



## ***Cowboys and Lesbians***

**Pleasance (10 Dome), Potterow, 1 Bistro Square, Edinburgh, EH8 9AL**

**Wednesday 2<sup>nd</sup> – Sunday 27<sup>th</sup> August 2023 (not 12<sup>th</sup>, 16<sup>th</sup>), 13:35**

*Cowboys and Lesbians* is a queer romantic comedy that subverts Hollywood's romcoms, examining the harmful tropes and tales that movies tell us and flipping them on their heads. Nina and Noa, repressed British teenagers and best friends, set out to write a parody of the classic American coming-of-age romcom in this hilarious and subversive... romcom.

Nina and Noa spend every morning, break and lunchtime drinking tea and filling each other in on the daily events of their lives. The only problem is nothing much is happening to them. They begin to question if all the films and TV they've watched have actually been lying to them. So they set out to write their own version of a coming-of-age romance, with colourful and familiar characters coming to life and show them they might just have a story of their own to tell.

As Nina and Noa make fun of the limiting and harmful cliches and stereotypes that are fed to young women, all while wishing that exciting romances were really happening to them, another narrative begins to emerge, parodying the rhythm and characters of a classic romcom. But the grand, dramatic romance they have been dreaming of might just have been in front of them the whole time.

*Cowboys and Lesbians* queers the romantic comedy genre, examining how the stories we consume deeply affect the ones we tell about ourselves. This hilarious and uplifting show delves into the limiting narratives there are for young people exploring their sexuality, and the stunting and harmful effect of overwhelming heteronormativity and queer tragedising in mainstream movies, TV and theatre.

Writer and director Billie Esplen comments, *I was – if you'll believe it in this day and age – a closeted queer my whole way through school. I was deeply ensconced in the traditional*

*romantic narratives. However, I also recognised the total unreality of these narratives, and spent most of my teenage years dissecting, laughing and parodying stories about teenagers. In writing this play, I wanted to reclaim my teenagerhood in all its quick-witted, acerbic – and yes, closeted queer – glory. I can't wait to see our inimitable actors bring it to life.*

## Notes to Editors

Title	<i>Cowboys and Lesbians</i>
Performance Dates	Wednesday 2 <sup>nd</sup> – Sunday 27 <sup>th</sup> August (not 12 <sup>th</sup> , 16 <sup>th</sup> ), 13:35
Running Time	60 minutes
Location	Pleasance (10 Dome), Potterow, 1 Bistro Square, Edinburgh, EH8 9AL
Box Office	Tickets are available from <a href="https://www.pleasance.co.uk/events">https://www.pleasance.co.uk/events</a> Previews £10, Weekday £15, Weekend £17, 2 for 1 £8.50
Writer/Director	Billie Esplen
Producer	Eleanor Birdsall-Smith
Noa	Georgia Vyvyan
Nina	Julia Pilkington
Notes	Ages 14+, strong language and references to upsetting themes
Social Media Handles	@cowboysandlesbians #cowboysandlesbians

All enquiries, high res images and further information:  
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