



It Gets Worse

**Assembly, George Square Studios (Studio 5), 40 George Square, Newington,
Edinburgh, EH8 9JX**

Wednesday 2nd – Sunday 27th August 2023 (not 14th, 21st), 20:55

It Gets Worse is a comedic show about the horrors of being in a relationship – especially with one’s self. American artist and performer Sophia Cleary shepherds the audience through her darkest, most disturbing fantasies of revenge, love, birth and transcendence.

Inspired by her journey from a child actor, to mall goth, to private investigator and to doula, Cleary tells the story of, and how she came to realise she is all that and more (gay). Musing on her formative relationships, Cleary sets out to find out the answer to a pivotal question: ‘who here would f*ck me?’ Drawing from the absurd, the works of Jung and Freud, and Cleary’s experience in psychotherapy, *It Gets Worse* explores failure, birth and rebirth.

Cleary, who is a trained birth doula, also spent her nights at open mics in LA, performing and honing her craft. Cleary is a queer, genreless, childless and anti-disciplinary comedian, writer and artist. She has been described as a “comedy doula” by Culturebot, working at the intersection of clowning and standup comedy, using her distinctive confessional storytelling style, investigating intimacy with the audience.

Sophia Cleary comments, This show explores the culture around ‘coming out’, the placating ‘it gets better’ response to struggles around gender identity and sexuality, intimacy struggles, toxic relationships, and the current healing culture that is obsessed with self-improvement. I centre the inner child and the unknown – in my writing and through my interaction with the audience.

Notes to Editors

Title	<i>It Gets Worse</i>
Performance Dates	Wednesday 2 nd – Sunday 27 th August (not 14 th , 21 st), 20:55
Running Time	60 minutes
Location	Assembly, Studio 5, George Square Studios, 40 George Square, Newington, Edinburgh, EH8 9JX
Box Office	Tickets are available from https://assemblyfestival.com/ £8.50
Creator/Performer	Sophia Cleary
Notes	Ages 18+, audience participation, contains distressing and potentially triggering scenes, scenes of a sexual nature, scenes of violence, strong language
Social Media Handles	@_sophia_cleary @assemblyfest #sophiacleary #itgetsworse #assemblyfest

All enquiries, high res images and further information:
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