests from music, arts, sports and politics including Tony Benn, Steven Berkoff, Janet Street Porter, Reginald D Hunter, Billy Ocean, Jon Culshaw and KT Tunstall.

Police in Edinburgh are urging the public to remain vigilant for pickpockets and thieves during the busy Festival period.

As part of Operation Assure, officers will continue to provide a high-visibility police presence throughout the city centre to detect and deter criminal activity.

Police will also engage with the public to offer crime prevention advice, particularly around securing valuables and personal belongings while enjoying the sights and events within the Capital.

Over 7,000 leaflets will be handed out advising people to 'Hold on to Your Stuff' and keep possessions such as cameras, music players and tablet devices out of public display.

The leaflets, which are translated into a range of languages, are also aimed at ensuring anyone watching a Festival performance or out socialising does not set their bag, jacket or other belongings down or leave them unattended.

Posters and advertising boards highlighting the "Hold Onto Your Stuff" message are currently displayed throughout Edinburgh. However, anyone wishing further information on safeguarding their possessions can contact Police Scotland through a variety of channels.

Inspector Gary Dickson from the city centre policing team said: "Firstly, I would like to reassure all of those visiting Edinburgh that the city is a very safe place. However, like any busy area, thieves will look to capitalise on any opportunity that presents itself.

"As such, officers will be out on foot and bicycle patrols during the Festival to speak with the public and distribute crime prevention leaflets, which provide guidance on how to protect their belongings.

"These leaflets are translated into the languages of those who most frequently visit Edinburgh and the posters can be viewed at various areas within the city centre to maximise awareness of this issue.

"Members of the public can also obtain crime prevention advice by checking out our website, visiting their local police station or following our Twitter account @EdinburghPolice."

We interviewed Chief Superintendent Mark Williams last week about Operation Assure

Today at the Cameo they are showing Frances Ha which was one of the hits of the recent Edinburgh International Film Festival.

The Cameo are offering five films for your entertainment today. [Booking details here.](#)

Just to remind you there is an option other than the Fringe! Oh – and the Festival starts on Friday...



Edinburgh Festival Fringe REVIEW & INTERVIEW – The Three Lions *****



**The Three Lions, Pleasance Beyond, 31 July to 26 August
(except 13 and 20) 4:30pm, £15 (£13.50 concessions)**

The audience at [The Three Lions](#) could not help but roar with laughter throughout this comedic imagining from actor and writer William Gaminara.

The play gives a glimpse at what might just have happened in

the Swiss hotel room where three of the most recognisable figures in the UK decide on a plan of action to win England's 2018 World Cup bid by delivering what they believe to be a winning presentation in December 2010.

It's not every day you interview David Cameron, David Beckham and Prince William all in the same room, but that's exactly what The Edinburgh Reporter did – well, almost. The three main stars (Sean Browne as David Beckham, Dugald Bruce-Lockhart as David Cameron and Tom Davey as Prince William) spoke about the production and their Edinburgh Festival Fringe experiences.

They all do an excellent job of interpreting those who we recognise so well, with the supporting performances by Alice Bailey-Johnson, Ravi Aujla and Lewis Collier really bringing the 90-minute play together nicely.

The inclusion of actual and fictional problems regarding the bid, the telephone calls from Nick Clegg and Victoria Beckham and the political references all boost the likability of the show.

The heat of the 'Pleasance Beyond' venue may have been close to being beyond bearable but the quality acting performances and fluid, humorous dialogue grasped the attention of the theatre-goers, who appeared impressed by the likeness and bond between the main characters, and even more so by the unfolding plot twists.

An equilibrium not of this

world for the Edinburgh Art Festival

Trystan Davies spoke to artist [Katri Walker](#) about her Festival exhibit which uses counterpoise time-lapse videos of the inner workings of the human body when hill running in Scotland.

Edinburgh Festival Fringe REVIEW -These Halcyon Days *****

These Halcyon Days by Deirdre Kinahan – Landmark Productions.



According to Ovid, the beautiful Alcyone was transformed in to a kingfisher. Out of pity and guilt her father, God of winds, Aeolus, calmed the winter storms to cradle her egg-laiden nest. Nowadays we look back with nostalgic fondness to our happier, Halcyon Days. First opening at the Dublin Theatre Festival, 2012, with a spell touring Ireland and a New York performance, this is its Edinburgh and UK Premiere.

A near capacity Rainy Hall audience brought a Fringe-full of great expectations to this touching, poignant and thoroughly

life-affirming production from playwright Deirdre Kinahan. They were mightily rewarded. Frail, wheelchair-bound, Sean is drawn from his isolation by the insistent, chatty Patricia. It seems their 'secured' retirement/hospice residence is the twilight of the godforsaken.

Their initial sparse dialogue echoes Pinter as they parry and probe each other's lives. Sean declaims the Agincourt speech from Henry V – almost perfectly – but stumbles on 'Gentlemen now abed...' Was he really the film-star he claims to have been? Patricia wishes to believe it. Both Stephen Brennan, as Sean, and Anita Reeves, as Patricia, are magnificently immersed in their characters. No creaking, clichéd postures or doddering affectations. You feel for Sean's creaking bones and Patricia's terminally damaged liver. There's little plot to unravel but for the characters' revealing incremental, painful truths, frustrations and aching desperation. Sometimes Sean's tart comments can be devilish, sometimes he fears they are invasive dementia.

