



Self-Raising

by Mike Kenny and Jenny Sealey.

What led to Self-Raising

by Jenny Sealey

The show is called Self-Raising, originally linked to the book Flour Babies by Anne Fine. It explores relationships, responsibility, and family. As I developed it, my own story as a mother and daughter became more prominent. Being the only deaf person in a hearing family, I had to raise myself and navigate my own journey. The show delves into family dynamics, secrets, awakening, and dancing. It's a fusion of different elements packed into an hour-long performance.

The Fringe provides a platform for diverse stories and perspectives, and this year, there's a growing openness and interest in narratives that explore personal journeys, family dynamics, and the impact of secrets. People are seeking connections and understanding, and our show can resonate with a wide range of audiences. We have also made sure to incorporate accessibility features like audio description and captions, making it inclusive and accessible to everyone. So, the Fringe is the perfect place to share this deeply personal and thought-provoking piece.

GRAEae

Self-Raising

**A Graeae production in association with Soho Theatre
and Theatr Iolo. Developed with The Incubator at The
Egg, Theatre Royal Bath.**

Written by Mike Kenny and Jenny Sealey.

Directed by Lee Lyford

**2 – 27 August at Pleasance Dome, Edinburgh.
12:30pm**



‘It starts with a secret. It’s a real secret and I had to keep it for a long time.’

Growing up Deaf in a family with a secret, concealed from both her and her siblings, shaped Jenny Sealey’s childhood. Discovering the truth a few years ago, sent her into a spin as she realised that her life could have been so very different. Now, the award-winning Artistic Director of disabled-led theatre company Graeae is ready to share her story with an audience in Self-Raising, a blisteringly honest, reflective, and often laugh-out-loud funny one-woman show.

Having spent a lifetime championing stories by Deaf and disabled artists, Jenny takes to the stage to tell her own. Self-Raising is presented by Graeae in association with Soho Theatre and Theatr Iolo, and was developed with The Incubator at The Egg, Theatre Royal Bath

CAST

Jenny Sealey as herself

**Performance Interpreters: Jeni Draper, Ali Gordon
Jude Mahon, Caroline Richardson**

CREATIVES

Director — Lee Lyford

Co-writer and performer — Jenny Sealey

Co-writer — Mike Kenny

Assistant Director/BSL Consultant — Daryl Jackson

Costume and Set Designer — Anisha Fields

Lighting Designer — Emma Chapman

Lighting technician / programmer - Will Gibbs

Captioning/AV Designer — Jonah Sealey Braverman

Sound Designer — Lewis Gibson

Stage Manager - Nick Graham

Wellbeing Practitioner — Dr Susan O'Rourke

Voice coach — Christopher Holt

AD consultant — Chris Champion

Dramaturg - Gillian Greer, Soho Theatre

Producers for Graeae - Lizzy Luxford & Hetty Shand

Producer for Theatr Iolo - Michelle Perez

Producer for Soho Theatre - David Luff



For over 40 years, Graeae has cultivated and championed the best in Deaf, disabled and neurodivergent talent, locally, nationally and internationally.

Graeae is passionate about igniting artistic curiosity, championing accessibility and providing a platform for new generations of artists through the creation of trail-blazing theatre. It is also a human rights company, founded on the need to tackle social injustice, discrimination and exclusion. Graeae's work has been seen in stadiums, theatres, schools, at festivals and streamed online.

Recent productions include UK Theatre Award winner 'The Paradis Files', 'Kerbs', Olivier Award nominated '10 Nights', and two seasons of the digital new work programme 'Crips without Constraints'. Other work includes the hit Ian Dury musical 'Reasons to be Cheerful' and outdoor spectacles 'The Iron Man' and 'This Is Not For You'. In addition to productions, Graeae also runs an extensive programme of training, learning, and creative professional development programmes. Since 1997, Graeae has been run by Jenny Sealey OBE, who also co-directed the London 2012 Paralympic Opening Ceremony.

Artistic Director and Joint CEO: Jenny Sealey OBE.

Executive Director and Joint CEO: Kevin Walsh.

www.graeae.org



SOHO THEATRE is London's most vibrant producer for new theatre, comedy and cabaret. Opened in 2000, bang in the creative heart of London, it is one of the country's busiest venues with a buzzing bar and a year-round festival programme with a queer, punk, counter-culture flavour.

Work extends far beyond its home with a UK and international touring programme and connections; presenting shows and scouting talent at Edinburgh Festival Fringe plus close links with the Melbourne International Comedy Festival. Soho Theatre is UK's leading presenter of Indian comedians from the burgeoning scene there and have partnerships and a Soho Theatre Comedy Producer based in Mumbai. Soho Theatre is working towards the 2024 opening of an exciting new second London venue, Soho Theatre Walthamstow. A culmination of many years of Soho's work, in collaboration with a grassroots local campaign, to save a glorious, 1930's art deco venue with an incredible heritage reinvented as a 1,000-capacity venue for world-class comedy, panto, performance and participation – a 'local theatre with a national profile'. Soho Theatre's 2023 Edinburgh Festival Fringe programme is supported by Isobel and Michael Holland.

www.sohotheatre.com



Theatr
Iolo

THEATR IOLO strives to enrich the lives of children through memorable experiences that challenge the mind and stir the imagination. We have been at the forefront of creating theatre for children in Wales for over thirty-five years.

We are passionate about nurturing and igniting the imagination and creativity of young minds, to help children make sense of the world around them and to find their place within it. We work with the best artists, writers and creatives, to create memorable and bold live theatre, workshops and activities in both English and Welsh. Our work for babies, children, and teenagers is toured across Wales, the UK and internationally.

theatriolo.com

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