



Soho Theatre presents

Ben Target: **LORENZO**

Summerhall (Anatomy Lecture Theatre), Summerhall Place, Edinburgh, EH9 1PL

Wednesday 2nd – Sunday 27th August 2023 (not 14th, 21st), 11:55

Ben Target is a critically-acclaimed performance artist and multi-award-winning comedian; in 2020 he gave this up to become the live-in carer for an irascible elderly prankster. Produced by Soho Theatre and directed by Adam Brace (*Age is a Feeling*; Liz Kingsman: *One Woman Show*; Alex Edelman: *Just for Us*), *LORENZO* is a life-affirming story about death, conveyed through storytelling and live carpentry, a combination not seen on the world stage since Nazareth (circa 30AD).

Ben Target comments, *This production takes a long, hard look at the absolute shit-show that is the UK's cultural relationship with care of the elderly and asks the questions we all face about the value of life as it nears death - do we care? How do we care? And how do we best care? But mostly, with this show, I wanted to honour the extraordinary life of Lorenzo Wong.*

Lorenzo, an architect, lived and worked in London for over forty years. A set of extraordinary circumstances led to Ben (Leicester Mercury Comedian Of The Year; Edinburgh Comedy Award nominee; Amused Moose Best Show Comedy Award winner) becoming his live-in carer at the end of his life: discover their adventures.

Ben has a history of working in care, from being a teacher of secondary school students with Special Educational Needs and Disabilities to volunteering at the Highgate Mental Health Centre, where he taught stand-up comedy to residents of the schizophrenia care wards during the COVID-19 lockdowns. He has worked in elderly care over many years, from volunteering as a teenager to co-founding the social arts initiative The Care Home Tour in 2017, taking stand-up shows into care homes for the elderly to perform to people living with dementia.

As a former Inclusivity Designer, Ben was shortlisted for an RCA award for systems engineering a proposed euthanasia service for the NHS palliative care units. In exploring the best way in which to care when life nears death, *LORENZO* touches upon the right to die concept and proposes

that sometimes the ultimate act of care would be to allow the voluntary ending of life, facilitating this responsibly and painlessly.

A beautiful, gentle, touching thing... It takes its place alongside regret, sadness and death... it is a spellbinding mix. (The Scotsman on Ben Target: Six Endings in Search of a Beginning).

Imagine there was no Ben Target. The world would unquestionably be a darker, less interesting place (Chortle on Imagine There's No Ben Target (It's Easy If You Try)).

Notes to Editors

Title	Ben Target: <i>LORENZO</i>
Performance Dates	Wednesday 2 nd – Sunday 27 th August 2023 (not 14 th , 21 st), 11:55 BSL interpreted: Tuesday 22 nd August
Running Time	65 minutes
Location	Summerhall (Anatomy Lecture Theatre), Summerhall Place, Edinburgh, EH9 1PL
Box Office	Tickets are available from festival.summerhall.co.uk Preview: £10 Shows: £15 (£13)
Writer / Performer	Ben Target
Director / Dramaturg	Adam Brace
Associate Director	Lee Griffiths
Producer	Soho Theatre
Set Design	Tom Hartshorne and Ben Target
Notes	Ages 14+
Social Media Handles	@BenTarget @SohoTheatre
Additional Info	Adam Brace and Ben Target had been working closely together to develop this show since autumn 2022. Adam Brace died in April 2023, but <i>LORENZO</i> will be completed and staged based on their shared vision.

All enquiries, high res images and further information:
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