



STAGING WITTGENSTEIN

STAGING WITTGENSTEIN IS ABOUT LANGUAGE: BUT IT WILL LEAVE YOU BREATHLESS

With her blonde hair cascading down and her large expressive doe eyes, Annie Hägg pops her head out of a life-size inflated balloon that engulfs her entire body.

The Yale graduate, with an MFA in Acting, and her balloon will join Russian castmate Nikita Lebedev for the premiere of Staging Wittgenstein - a breathtaking and dynamic combination of physical art, comedy and suspense - at the C Venues during the Edinburgh Fringe Festival this August.

This is literally a pressure-filled performance sure to make the audience squirm as they witness actors arduously squeeze into human-size, white latex balloons. While encased in literal speech bubbles, the troupe celebrates the creation of language while stretching the restrictive bounds of their balloon world, not knowing when they will pop, and they will. Making the most comfortable, uncomfortable.

Staging Wittgenstein was created and directed by New York-based artist Blair Simmons.

"The uniqueness about using the enormous balloons is that they are both props and costume pieces," said Simmons. "They also add a comedic tension that builds and builds in anticipation of the inevitable bursting, resulting in an adrenaline rush for the entire theatre, actors and audience alike."

A New York University MBA candidate, Simmons created Staging Wittgenstein as part of her undergraduate research dissertation examining the physical manifestation of language. As a 3D artist and Dramatic Literature major, in this 40-minute, one-act stage performance, Simmons physically interprets the nearly 100-year-old linguistic theories in Tractates Logico-Philosophicus written by philosopher Ludwig Wittgenstein in 1921.

"The balloons give a bold imaginative power and physical reference frame for Wittgenstein's philosophical propositions about the creation of language and the rules we create around it," Simmons continued. "Wittgenstein said it best, 'The limits of my language mean the limits of my world.'"

Staging Wittgenstein is a modern and innovative stage presentation that comes to Edinburgh after previews in New York City. Produced by Los Angeles-based Nathan Sawaya Productions.

MEDIA CONTACT: NATHAN SAWAYA, nathan@sawayaproductions.com

www.stagingwittgenstein.com