

fringe

PRESS RELEASE

**Ralf Wetzel  
(Belgium)  
Absolutely Reliable!  
by Ralf Wetzel and Lee Delong**



**Male vulnerability relentlessly on display in this unique solo-mask performance.**

George is a white, middle aged, middle class, middle manager desperate for female attention. Yet, just as he appears to be getting closer to his goal, George is thrown into a tangle of denial, anger and insecurity. A journey through inner demons, George oscillates between love and loss, death and birth as he questions his true desires.

Inspired by Beckett's *Worstward Ho* and Gogol's *Diary of a Madman*, this solo-mask and movement performance is a unique blend of heart and politics. In a timely response to the #metoo movement, performer and co-writer **Ralf Wetzel** asks what lies beneath ones 'identity'? And how do we respond to unwelcome change?

Ralf Wetzel confronts toxic masculinity head on. A surrealistic commentary on the increasingly growing yet criticised alpha-male culture, this show explores male vulnerability and unreleased aggression with tenderness.

Director and co-writer **Lee Delong** has transformed Wetzel's anxieties and traumas into a raw investigation of contemporary gender norms. When the mask hit Ralf in one of Lee's Clown workshops, it had a transfixing power over his physicality and mind. Under the careful hand of Lee, Ralf unabashedly revealed himself. Ralf, the performer and co-writer of this piece, has been a traveller through many professions: from an electrician, social worker, management researcher to his current role as a business school professor. But, it is the study of mask work that has lead him into an extraordinarily transformative world.

Lee Delong, (*Les Molières*, 2019), is an award-winning director and actress, an American/French actress who has been living and working internationally for the past 40 years. Her training includes both formal education at West Virginia University and studies at Ecole Jacques Lecoq in Paris, and at the Bouffes du Nord with Peter Brook. Lee writes, directs and teaches, and has given countless workshops and master classes for acting, directing, writing and animation students and for professional actors, in various settings. On screen, Lee has worked under many directors including Cedric Klapisch, Luc Béraud, Fabrice Cazeneuve, Julie Delpy, and Luc Besson.

A surrealist display of the harsh reality of gender politics, **Absolutely Reliable!** is transfixing and provocative.

**Listings Information**

Venue	C cubed, Brodie's Close, Lawnmarket, EH1 2PS, venue 50
Dates	1-25 Aug (not 13)
Time	22:00 (0hr50)
Ticket prices	£9.50-£11.50 / concessions £7.50-£9.50 / under 18s £5.50-£7.50
C venues box office	0131 581 5555 / <a href="http://www.CtheFestival.com/2019/absolutely-reliable">www.CtheFestival.com/2019/absolutely-reliable</a>
Fringe box office	0131 226 0000 / <a href="http://www.edfringe.com">www.edfringe.com</a>

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