

Cambridge Mask Collective Conversations with Myself



A reflection upon the 50 years since the Stone Wall riots, dive headfirst into the contemporary nuances of queer identity with Commedia dell'arte and experimental mask work

As Nikki struggles to come to terms with being transgender, their best friend, Gino, decides to throw a party to lighten the mood. But as the party rolls into the night the guests reveal a more sinister side, and soon, the demons of the mind emerge from the dark.

A poignant and comedic piece reflecting upon the 50 years since the Stonewall Riots, this devised work investigates contemporary identity politics with one of the most ancient forms of theatre – mask. This collaborative piece offers a unique perspective on contemporary queer identity through the medium of Le Coq mask, physical theatre, Commedia dell'arte character comedy and the written word. This production aims to set a precedent for theatre to be bold in searching for alternative aesthetics and new forms of theatrical spectatorship.

This work was devised by emerging playwright **Leopold Benedict** (*Much Ado About Nothing* – Cambridge Arts Theatre; *The Turn of the Screw* – Mexico Opera; *Syphes* – Théâtre de Chaillot) and features a cast experienced in TV and West End. This includes **Jenet Le Lacheur** (*Hamlet* – Covent Garden; *Harry Potter & The Cursed Child* – Palace Theatre) **Luke Daniels** (*Romeo & Juliet* – YSC; *The Seagull* - RBC) **Gin Minelli** (*Cold Blow Lane* – feature film; *Inside Cleopatra* – KTV miniseries) and **Freya Warsi** (*Twelfth Night* – Arts; *Freya* – London Film School).

Working in conjunction with **Sync or Swim**, this marks **The Cambridge Mask Collective's** first production at the Fringe. Sync or Swim have cast for cinema and television for over twenty years with feature film credits including *Downton Abbey* and *David Copperfield*, as well as nine series of *Call the Midwife* and *Death in Paradise*.

The Cambridge Mask Collective' delighted to count Stephen Fry, Togo Igawa, Kobna Holdbrook-Smith, Vicki Michelle MBE, Cherie Lunghi, Simon Woodroffe OBE, Camp Films and Christopher Hall among its friends. The production would not be possible without the generous backing of Hugo Slater and has received crowdfunding from a further 162 donors.

Previous reviews for **Conversations with Myself:**
'A pervasive aura of threat and mania – but at the same time engaging on a very human level. I was completely captivated' ★★★★★ Tab

Listings Information

Venue	C cubed, Brodie's Close, Lawnmarket, EH1 2PS, venue 50
Dates	1-17 Aug
Time	19:50 (1hr00)
Ticket prices	£8.50-£10.50 / concessions £6.50-£8.50 / under 18s £4.50-£6.50
C venues box office	0131 581 5555 / www.CtheFestival.com/2019/conversations-with-myself
Fringe box office	0131 226 0000 / www.edfringe.com

For further information, images and interview availability please contact Phoebe Benedict at Cambridge Mask Collective on 07973563827 / phoebe@syncorswim.biz or the C venues press office on 0131 581 5550 / press@cvenues.com

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Ticket collection at any C venue

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