



## ***Patient 13***

**Zoo (Playground 2), High School Yards, Edinburgh, EH1 1LZ  
Friday 7<sup>th</sup> – Sunday 30<sup>th</sup> August 2026 (not 17<sup>th</sup>, 25<sup>th</sup>), 14:20**

*I got rid of all the toxic people and there was no one left*

Marking its European debut, the critically acclaimed *Patient 13* is an intoxicating true story of how writer and performer Gail Thomas's cancer diagnosis led her to participate in a revolutionary clinical study involving magic mushrooms. Set in New York City, this darkly satirical comedy follows fiercely independent Gail as she attempts to navigate dating, true connection and psychedelics.

*Patient 13* is a rare and compelling firsthand account; after an unexpected cancer diagnosis, Gail was forced to rethink everything she thought she knew about herself and the people around her. Surrounded by controlling men and grappling with a shifting identity, she became part of a groundbreaking US clinical study exploring psychedelics as treatment for mental health. Both astonishing and deeply relatable, the show traverses love, medical trauma and isolation, ultimately revealing how Gail finds a surprising sense of clarity through unorthodox means.

Writer and performer Gail Thomas comments, *My goal with Patient 13 is to entertain, inspire, and empower others to appreciate the nuance, hilarity and absurdity of life. Experiencing universal human emotions together in the theatre can be transformative. Originally shared in bits on New York City storytelling stages, the show has grown thanks to the support of my director Dan Oliverio and enthusiastic audiences. I think of my audience as close friends. Patient 13 is my gift to people who grapple with tough decisions, complicated relationships, and self-love. I hope that it helps people see that they are not alone. We're all in this together, like it or not.*

Director Dan Oliverio comments, *Although the play is an intimate story, it reflects our greater cultural concern with how we care for one another and how institutionalized fear and loneliness*

*keep us apart, echoing the longing we so acutely feel for connectedness, bravery, and hope. All over the world, people are re-examining their assumptions about medical care and treatment... reevaluating the stigmas around certain drugs and diseases. I think it's no accident that these stories are reaching a crescendo with Patient 13 opening at the Fringe at the same time that the UK parliament is debating using psychedelics as a treatment for depression. The show is part of a watershed moment.*

*Patient 13 is all about campfire storytelling, raw, uncomplicated intimacy, and laughing and celebrating the weirdness and wonder all around us - ★★★★★ Broadway World*

*The humour, wisdom and candour abound - ★★★★★ Front Row Center*

## Notes To Editors

Title	<i>Patient 13</i>
Performance Dates	7 <sup>th</sup> August– 30 <sup>th</sup> August (not 17 <sup>th</sup> , 25 <sup>th</sup> ), 14:20
Location	Zoo (Playground 2), High School Yards, Edinburgh, EH1 1LZ
Running Time	60 minutes
Writer and performer	Gail Thomas (she/her)
Director	Dan Oliverio (he/him)
Guidance	14+, contains discussion of sex, mental health issues, and legal psychedelic drug use
Box Office	Tickets are available from <a href="http://www.zoovenues.co.uk">www.zoovenues.co.uk</a> Weekday: £12 (£10) Weekend: £13 (£11)
Social Media	@patient13show #patient13show

All enquiries, high-res images and further information:  
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