

Performer and comedian Ellen Waddell ('Jean-Luc Picard and Me') brings an advance showcase of her Edinburgh Fringe show 'It's Better to Lie than to End up Alone in a ditch Crying' to The Wardrobe Theatre for a two-day run between the 21-22 July.

In her new one woman show former rock star and acclaimed performer Ellen Waddell tackles the necessity of lying in life, love, friendship and when applying for administrative jobs at truck logistics companies.

The no holds barred confessional comedy show follows Ellen, a former liar, as she travels back in time to the worst year of her life: 2012. It was a year she left her job as a bonafide rock star to move back in with her mum. Despite being jobless, sad, and devastatingly single, Ellen found she couldn't stop lying to everyone she met about how fantastic her life was. In a series of re-enactments, Ellen relives some of the biggest lies she told that year, to her friends, family and potential lovers, before finally asking the ultimate question. Just what is so scary about telling the truth?

With the aid of a chair, Ellen Waddell re-lives the conversations she had during this fallow year, as she lied on dates, on lunches with super-successful friends, and during job interviews for very important and lucrative administrative positions. As each lie spirals out of control, Ellen digs deeper into the mess to find out what turned her into such a fibber in the first place before questioning whether being honest about failure is simply not in our nature.

Notes to the editor:

Ellen Waddell is a writer, director, comedian and performance artist. During her time as a rock star playing bass for indie-pop band Los Campesinos! she released four albums, toured the world, saw the single *You! Me! Dancing! *become the soundtrack of an international Budweiser campaign, and performed on The Late Show with David Letterman.

Ellen's first one-person show *Jean Luc Picard and Me* premiered in 2014, selling out Bristol's Wardrobe Theatre on its first night, before going on to complete successful sell out runs in London, the 2015 Edinburgh Fringe, and Bristol again. The show was picked up by VICE magazine and The BBC for its Festivals mini-site. Ellen regularly performs stand up comedy and storytelling in Bristol, and recently had a residency at The Glee Club in Cardiff.

In 2015, Creative England and the BFI Network awarded Ellen an iShorts funding award to direct Stages, a short film written by herself, which featured comedian Danielle Ward (Newswipe, The News Quiz). Since the film's completion its been selected for the Aesthetica International Film Festival, The London Short Film Festival and the LOCO Comedy Festival and hosted on Comedy Centrals website.

Ellen's first feature film is also in development. Titled 'The Photographic Memory Recalls the Highlights of the Year', it was co-written with Tom Betts for Western Edge Pictures and is based on her short story of the same title. It's since received funding support from The Wellcome Trust Development Awards. She is a BAFTA x Crew member, a BAFTA and BFI hand picked list for up and coming film-makers in the UK.

“Waddell’s performance is enormously brave, personal and self-aware... that she is willing to share it is our privilege.”

Geek Chocolate

“Entertaining and delightful”

Broadway Baby

“Simultaneously raw and sweet, painfully frank and ultimately bursting with the joy of connecting.”

The Skinny