

fringe

PRESS RELEASE

**Blair Simmons
and Nathan Sawaya Productions
(NY / California, USA)
Staging Wittgenstein
by Blair Simmons**



Staging Wittgenstein is about language, but it will leave you breathless

With her blonde hair cascading down and her large expressive doe eyes, **Annie Hägg** pops her head out of a life-size inflated balloon that engulfs her entire body. The Yale graduate, with an MFA in Acting, and her balloon will join Russian castmate **Nikita Lebedev** for the premiere of **Staging Wittgenstein** – a breathtaking and dynamic combination of physical art, comedy and suspense.

This is literally a pressure-filled performance sure to make the audience squirm, as they witness actors arduously squeeze into human-size, white latex balloons. While encased in metaphorical speech bubbles, the troupe celebrates the creation of language while stretching the restrictive bounds of their balloon world, not knowing when they will pop, and they will. Making the most comfortable, uncomfortable.

Staging Wittgenstein was created and directed by New York-based artist **Blair Simmons**. As a New York University MA candidate, Simmons created **Staging Wittgenstein** as part of her undergraduate research dissertation examining the physical manifestation of language. As a 3D artist and Dramatic Literature major, in this performance Simmons physically interprets the nearly 100-year-old linguistic theories in *Tractatus Logico-Philosophicus* written by philosopher Ludwig Wittgenstein in 1921.

Simmons said: 'The uniqueness about using the enormous balloons is that they are both props and costume pieces. They also add a comedic tension that builds and builds in anticipation of the inevitable bursting, resulting in an adrenaline rush for the entire theatre, actors and audience alike. The balloons give a bold imaginative power and physical reference frame for Wittgenstein's philosophical propositions about the creation of language and the rules we create around it – Wittgenstein said it best, "The limits of my language mean the limits of my world".'

Staging Wittgenstein is a modern and innovative stage presentation that comes to Edinburgh after previews in New York City. Produced by Los Angeles-based **Nathan Sawaya Productions**.

Listings Information

Venue C, Adam House, Chambers Street, EH1 1HR, venue 34
Dates 2-28 Aug (not 9, 16, 23)
Time 19:40 (0h45)
Ticket prices £9.50-£11.50 / concessions £7.50-£9.50 / under 18s £5.50-£7.50
C venues box office 0845 260 1234 / www.CtheFestival.com/2017/staging-wittgenstein
Fringe box office 0131 226 0000 / www.edfringe.com

C venues

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For further information, images and interview availability please contact Nathan Sawaya at Nathan Sawaya Productions on +1 917 488 1274 / nathan@sawayaproductions.com or the C venues press office on 0845 260 1060 / press@cvenues.com

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