Scene transitions work seamlessly with music atmospherics and lighting tastefully avoiding sentimentality or mawkishness. The language is pithy, witty and vibrant with idiomatic lyricism and reassuring turns of phrase. Two old people talking for seventy minutes seems a tall order but this production deftly embraces the unique universality of the human spirit – often bruised but never broken.

No denouement-spoilers in this review. Just you go and see it – a hot-ticket prediction on this reviewer's part. This play thoroughly deserves to bask in the twinkling brilliance of each of its five twinkling stars

Assembly Hall, Rainy Hall, Mound Place. Venue 35. Until August 25.

Edinburgh Festival Fringe 2013 Review – Economy Of Thought ****

Economy Of Thought, Odd Rituals.

For a disease-carrying fly-on-the Wall Street exposition of the complex causes and effects of the 2008 financial meltdown – the film, *Margin Call* (Dir. J.C. Chandor, 2011) – comes recommended. However, an asymmetrical grasp of events (embracing the true Fringe Spirit) might better be a stiff dram, thwacking your head on the plinth of Adam Smith's statue outside the Fringe Office* or experiencing this provocative and disturbing production. Being stuck in a lift with Robert Peston is beyond imagining. The play's ambivalent title, *Economy of Thought*, is enough alone to contextualise the venal arrogance behind the financial crash.

Amoral sixth-floor investment banker, Reece, portrayed with charismatic evil by Johnny McPherson, sneers down on a 'Bash The Bankers' protest street-march. He makes a cynical bet with colleagues Rich and the rather supine Tom. The power-dressed, up and coming, Amanda, isn't so sure. He drops a £50 note on the marchers. If one pockets it Reece is the winner. They are all dogs, slags and scroungers in his eye. To his disgust the catcher burns it.

Reece has to pay out in spades. Next day they learn that the note-burner was viciously beaten by the riot police and is on life-support. Amanda's investigative journalist sister smells a story. Amanda's increasingly compromised sense of morality versus corporate loyalty becomes sorely tested and lends

mounting tension to the manic denouement. The writing crackles with sexist profanity and testosterone powered banker-braggadocio and all the more convincing for it.

Events are more a montage of set-piece conflicts and character deconstruction than plot-driven. Patrick McFadden's writing drives the characters at literally, coke-snorting pace as does John Higgins' direction. Katherine Davenport's portrayal as the imploding Amanda is empathic but raises issues of compromised morality and 'glass-ceilings' – hers is about to come crashing down on her. The restaurant scene where journalist, Collette, parries with Tom as to who dropped the £50 note, sometimes becomes entangled within the discourse on eco-ethical business models. Inevitably, the lizard-tongued Reece turns up to contribute his toxic patronage.

There ought to be a prize for the audience member who can unravel the mixed-metaphor, business-babble that CEO Milton (Sir – 'But not yet knighted) humiliates Amanda with. The ghost of CJ from Reggie Perrin haunts The City still. There is little redemption to cling on to by the play's end but that is surely its message. It has particular resonance in a city where Fred 'The Shred' struggles by on a £5,000,000 pension per annum – allegedly.

Very strong language through out – though it is at its most offensive when the characters attempt sincerity.



* The Edinburgh Reporter accepts no liability for those adopting this option.

Assembly George Square. Vn3. August 1-26. £10/12/14 – check dates.

Police renew appeal for information about missing student



Yulia Solodyankina – two-month appeal

Police investigating the disappearance of Russian student Yulia Solodyankina are making a renewed appeal for information regarding her whereabouts, two months on from her last confirmed sighting.

The latest appeal is being supported by the charity Missing People, who are this week highlighting Yulia's disappearance through a network of digital message boards located across Scotland.

Yulia was last seen on CCTV at Buchanan Street bus station in Glasgow on Friday, 7 June 2013. From there she is believed to have travelled by bus to the north or far west of Scotland, with the most likely destinations being either Fort William or Inverness.

Officers from Police Scotland have carried out extensive enquiries in order to trace Yulia, and a number of appeals have been issued in a bid to gather further information on her whereabouts.

Chief Inspector Mark Patterson, from Police Scotland, said: "Our investigation has established that Yulia left Edinburgh of her own accord, and we do not believe there to be any suspicious circumstances surrounding her disappearance.

“Since she was reported missing we have carried out extensive enquires across Scotland, most recently in the north and far west of the country, where we believe she may have travelled from Buchanan Street bus station on Friday, June 7.

“Unfortunately we have been unable to establish her destination, and we are relying on new information from the public that can help us to open up new potential lines of inquiry.

“Police Scotland is committed to keeping people safe, and we will not give up in our efforts to trace Yulia.

“Rest assured that we will act upon any new information we receive regarding her potential whereabouts, and I would once again urge anyone who thinks they may have seen her since she went missing two months ago to contact us.”

