



**fiona
goodwin is...**

a very british lesbian

**written and performed by fiona goodwin
directed by wendy hammers**

People Are Talking...

“Fiona delivers her soul baring tale with such comic dexterity and deftness that she gifts the audience with something quite precious and contradictory... the power to see each painful step in her journey with compassion and empathy, giving sweet permission to have a hearty laugh at it all.”

Russell Carpenter, Oscar Winning Cinematographer, Titanic

“A comedic coup.... brilliant, droll, and funny.” **Bonnie Prieber, Curtain Up**

“Hilariously honest and refreshingly authentic.” **Drew Heriot, Director, The Secret**

“Laughed for an hour straight... you’ll love it.” **Melanie Mayron, Actor/Director**

“Amusing as it affecting... inspiring and cathartic.” **Tracey Paleo, Gia on the Move**

“Fiona has the ability to make us laugh and cry at the same time by taking the struggles of her life and wrapping them in her incredible dry sense of humor.”

Margie Haber, Celebrity Acting Coach, Hollywood

Review: A Very British Lesbian

by Robin Tyler, called the mother of gay comedy, Robin was the first 'out' lesbian or gay comic whose 1979 album 'Always a Bridesmaid, Never A Groom' is now in the Smithsonian.

What makes a comedy genius? There have been thousands of performers who know the art of comedy, be it stand up, improve, theatre or mime.

But there are very few performers who measure up to Charlie Chaplin, Lily Tomlin, Richard Pryor or the handful of others considered to be a 'comic genius.'

Few have the ability to combine comedy and pathos, to walk that fine line between laughter and tears. I saw such a rare gifted performer last week in a sold out theatre performance in Santa Monica, CA, Fiona Goodwin is 'a very British lesbian.' For one hour, she took us through a journey of the struggle between her religious upbringing and her attraction toward women. She delivers her story so brilliantly, that the audience goes through her life's ups and downs, laughing all the way. By the end, I wanted to jump up on stage and hug her, for having gone through so much to just 'come out,' but the standing ovation lasted too long.

This woman, who grew up in the very proper British countryside, has created a phenomenal show that is not to be missed. Though she needs none, I'm positive that everyone will love her as much as I do.



A Very British Review of A Very British Lesbian

by Samantha Simmonds-Ronceros

As a British woman living in LA, I cannot tell you how I thirst for British humor. I don't obsess over it of course, or pine, or even mention it...I am British after all. But, when given the chance to get my fix, so to speak, I am thrilled, ecstatic and very, very grateful.

Now that I have set the scene, on to the play, and what a treasure of a play it is. Fiona Goodwin is perhaps an unlikely superstar. She is adorable and warmly and wisely beautiful, but not flashy and naturally bold. She skillfully and hilariously relates her fascinating life journey. From born-again Christian to teaching in inner city schools in the UK, wandering the South American jungles as part of an acting troupe, training to become a nun in the Alps and trying every kind of therapy imaginable - even a Monty Pythonesque exorcism - all in an attempt to "cure" her from her love for her glorious own fair sex.

She has lived her life with the kind of classic British stiff upper lip that has prevented her from embracing her true self until quite recently, despite one secret love affair that lasted years. Oh, how the British love their closeted lives. The repression, the clinging to "what's normal" as if that has ever even existed, especially in the UK, the kingdom of the kinky.

Fiona Goodwin is a hero quite frankly.

How she has survived her wandering and her passionate and mostly unreciprocated love affairs with her marbles intact is a bit of a miracle. But thank goodness she has or we would never be able to share in her brilliant, touching, poignant and absolutely hilarious stories.

It's all so cleverly put together too, with helpful images projected behind her like some wonderful holiday slideshow of her crazy and inspiring life. Fiona gamely acts out certain iconic and life-changing moments, which is magical and preciously funny. Her dry delivery and brittle observational humor draw the audience in from the moment she begins to speak. In short, I loved it.

A Very British Lesbian is exactly what a solo show ought to be...deeply personal, revelatory, funny and engaging with an actor who is willing to share everything.

