

Edinburgh Fringe 2023: Comedy



Bilal Zafar: IMPOSTER

Underbelly Bristo Square: Fresian
2 – 28 August (not 14) @ 3.50pm

‘Delivers big laughs.’

Brian Logan, The Guardian

As seen/heard on his very successful Twitch channel, BBC1, BBC2, Channel 4 and BBC Radio, the Edinburgh Fringe Comedy Awards Best Newcomer nominee and New Act of the Year (NATYS) award winner, **Bilal Zafar** returns with the story about his housemate trying to get him arrested 5 times over 2 days.

This compelling and jaw-dropping story happens just a week before Bilal’s wedding. It starts when Bilal’s housemate suddenly began to believe that he worked for MI5, telling Bilal and another housemate that he was “there for them” and had files on them. The flatmate then lists everything he knows about them, including who finished the biscuits, in a threatening – and slightly hammy - way.

As this mind-boggling story unfolds, we get to meet a dodgy solicitor who shows up to try and resolve the situation as well as a parade of both helpful and unhelpful police officers and a bemused paramedic. Things escalate quickly, sympathy and compassion are stretched as a situation partly brought about by the housing crisis, the cost-of-living crisis and bin collections spirals deliciously out of control.

‘Witty and absorbing...highly entertaining. I look forward to whatever Zafar cooks up next.’

Dominic Maxwell, The Times

Bilal Zafar is a stand-up comedian, writer, actor, podcaster and streamer. He was nominated for Best Newcomer at the Edinburgh Fringe 2016 and won the Hackney Empire New Act Award (NATYS) in the same year. He has taken three solo shows to Edinburgh and toured them around the UK including runs at London's Soho Theatre.

In 2020, he became a Twitch star as he created an online, improvised, immersive surreal comedy series about an unhinged football manager called HOT PEPPSY that built a large loyal fanbase. He has also appeared in Paul Feig's film 'Last Christmas' acting alongside Emma Thompson and Emilia Clarke. Other acting credits include *Catastrophe* and *Sick of It*. He has also appeared on BBC1, BBC2, Channel 4, BBC Radio 4 and has written for the Guardian.

'A personal and very funny story.'

★★★★ David Pollock, Metro

'...enters the stage and dominates it with calm mastery... precise comedic timing... skilfully manoeuvres the audience like a puppet master.'

★★★★ Chris Opoku, The List

'An engaging and enlightening performance.'

★★★★ Chris Omaweng, LondonTheatre1

'I was left laughing on my way to the bus stop and wishing for more.'

★★★★ Stefanie Lyons, Broadway World

'Zafar wins the audience over easily with his laid-back stage presence and delivery, which makes him stand out among other comedians at the Fringe.'

★★★★ Adam Thornton, The Wee Review

'Bilal Zafar is funny, man, it can't be doubted...gave the audience full confidence in his ability to captivate the room.'

★★★★ Ingrid Freeman, Binge Fringe

'A touching and at sometimes shocking story, with plenty of laughs.'

★★★★ Fran Jolley, RGM

'Bilal Zafar isn't using Twitch like anyone else, he's turning it into something very new.'

IGN

'Fascinating and hilarious in equal measure.'

Ian Jones, i-D

'A natural storyteller with a very likeable stage presence.'

★★★★ Patrick Dalziel, Shortcom

'Zafar really delivers on the absurdity of an escalating social media farce running in parallel with growing prejudice and tensions, joyously exposing the stupidity on all sides.'

★★★★ Ben Venables, The Skinny

'Endearing, relaxed and naturally funny...hilarious.'

★★★★ Emily Phillips, EdFest Mag

IMAGES VIA THIS LINK

<https://www.dropbox.com/scl/fo/iz4wyrnk17xo4ecjedfog/h?dl=0&rlkey=hhdli9138abzm66iqzern92hb>

Social media links:

Twitter: @Zafarcakes

Instagram: @Zafarcakes_

TikTok: @Zafarcakes

Website link: BilalZafarComedy.com

Listing:

Title: Bilal Zafar: IMPOSTER

Venue: Underbelly Bristo Square: Fresian

Link: <https://underbellyedinburgh.co.uk/event/bilal-zafar-1>

Fringe Venue Number: 302

Dates: 2 – 28 Aug (not 14)

Press from: 3 August

Time: 3.50pm

Age: 16+

Duration: 60 minutes

Entry: From £7

Media contact: Julian Hall at Textual Healing PR, 07810 486658 / textualhealingpr@gmail.com / @TextualHealing2