Anyone with any information should contact Police Scotland on 101, Crimestoppers on 0800 555 111, or the charity Missing People, where information can be passed by calling, emailing, or sending a text to 116 000. The service is free, 24 hour, and confidential.



Preview – Kid Canaveral at The Liquid Room

Edinburgh in August is full to bursting with offers of entertainment from thousands of performers whose marketing techniques inspire reactions from, ‘hm, you seem vaguely familiar...’ to ‘I will now cross the street in front of

oncoming traffic to ensure you remain a stranger forever'. In this environment it's nigh on impossible to get a sense of which shows are worth shelling out money for, and which ones will lead you to fall asleep, mouth open, in a broom cupboard somewhere in the old town.

One way to manage this is to stay at home for the whole month, but a) that's impractical and b) you'll probably get rickets. Another direction you could take is to read The Edinburgh Reporter's extensive Fringe coverage, and pick something based on that. OR, you could go and see someone that has yet to disappoint – an established act that gigs constantly and draws critical acclaim wherever they lay their hat(s). This Saturday, we strongly suggest the act that best fits the bill is alt-pop band [Kid Canaveral](#), who just so happen to be playing their first headline show in Edinburgh since the release of second album *Now That You Are a Dancer* at [The Liquid Room](#) on Victoria Street.



Photo by Stephanie Gibson. l-r David MacGregor, Kate Lazda, Rose McConnachie, Scott McMaster

For those who do not know and are too lazy to click [this link to their website](#), Kid Canaveral are an alternative pop group based in Edinburgh. The band – David MacGregor, Kate Lazda, Rose McConnachie and Scott McMaster – released debut 7" single [Smash Hits](#) on their own label Straight to Video Records in 2007 and self-released a further 4 singles, an EP and debut album *Shouting at Wildlife* before signing to [Fence Records](#) in 2011. They went on to smash the 'difficult second album' myth with hammers when they released *Now That You Are A Dancer* to critical acclaim in 2013.

If you like beautifully assembled pop music that can be described with adjectives like 'catchy,' 'skilful,' and 'life-affirming,' this gig is for you. And, if that weren't enough,

the band will be joined by the [Cairn String Quartet](#) for part of their set. CSQ recently played at the MOBOs performing with [Professor Green](#) and [Emeli Sandé](#), so the Kids are in good company.

With support from local indiepop legends [ballboy](#) and rising stars [Campfires in Winter](#), not to mention a promise from Kid Canveral themselves to 'pull out all the stops to make it our biggest and best show ever' (we read that on the internet so it must be true) this promises to be a great night of live music – and all for the cheaper than average Fringe show price of £8.

If the festival has conditioned you to process information in star ratings only, you're looking at:

***** (Five stars) – [The Herald](#)

**** (Four stars) – [The List](#)

**** (Four stars) – [The Skinny](#)

A BBC Radio Scotland album of the week.

If you're still able to make judgements based on other sensory input, why not have a listen to the Cairn String Quartet's cover of Low Winter Sun and see whether you want to hear it played with the full band:

Who knows, if enough people turn up, they might even play Waves.*

Kid Canveral

Time: 7pm

Place: The Liquid Room

Date: SATURDAY 10TH AUGUST 2013

Tickets: £8, available from [Tickets Scotland](#), Ticketweb and Ripping Records.

Over 16s only

*They won't.

The Leith Gallery – A Political Edge to “Alice in Wonderland”

Three artists, Alice McMurrough PAI, RGI, Marie Louise Wrightson and Jenny Holm, inspired by folklore, fairy tales, legends and books, come together for The Leith Gallery's Festival exhibition. Alice's women are no shrinking violets who need a Prince or woodsman to rescue them. These ladies are doing for themselves! Marie journeys to Wonderland and finds it a joyous experience. Jenny sometimes shows us the darker side but whether dark or more light hearted her pieces intrigue the viewer.

Alice McMurrough also shows a political edge in her "Tea Party" where the Mad Hatter could easily be mistaken for David Cameron. Is "Alice" really Alice of Wonderland or could she be Scotia throwing down the gauntlet and perhaps overturning the table?

Submitted by [Jan Morrison of The Leith Gallery](#)



Jessica Ruano director of Sappho promotes the show



We spotted Jessica Ruano the other day on the Royal Mile and she has written to us to explain what she was up to. She is promoting her show Sappho, but in a pretty unusual way.

“Right in the middle of the Royal Mile, I spell out the word ‘Sappho’ or the word ‘Lesbian’ with the rope we use in the show Sappho...in 9 fragments. And then I park myself behind the word and hold up flyers for the show. When people pass by, many of them reading the word, I smile at them gleefully. If they smile back, I offer them a flyer.

It is most frequently children who read aloud the word, or ask their parents to read it aloud for them. If someone says the word quite loudly, I call back ‘Yay!’ and pump my fist in the air. Sometimes people sit with me and we have a conversation: I tell them that the show is about Sappho, the first love poet, who lived in Ancient Greece on the island of Lesbos (hence Lesbian with a capital ‘L’, as, strictly speaking, Sappho was probably bisexual – not that they ever bothered with those labels). I tell them the show is an ‘acrobatic love story’ and share photos with them.