Fiona Goodwin does all this and the result is absolutely fabulous...Bravo!!

Fiona is touring nationally and internationally with her show and I wish her the very best of British luck, although she needs none, I'm positive that everyone will love her as much as I do.



VIDEO



“I did something unusual that day, the day of the exorcism, I got the meal deal: a quarter pounder with cheese.”

About the Play

Confession: Fiona Goodwin is British. Very.

And also, she's a lesbian.

Very.

Her religion, family, and country would prefer her to be straight.

Ms. Goodwin, however, has other preferences that involve rescuing pretty maidens.

“Forgive me father for I have sinned.”

I spent three decades lying to myself about the fact that I am gay.

Her journey to acceptance of self has included stops along the way in inner city classrooms, a Linda Blair style exorcism in a charismatic house church, a starring role as Satan with a wandering troupe of missionaries in South America, a lifetime of Jungian analysis, and a series of relationships with beautiful unavailable women and one very available but sweaty man.

More About Fiona

Stand Up Comedy

Performs regularly around the US. Los Angeles venues include The Comedy Store, The Colony Theater, Flappers, Malo's Comedy Club.

UK venues include The Albany, The Angel, London. Rhubarb's, Leamington Spa.

A Very British Lesbian on the Road.....

BFF Festival, Mccloskey Theatre Space, Sun Moon Retreat Center, Whitefire Theatre Solo Festival, Zephyr Theatre

Other Theatrical Performances:

My Top Ten Crushes

Miles Memorial Theatre, LA
The King's Head, Islington UK

A Very British Exorcism

Beyond Baroque Literary Arts Centre, Venice CA

Lady Diana's Memorial Service

Principal Soloist - Coventry Cathedral, UK

Two Old Broads

Wendy Hammers & Fiona Goodwin - Santa Monica Playhouse

Film

Beverly Hills Massacre (Liza), Camera Obscura (Dr. Abhazred), Forget Me Not (Nurse Patton), Shrinking Characters (Witch)

TV

Britain's Worst Teenager - Channel Five UK - Behaviour therapist

For inquiries and Fiona related bookings, email:
wendy@wendyhammers.com. To book a session with Fiona, visit: fionagoodwin.com.



My girlfriend Roselyn had a boyfriend called Scott who didn't know about our relationship. And sadly, neither did Roselyn.

Book the Play

for booking and inquiries,
please contact Wendy Hammers at
Tasty Word Productions:
wendy@wendyhammers.com
or phone 310.993.7826
or visit fionagoodwin.com



"We met at bible study. Naturally. We slept together. Unnaturally. There was no intercourse. Praise the Lord! That suited me for a while. Eventually, I got sick of his penny pinching and the fact that he wasn't a woman."

Artist's Statement

My name is Fiona Goodwin and I am, indeed, a very british lesbian.

It took me thirty seconds to write that sentence and thirty years to know it, and then own it.

I was in hiding for too long.

I don't wish that on anyone.

I wrote this play and am touring it around the country and points beyond so I can share my story and hopefully, be an inspiration to others. Others who are hiding. Mostly from themselves.

Masquerading as someone or something you are not can be an exhausting and life - numbing process. It certainly was for me.

The term "coming out" resonated with me on so many levels. Obviously, coming out of the closet as a gay woman. But just as much, coming out as an artist.

I didn't realize that suppressing one aspect of myself would mute my expression in all other areas of my life. But it did. Big time.

When I became truthful about who I was and stopped hiding and apologising, I came out of the closet creatively as well. All those years of living small and keeping quiet about my sexuality had stifled the comic in me, the writer in me, the actor in me. They had all been kept under wraps.

NO LONGER.

A Very British Lesbian is a rallying cry for myself and for anyone who has denied aspects of themselves. I hope, too, it is the beginning of a conversation with the audiences that see it; an invitation to fully embrace, embody and celebrate... to come out of hiding.

Welcome to my coming out party. And perhaps yours too.

Fiona