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## GUIDE TO SURVIVING MASCULINIST TERRITORY



Article by: **Megan Merino**

4 August 2022

## A Fringe guided tour that takes a wander into the dark side of incel culture

Boasting an intriguing title and even more fascinating concept, this audio-led guided walk straddles multiple disciplines and packs in meaty themes. After a swift technical set-up and simple-to-follow instructions, groups head off behind a guide on a scenic walk around Edinburgh’s Old Town while a Scottish woman (to make the tale feel more localised, presumably) talks about a man who has haunted her life.

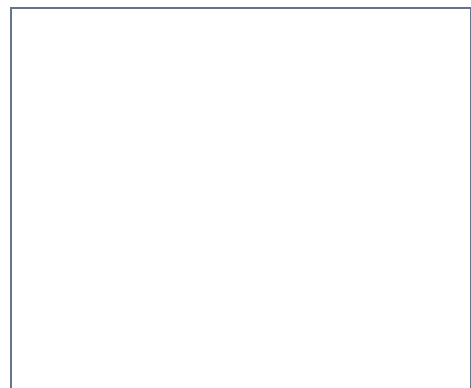
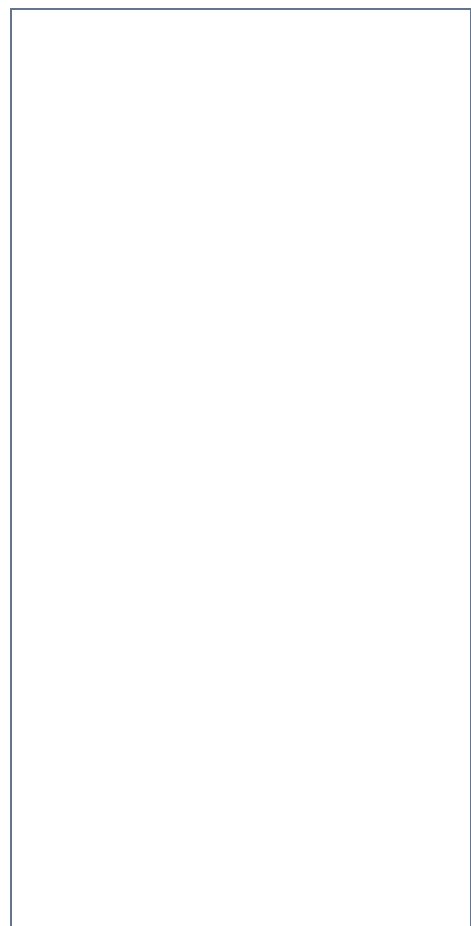
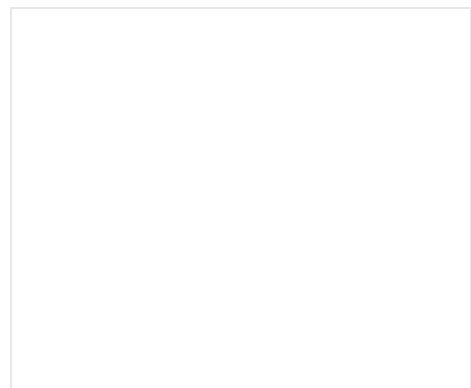
As the first-person narrator describes her dealings with this increasingly lonely and desperate-sounding male, a sinister story begins to reveal itself in the slightly muddled script. In what can only be described as an origin story of the online incel subculture, *Guide To Surviving Masculinist Territory* explains the thought processes of male supremacists and their progression to violence. This seriousness is oddly diffused with satire in parts, with ‘I Want To Know What Love Is’ played in its entirety at one point and a penis-shaped sweet included in a goody bag at the end.

The piece does a good job of educating listeners about the origins and ideologies of incels while managing to present some horrific real-life events in a way that isn’t overly sensational or potentially triggering (disclaimers are made at the start). But to avoid disappointment, this show ought to be described as a piece of performance art rather than a typical theatre show. Expect to leave having learned something shocking and new, while slightly questioning what just happened.

*Summerhall, until 28 August, 8.30pm, 9pm, 9.30pm.*

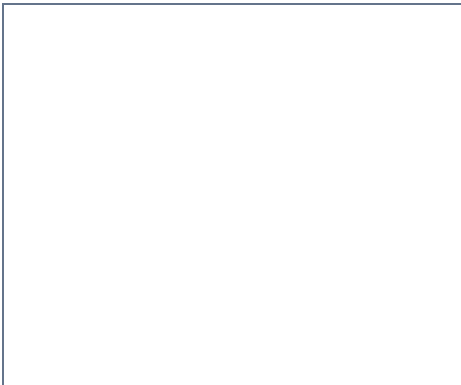
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