One man told me he had been to Lesbos and told me I had to visit. Two women holding hands came up to me and told me I had made their day, which, in turn, made my day. Tourists often take photos of me without asking, but I don’t mind; I volunteer to pose for them and encourage them to post their photos on Facebook.

I’m choosing this approach to promoting the show, because I’m

finding that people are quickly becoming disillusioned by the Fringe artists who push flyers in their faces, quoting star ratings and reviews, and being generally loud and overwhelming. I'm attempting the quieter method because, this way, people come to me.

Other Fringe artists ask me why I bothered to promote the show so far in advance, since it opens a week into the festival and only plays for three days. I reply that, partly, we haven't received much media coverage for this run of the show (nobody really wants to cover/review a show that is only playing in Edinburgh for three days, when most shows are playing for a month), so I'm doing what I can to get audiences.

But it's more than that: for me, this rope thing has become a performance in itself. I engage with people directly: I make eye contact, I smile, I challenge them in my own subtle way. When they stand in front of the word 'Lesbian' and raise their eyebrows, I say 'How's my handwriting?' as though my calligraphy skills would be at the forefront of their thoughts.

Even though I don't identify as a 'lesbian' (I'm a 'date whoever I want' 'who needs labels' kinda girl), I happily play the role for the sake of publicity – especially because I don't look like a stereotypical lesbian, so that in itself may challenge people's expectations and make them question their assumptions about queer people. 'Is she actually gay...?' they might wonder. Does it matter?

Whether or not these passer-bys decide to see the show, I like to think I'm getting the words 'Sappho' and 'Lesbian' into their heads, normalizing the words, letting them stand on their own without making any real statement about them. They're just there. There they are. They exist, and they become part of our vocabulary, if only for a moment.

I wouldn't be able to do this in Russia. I wouldn't be able to do this in most countries in the world. But here, I feel safe. I don't feel threatened or ostracized or uncomfortable. I haven't experienced even one dirty look about my choice of words. People sometimes laugh or roll their eyes at me, but I just smile back, kindly yet defiantly. And I wouldn't have this privilege everywhere.

I am very lucky. We are all very lucky."

Sappho...in 9 fragments plays Thursday, August 8th, Friday, August 9th, and Saturday, August 10th at theSpace Venue 45 on Jeffrey Street. For more information and advance tickets: <https://www.edfringe.com/whats-on/theatre/sappho-in-9-fragments>

ESPC hands control back to its members



Scotland's largest Solicitors Property Centre has made significant changes in its governance with ownership of the business passing to the member firms of solicitor estate agents.

Over the last 42 years, ESPC, the leading property marketing company in East Central Scotland has had a showroom on Edinburgh's George Street which was established and run by directors formally appointed by the WS, the Society of Writer

to Her Majesty's Signet and the SSC, the Society of Solicitors in the Supreme Courts to promote the objects of the company in supporting solicitor estate agents in the sale and letting of residential property.

Under the new arrangements, which came into effect following an Extraordinary General Meeting earlier today, the controlling rights for ESPC Ltd, a company limited by guarantee, passed to the 114 ESPC member firms who have agreed to become £1 guarantors.

In return each member firm will have the right to vote in an Annual AGM and appoint directors to the board. Directors are currently appointed by the WS and SSC.

This will provide the guarantors with many of the benefits that a shareholder in a quoted company would receive.

Robin Stimpson, Chairman of ESPC said:-“The WS and SSC were forward thinking in supporting the establishment of ESPC and providing the backing and guarantees when it started up in 1971. In particular they stood as guarantors of the lease on the first ESPC premises.

“During the period of their stewardship ESPC has steadily grown into an excellent model in the property market and continues to serve, support and attract members.

“ESPC supports solicitor estate agents in the sale and letting of residential property and with the company now in a strong financial position, the opportunity is being taken to enable these two societies to take a step back from their custodian role.

“The new arrangements will place control of ESPC in the hands of the solicitor businesses at the very heart of what we do. Our members’ experience and expertise in the local market is second to none and we can now tap directly into that as we look to the future of ESPC.”

As a company limited by guarantee ESPC has no shareholders and this will remain unchanged, with all profits re-invested in the business.



Edinburgh Festival Fringe REVIEW – Pete Firman ‘The Scoundrel’ *****



Pete Firman: “The Scoundrel”
Pleasance ‘Beyond’ 21:20pm daily

The little magic man from Middlesbrough provides an hour of jocular fun, frolics, baffling magic with lots of audience involvement thrown in for good measure. Hearty laughs in addition to genuine wonderment at his mesmerising slight of hand skills give the paying guests non-stop entertainment. As Pete puts it himself “Jokes and Magic – that’s ***** value”.

Bedecked in purple suit (not as gaudy as it sounds), the master magician offers comical observations relating to John Lewis, Impulse buys, Dorothy Perkins, Jaeger-bombs,

bestiality, Arthur C Clarke and relationship breakdowns at various points throughout fast-paced show.

Pete 'selects' a number of audience volunteers right the way through his act who supply both close examination of his craft as well as some light-fodder for the jokes.

