



Bill's 44th

Underbelly Cowgate (Belly Button), 66 Cowgate, Edinburgh, EH1 1JX

Thursday 3rd – Sunday 27th August 2023 (not 14th), 20:35

New York-based puppeteers Andy Manjuck and Dorothy James bring their wordless tragicomedy *Bill's 44th* to the Edinburgh Fringe, in association with Underbelly. This introspective puppet show explores physical and emotional seclusion, a concept that carries added weight following the pandemic, in a tender and hilarious party that has been selected as a NYTimes Critic's Pick and received two OFFIE nominations.

The streamers are hung, the punch has been spiked and the cake is just begging to be eaten. The anxious host, Bill, has planned his party to the last detail and now, all that remains is for his guests to arrive. Desperate to fill his apartment with camaraderie and celebration, his imagination runs wild. *Bill's 44th* explores loneliness and self-acceptance through different styles of puppetry, raucous balloons and a cheeky piece of crudité.

Co-creators and puppeteers Andy Manjuck and Dorothy James comment, *Puppetry lets us play with scale, with surrealism, and allows us to connect to an audience on a deep level. This is a comedy that is sometimes terribly unfunny and a constant tragedy that is often hilarious. It is a puppet show for adults about time, loneliness, and self-acceptance.*

After their sold-out run at London International Mime Festival 2023 and being awarded a "Citation of Excellence" by UNIMA-USA, the three puppeteers (Manjuck and James, along with Jon Riddleberger) perform this playful and poignant devised piece, to highlight the pitfalls of impatience, the wonder of loneliness and the universal passage of time.

It's sweetly hilarious with flashes of bizarre originality... Describing it as a love letter to self-acceptance would be quite correct, but it's more than that: it's an hour in the company of someone you can't help falling in love with (★★★★★ The Reviews Hub).

James and Manjuck have realised a wonderful achievement here, using objects and fantasy to give intense clarity to the very real emotional needs of the human condition. Gorgeously playful, at times poignant, wise and silly, Bill brings it all to the party in a thoroughly enjoyable evening (★★★★ Everything Theatre).

Notes to Editors

Title	<i>Bill's 44th</i>
Performance Dates	Thursday 3 rd – Sunday 27 th August 2023 (not 14 th), 20:35
Running Time	55 minutes
Location	Underbelly Cowgate (Belly Button), 66 Cowgate, Edinburgh, EH1 1JX
Box Office	Tickets are available from underbellyedinburgh.co.uk Previews: £8 Normal: £11 High: £12
Creators / Puppeteers	Andy Manjuck and Dorothy James
Creative Collaborator / Puppeteer	Jon Riddleberger
Production Coordinator	Taryn Uhe
Lighting Design	Jordan Wiggins
Composer	Eamon Fogarty
Notes	Ages 12+, depicts the consumption of alcohol and marijuana
Instagram	@Bills44th #Bills44th
YouTube	www.youtube.com/@OfficialPuppetBusiness
Website	www.facebook.com/OfficialPuppetBusiness

All enquiries, high res images and further information:

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