

## Mercury Theatre Productions **Numbers** by Alex Blanc



### **Jack's world is built on numbers. But what happens when things stop adding up?**

Jack enters a counselling waiting room. For months, his life has been a series of numbers: the number of calories in a cup of coffee, the hours between food, his weight. Sitting in the waiting room, Jack wants to get better and get out of there.

Then he meets cynical, sarcastic alcoholic Michael.

Sit in the place of Jack's therapist as his life unravels onstage with a vivacious wit and vivid energy. Funny and honest, this refreshingly uplifting story of healing, resilience and friendship displays the delicate balancing act of community, mental health and identity. A thoughtful exploration of the stigma of eating disorders caught within modern masculinity.

This original work of writing by experienced writer and director **Alex Blanc** makes its Edinburgh Fringe debut. An uplifting take on a serious discussion, Blanc is committed to shifting the conversation of mental health in an optimistic direction. When the dialogue surrounding mental health is typically dominated by politics and policies, his work portrays the people beneath the numbers.

Jack's spiral in and out of recovery replaces glamorisation with an honest conversation about mental health.

**Mercury Theatre Productions** is an Oxford-based student theatre company dedicated to showcasing new writing. After a highly praised run in March, **Numbers** has been selected by Oxford University Dramatic Society to tour nationally.

**'Joyous and human'** *Markaspen.Wordpress*

**'Particularly successful in its exploration of masculinity'** *Cherwell*

#### **Notes to Editors**

Contains themes of alcohol abuse, mental illness, and eating disorders.

**Numbers** was created in collaboration with mental health charity **SANE**.

All proceeds will be contributed to SANE to improve the quality of life of those affected by mental illness.

#### **Listings Information**

Venue	C aquila, Roman Eagle Lodge, 2 Johnston Terrace, venue 21
Dates	1-26 Aug
Time	17:50 (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 / <a href="http://www.CtheFestival.com/2019/numbers">www.CtheFestival.com/2019/numbers</a>
Fringe box office	0131 226 0000 / <a href="http://www.edfringe.com">www.edfringe.com</a>

#### **C venues**

vibrant vivacious variety

C venues press office  
tel 0131 581 5550  
[press@cvenues.com](mailto:press@cvenues.com)

Edinburgh press office 2019  
Left hand door in NW corner  
Rose Street North Lane (near No 19)  
Rear of C viva (Kimpton Hotel)  
Edinburgh EH2 4LS

Ticket collection at any C venue

C venues box office  
tel 0131 581 5555  
[www.CtheFestival.com](http://www.CtheFestival.com)

For further information, images and interview availability please contact Nandana Syam at Mercury Theatre Productions on 07796 968788 / [mercurytheatreprod@gmail.com](mailto:mercurytheatreprod@gmail.com) or the C venues press office on 0131 581 5550 / [press@cvenues.com](mailto:press@cvenues.com)