A number of the performed tricks are so quick and subtle that you are left bewildered for a few moments, so much so that you may be another two or tricks down before your brain computes the fact that you missed something.

A pleasing aspect of the show is Pete's genuine warmth for the onlookers and thanks for the attendance, (something that's thankfully become a theme with this years performers). The former Acklam Grange Alumni is doing well.

Playing Cards, Grapefruit, Magic boxes, Chairs, A Knife, Flowers, Handkerchiefs, Confetti, Envelopes, Needles & Thread; all feature as useful props at varying times in an eventfully packed 60 minutes. After a bit of Magician's improvisation, the finale is likely to leave you totally confused.....

Pete Firman's 'The Scoundrel' is definitely worth watching and highly entertaining.

4 out of 5

Submitted by [James Stevenson](#)

Tex Mex make a cocktail

suggestion for our readers



Donald Mavor, owner of Tex Mex 2 in Thistle St, provides his suggestion for a cool drink that's perfect all year round.

"Scotland has had a proper summer this year for a change, so we have all been seeking out cold, refreshing drinks more than usual. Everyone has their favourites, whether it's a cold beer, or a chilled glass of ros  . But a frozen Margarita is hard to beat, when relaxing with friends after a hard day's work, or having a weekend barbecue. They are great for parties too, whatever the weather.

"Margaritas are a Mexican cocktail, so they are the perfect accompaniment to fajitas, tacos, enchiladas, chimichangas, burritos and other tasty Tex-Mex dishes.

"The frozen version of a Margarita is also made with Tequila, orange liqueur, such as Triple Sec or Cointreau and a squeeze of lime juice. But frozen Margaritas are made with crushed ice, so they are particularly cooling when it's hot. There are a number of stories about who invented the Margarita, when and where they created it and who they named it after, but it doesn't really matter. All we need to know is that it is a delicious, tangy, ice-cold cocktail. So whether you're already a fan, or have never yet had the pleasure, here's our recipe to try. Enjoy."

PITCHER OF FROZEN MARGARITAS – RECIPE (serves four)

INGREDIENTS

One large cup of ice

The juice of four limes

Four shots of Tequila

Two shots of Triple Sec or Cointreau

Three tbs of caster sugar

Mix ingredients in a blender until smooth. Add more ice if necessary, to thicken the texture.

Before serving, rub the lime around the rim of each glass (a Margarita glass is ideal if possible), then blot each in a dish of salt. Pour the Margarita and enjoy a drink that's both simple to make and tasty.

Tex Mex 2 is at 64 Thistle St (0131 260 9699) and www.texmex2.com Follow Tex Mex 2 on Twitter @FatDonny

Broughton Rugby Club do a bit of fundraising during the summer break



Unbelievable Trekkers! Rugby trio head for the hills in aid of charity

They hope to be climbing their way up the league ladder this coming season however three of Broughton Rugby's Men's team have reached new heights during pre-season whilst raising money for charity.

Club Captain Sandy Urquhart, Rory Ballantyne and James Atkin took on the mammoth 45 mile 'Wolftrek' from Forres to the Cairngorms, to raise funds for Scottish social enterprise charity WildHearts. WildHearts is a charity that provides micro-loans and business training to people in the developing world, enabling them to work their own way out of poverty and support their families and communities. Once one micro-loan recipient repays their loan, that money is then lent out to another member of their community.

In tough and rugged conditions, the trio completed the challenge in 16.5 hours and arrived at the finishing line with one or two blisters and a thirst for a well-deserved pint!

After coming in some 7.5 hours ahead of the allotted time deadline, Captain Sandy Urquhart said:- "Teamwork on and off the field is part of the spirit we have at the Club and that mentality helped pull us through, especially between miles 20-30 which were done in the dead of night. We are delighted to have raised over £850 for the charity too."

Edinburgh Festival Fringe REVIEW – Feral ****



Angle-poise lamps dangle above a peculiar holed table-cum-writing desk, with a video mixing console and sound desk

crammed in to the left and right of the stage. There's no hiding the show's mechanics in Leith-based theatre company Tortoise in a Nutshell's exquisite *Feral*.

And Summerhall's evocative Demonstration Room puts you right up next to the performers as they lovingly assemble a miniature seaside town, complete with pier, helter-skelter, church and rows of shops, all made from intricately drawn white cardboard, and populated by wide-eyed everypeople. It's clear that the 'how' is as important as the 'what' in this slow-burning but powerful show.

That 'how' continues in the live film, projected on a screen above the performers' heads, and made by them tracing tiny video cameras through the town's alleyways and observing the miniature characters' movements. Dogs steal sausages from the butcher's, teenagers eat candyfloss, and siblings Joe and Dawn dream of something more – well, exciting.


It's all brilliantly realised, but a bit too idyllic – which makes the longed-for arrival of the mysterious Supercade and the town's swift descent into mayhem and rioting all the more shocking. A dialogue-free puppetry show is perhaps not the best vehicle for delving into the subtle and conflicting causes of a community breakdown, but there's no denying the emotional power of the show's dark conclusion – brilliant realised through the tiny sets and puppets in some strikingly memorable images. You leave the show both pondering its themes and marvelling at its astonishing invention and imagination.

