



Edinburgh Festival Fringe 2025
THEATRE, COMEDY, SOLO SHOW

Rhymes With Purple presents

SHIVA FOR ANNE FRANK
by Rachel McKay Steele

ZOO Playground - Playground 2
1 – 24 August (no performances on 11 and 18)
14:20 (60 min)

First review date: 2 August

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

A Bat Mitzvah, a nose job, and an uncensored diary - *Shiva For Anne Frank* is a joyful and... horny... tribute to Jewish girlhood

Presented as part of Rhymes With Purple 2025 Fringe season, comedian Rachel McKay Steele dives head-first into girlhood, Jewish identity, queerness, and community mourning. Can one Jewish comedian relate to Anne Frank - saintly beacon from one of humanity's darkest chapters?

From her Bat Mitzvah to her nose job, to discovering the unedited pages of Anne Frank's diary, Steele asks what it means to come of age as a Jewish woman today. Expect laughter, incisive social commentary and - snacks!

"*Shiva for Anne Frank* started as an ill-conceived, one-off, bit in a comedy show in 2018 and then, as the cliché goes, became so much more, evolving into an exploration of girlhood, growing up Jewish in the American South, and collective grief," says Steele.

"It's also a celebration of Jewish joy and Paul Rudd. It's a space to mourn Anne, the full young woman, not the idea of her and chance to explore empathy, for ourselves and others. Being human is very hard and often confusing yet somehow beautiful. This show, tap number included, is one of the ways I cope with that."


"In 2025, now more than ever, we need work that is urgent, inclusive and life-affirming," says Rhymes With Purple lead producer Frodo Allan. "We are really proud that this year's curated RWP programme embodies that and then some – and excited for audiences to take part."

For more information, please visit www.rhymeswithpurple.net. Contact Rachel O'Regan at press@rhymeswithpurple.net or 075511462545 to arrange interviews and press tickets for shows, and for any other information.


LISTINGS

 Venue: ZOO Playground (Playground 2), High School Yards EH1 1LZ

 Dates: 1 – 24 August (no performances on 11 and 18 August)

 Time: 14:20 (60 min)

 Tickets: <https://tickets.gildedballoon.co.uk/event/14:5551/>

 Accessibility:
Wheelchair access

Content Warnings: Strong language/swearing

Age Suitability: 12+ (guideline)

First review date: 2 August

ABOUT RHYMES WITH PURPLE

At Rhymes with Purple, we've been producing work across Scotland, at the Edinburgh Festival Fringe, and further afield since 2005. We particularly love the weird and wonderful and we aren't afraid to take chances with the projects we manage. Rhymes with Purple is a team made up of a diverse group led by a person with a 'hidden' disability and we aim to champion inclusivity and access to all aspects of the Arts in our projects. We're always delighted to work with LGBTQIA+ artists and those who may face barriers to participation in the arts due to class and cultural background, race, or physical ability.

ABOUT RACHEL MCKAY STEELE

Rachel McKay Steele is a writer and comedian who left Brooklyn and bagels for sunny Los Angeles. She has studied comedy and improv at multiple theaters, including the Upright Citizens Brigade. She was a Just For Laugh's Stand up and Pitch competition finalist. She received the inaugural Jewish Writers' Initiative Grant for her feature script *Adult Bat Mitzvah* which was then on the 2022 Athena Film Festival's Athena List and is currently in development with Burn Later Productions. You can catch her at WE Improv with her team, Pyramid Scheme. She has two cats, Roxy and Esther.