[Feral, Summerhall, until 25 Aug \(not 13, 20\), 8-8.50pm](#)



VIDEO – John Byrne's new dome at the King's Theatre



We met up with John Byrne this morning and talked to him  about working on the domed ceiling to produce the new design called ALL THE WORLD'S A STAGE



Edinburgh Festival Fringe – REVIEW You All Know Me – I'm Jack Ruby! ****

You All Know Me – I'm Jack Ruby!
theSpace @ Surgeons Hall until 24th August
Written & performed by Clifford Barry

Jack Ruby is to some extent the forgotten man of the events surrounding JFK's assassination, and, with the fiftieth anniversary just a few months away, Clifford Barry's well researched one man show is a timely re-appraisal of the man. Was Oswald's killer a Mafia hitman, or, if he was a lone assassin, what was his motivation?

Barry's monologue takes us from night club to court room and


prison cell. Ruby's social inadequacy and eagerness to please is revealed in an excruciating night club stand-up routine and in his fawning relationship with a prison guard. Coupled with a psychotic tendency evident in his treatment of women and posited by Ruby's lawyer at his trial, Barry's Ruby has the capacity to kill, yet his explanation of his motive is moving in its own way. The killer also invites us to consider that given the widespread anger following Kennedy's death he was merely doing what anybody would have, given the opportunity. The killer having been an early victim of trial by media, Clifford Barry's credible portrayal of Ruby is likely to find a more sympathetic ear from the audience.

Four Stars ****

Submitted by [Michael Moloney](#)



Edinburgh Festival Fringe – Granny's Gone Wild – The Lynn Ruth Miller Show *.5**

 Granny's Gone Wild

This outrageous octogenarian's bus-pass peep-show is just the tonic for the jilted, the jaded and those about to flounder on the slippery Sisyphean slopes of impending later-life crisis.

For the young – here is your role-model for mis-spending your youth. It is part kitsch-me-quick end of the pier cabaret, part busty burlesque and not, infrequently, vaudeville vulgar.

Structured around a medley of romantic, reflective ballads and occasional torch-songs, Miller machine-gun splatters the audience with contrived, cheesy one-liners.

The back-drop video-clips are a triumph of makeshift retro-tech. The group of good-natured young lads on the front row clutched their much needed lagers like protective talismans. Miller teased them with her opening feather-boia 'strip' routine and closed the show with them dancing in wigs.

Apparently she 'Wrote The Book On Sex Appeal' – revels in Jewish mother stereotype jokes and has some sage advice for elderly men and their priapic short-comings – so to speak. Taken with a hefty pinch of salt and shrewd appreciation of the What The Butler Saw sauciness there is much to enjoy, cringe and gasp at.

Perhaps not one for your maiden aunt – she may get ideas. At eighty years old Ms Miller certainly give those whipper-snapper 'Stand-Up' young'uns a run for their money. In fact, they actually run away from her.

C Nova, India Buildings, Victoria Street. Venue 145. Running until August 26th

Edinburgh Festival Fringe REVIEW – Dandy Darkly's Gory Hole ****



Coming at you – yes, like *that* – from New York City, Dandy Darkly takes to the stage extravagantly made up, in an

intricately patterned, sparkling frockcoat. A tiny top hat teetering atop his head, he looks every inch a master of macabre cabaret. His shtick of Southern Gothic and Noo Yawk schlock is well suited to our somewhat camp and certainly spooky city. In the tradition of Deacon Brodie and Burke and Hare, Mr. Darkly and his unhinged characters inhabit a world that seems far removed from the bagpipes skirling on Princes Street, while suggesting the darker secrets of our guildsmen, doctors, teenagers and clergymen.

The Dandy's carefully constructed tales of supernatural sleaze and homosexual horror are filled with wordplay. The "boys and ghouls" in attendance hear the stories of Portly Patton the "bear" skinner, Zachary the Zombie, and Moloch the Masochist, and this Time Out New York-recognized show gets knowing chuckles from the Edinburgh audience when he includes references to Tilda Swinton, Top of the Pops and Graham Norton, as well as NYC's all-knowing matriarch of Project Runway, Tim Gunn.

After a hour-long one-man feat of endurance, in which carefully scripted alliterative allure and rhyme – both internal and outré – are matched to a funhouse of horrors cabaret soundtrack, Dandy Darkly builds to a shuddering, juddering climax of orgiastic transgression before sending his audience home. It was lovely, but he has to go to work tomorrow, you know?

Like the best sex and horror, Dandy Darkly's Gory Hole is equal parts funny, uncomfortable and, in its evocation of contemporary homophobia, "bare-biting", and issues of shame and acceptance, thought provoking. ****

Dandy Darkly's Gory Hole

4-24 August, 8:30pm

SpaceCabaret @ 54, North Bridge

Submitted by [Ricky Brown](#)



John Byrne's new dome for The King's



Commissioned by the Festival City Theatres Trust as part of a major restoration and refurbishment of the King's Theatre, *'All the World's a Stage'* depicts a swirling celestial scene, where a black harlequin carries the sun through the clouds and a flame-haired woman, draped in a star-cloth banner, pushes the moon through the sky. Playing on the duality of light and shade and the progression of day following night, the mural is rich in theatrical motifs and references, including the famous lines from Jaques' famous monologue in *As You Like it*.



A perfect partnership of visual art and theatre, the new dome at the King's reflects a life spent as an accomplished fine artist and also as one of the most notable playwrights of his generation. John Byrne's unique status as an artist and dramatist made him the ideal choice for the King's commission.

Duncan Hendry, Chief Executive of the Festival City Theatres Trust said: 'There was no one more appropriate to provide such a beautiful and thought-provoking design and I'm sure that audiences will enjoy his work for many years to come.'

John, quick to agree, added: 'That's a very, very nice thing to say. And it's true. I cannae think of anyone else.'



The King's dome commission was painted over the course of 5 weeks, by a team led by John Byrne and artist Kevin O'Leary. It marks the completion of a major refurbishment designed and project managed by Rachel Simmonds of Edinburgh architects Smith Scott Mullan Associates, which included luxurious new seating, new carpeting, a new ventilation system and a completely refreshed and restored interior decorative scheme, completed by award-winning architectural heritage and decorating firm Nevin of Edinburgh. Revealing some of the finer details of the baroque plasterwork lost for many years under layers of dust, the dramatically enhanced interior of the King's will prove just as dazzling as the works on stage.

The first public performance at the refurbished King's Theatre will be *Metamorphosis* in the Edinburgh International Festival, opening on Saturday 10 August at 8pm.

The Festival City Theatres Trust is an independent theatre organisation which runs two of Edinburgh's oldest and best-loved theatres – the Festival and King's Theatres. The King's Theatre was designed by architects James Davidson and JD Swanston and opened in 1906, boasting beautiful art nouveau foyers before opening out onto a tremendously opulent baroque auditorium.

The King's is now Edinburgh's home of quality touring drama, bringing the UK's best productions to Scotland. Over the years the King's has played host to some of the world's biggest stars including Sir Laurence Olivier, Maria Callas, Noel Coward, Leslie Nielsen, Sir Patrick Stewart, Sir Ian McKellan, Penelope Keith, and Simon Callow.

The King's remains a community theatre at heart, earning its place as 'the people's theatre' by remaining committed to supporting Edinburgh's long tradition of amateur theatre and operatic groups. It is also home to the annual King's Panto

which welcomes almost 90,000 people a year.

Photos by

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Five things you need to know today



Exam results out today – Our photo today – Edinburgh Festival Fringe Pick of the Day – Guerlain Spa Day – Taoist Tai Chi International Awareness Day

Oh we all know the feeling of the brown envelope holding the key to your future. Today thousands of teenagers across the city will be opening their exam results and there will be elation for some and disappointment for others.

We wish you all well. Remember there are successful entrepreneurs out there who have never passed an exam as well as university professors with more degrees to their name than you can shake a stick at....But we have heard a whisper that the results in Edinburgh may be better than ever!

Our photo today shows a couple of the members of Thermal and a Quarter otherwise Bangalore Rock. We met them on the High Street when they were promoting their show. It is promised as a non-Bollywood original Indian music show, and apparently unique every night. If it is half as good as they say it will be then it has to be great! They say they have opened for small time bands like Guns N'Roses, Deep Purple and Jethro Tull....

Spotlites at The Merchants' Hall Venue 278 22 Hanover Street
1-11, 18-26 August at 10.35 pm and 12-17 August at 11.20 pm.



Sunday, 11 August 2013, 13.30, free event at [Acoustic Music Centre at St Bride's](#)

Selected from 20 million Chinese school students, and having travelled across Europe, America and Australia, the Chinese Young Cultural Ambassadors art troupe, with their innovative performances, are inspiring audience with a new dream of China.

Orchestra performance, chorus and Peking Opera and national dancing all form part of the performance.

The group is 60-strong from Beijing and they have sourced instruments – including two kinds of Chinese percussion, Chinese bass drum and the aligning drum (Pai-Gu) plus a wind instrument Pai-Sheng – in Watford and Glasgow to complete their instrumental line-up.

With the world famous Edinburgh Festivals underway and the city the setting for visitors frantically moving from show to show, it's good to know that there is a perfect haven away from the hustle and bustle.

The Guerlain Spa at The Caledonian, A Waldorf Astoria Hotel at the west end of Princes Street offers the perfect surroundings to take a break and recharge ready for more festival going!

During the month of August the exclusive 'Guerlain at the Fringe' package offers

- The unique Guerlain Fragrance Journey on arrival
- Luxurious & Relaxing Footbath
- On the move Manicure or Pedicure
- Caledonian Chic Back, Neck and Shoulder Massage
- Glass of Champagne

The treatment lasts a luxurious sixty minutes, costs £65 and is guaranteed to leave you feeling refreshed and ready to enjoy more of the Festival.

For further information on the package or to book, call
0131-222 8836 or

email guerlainspa.caledonian@waldorfastoria.com



We met the Taoist Tai Chi Society earlier this year when they opened their new centre on Marionville Road. You can see that our Justice Secretary is already well versed in the art!

An important date in the calendar of the Taoist Tai Chi Society is their International Awareness Day. Events take

place around the world to celebrate and promote the many benefits of **Taoist Tai Chi™** internal arts of health.



This year, the Awareness Day celebration in the Scottish Region is being held at the Ross Bandstand, Princes Street Gardens, Edinburgh. There will be displays in front of the Bandstand between **1pm and 3pm** on **Saturday 10th August 2013** with a special appearance of the Tai Chi Dragon around the Gardens.

This gives the society the opportunity to raise awareness and share with others the health benefits of cultivating body, mind and spirit through practising tai chi and other Taoist arts.

If you would like to know more you are invited to go along and have the opportunity to ask questions and discuss the benefits.

Further information about the Society and the health benefits can be found at www.taoist.org

To find local classes, visit www.taoist.org.uk



Better exam results for

Edinburgh school pupils



The waiting will finally be over as thousands of pupils across Edinburgh receive their exam results today.

Early indications are that candidates in Scotland's capital have improved on their performances from 2013 and that Edinburgh's overall good performance has been maintained. In total 8,642 pupils sat 41,949 exams this year in over 70 subject areas, ranging from Mandarin to Woodwork Skills.

Highlights from the results include:

By the end of S6 59% of all pupils have got Highers – a 4% improvement on last year and a 15% improvement since 2008.

By the end of S5 51% of all pupils have got Highers – a 10% improvement since 2008 and maintaining last year's good results.

Craigroyston High School and Wester Hailes Education Centre have shown particular improvement in the number of pupils gaining five or more level 3 qualifications, this year achieving 100% and 99% respectively. This is an increase of 28% for Craigroyston and 26% for Wester Hailes Education Centre since 2010.

Peter Reid, an S5 pupil from Firrhill High School, who sat Higher exams in German, History, English, Chemistry and Physics, said:- "I've studied really hard for these exams and after my Advanced Highers I'm hoping to study law and mandarin at university. I've just got back from a course in China and loved the country and the language."

Education Convener, Councillor Paul Godzik, said:- "Early indications from the SQA exam results show that 2013 has been another really positive year for all our pupils and I'm

delighted at all their successes.

“To have nearly 60% of our pupils get a Higher by the end of S6 is a real achievement and I want to congratulate all our teaching staff on their commitment to delivering learning experiences of the highest standards. Our pupils should be very proud of themselves too – all their hard work has certainly paid off.

“Our drive to improve literacy has also proved successful with 99% of our pupils now gaining an award in English by S5.

“The Council is committed to making sure all school leavers enter a positive destination of employment, training or further education – last year a record number of 90% of them did so.

“Initiatives such as the Edinburgh Guarantee are also going a long way to making this a reality for many of our ex-pupils. This is something we are keen to build on in the coming years and look forward to seeing many more placements and positive results.”

All candidates will receive their results by means of the traditional postal delivery this morning. Those candidates who have activated their MySQA accounts, through which they can choose to receive their exam results by text in addition to their results certificate, will also receive these by 9am today.

Our photo shows the proposed interior for the new Boroughmuire High School.

Police name couple who died last week in Scotsman Hotel

Police in Edinburgh have confirmed the identities of a man and woman whose bodies were found within a room at the Scotsman Hotel last week.

They were 27-year-old Igor Pavlov and 35-year-old Daria Kuchuk from Russia.

The pair, who lived in Edinburgh, were discovered by hotel staff at around 12.15pm on Thursday 1st August.

A multi-agency investigation determined that Mr Pavlov and Miss Kuchuk's deaths were chemical-related and a number of items seized from the room continue to undergo forensic analysis.

Enquiries have established that the couple took the chemical into the hotel with them prior to their death.

Further enquiries were then carried out at an address in the Royal Mile area of the city on Friday 2 August and no further traces of chemicals were detected within this property.

Enquiries are ongoing into the full circumstances surrounding both of these deaths, which continue to be treated as unexplained at this time.

Edinburgh Festival Fringe

2013 – REVIEW & INTERVIEW – Laura Levites: Selfhelpless ***.5



Laura Levites: Selfhelpless, Gilded Balloon Teviot, 31 July to 26 August (except 13) 2:45pm, £9/8 (£8/7 concessions)

[Laura Levites](#) enters the stage in a jovial manner but as she invites the audience into her life, it's soon evident that times for her have not been so jovial. At all.

Raw and emotional, there are several moments in the production that Levites wants you to find as amusing as she does, but most are too afraid to even move as to not cause offence. Her current contented mind-set has helped her bravely overcome so much, you cannot help but to be intrigued by this animated, vibrant figure.

In this interview with The Edinburgh Reporter she puts 'Selfhelpless' into her own words and describes her Edinburgh Festival Fringe 2013 experience so far:-

Her consistently demonstrated fearlessness and ability to reveal so much about her life is commendable. Despite the vast quantity of information she has to share, she craves a verbal response from the crowd, with agreement or disagreement actively encouraged.