

MEDIA RELEASE

#DANISH Showcase brings boundary-pushing opera *LAUGHING OUT LONELY* to the Edinburgh Festival Fringe 2026

ONE PERSON. A MILLION VOICES.

LAUGHING OUT LONELY (LOL)

By OPE-N

Preview: 18 August @ 2.15pm (45 mins)

19 – 31 August @ 1.15pm & 2.15pm (45 mins)

Summerhall – Dissection Room

Tickets: <https://www.edfringe.com/tickets/whats-on/laughing-out-lonely>

Trigger warnings: Strobe lighting, distressing or potentially triggering themes, strong language

An electrifying and deeply affecting portrait of modern isolation arrives at the Fringe this summer as part of the acclaimed #DANISH Showcase. *LAUGHING OUT LONELY (LOL)* is a bold, genre-defying work from award-winning Danish company OPE-N, blending opera, physical theatre and immersive staging to explore what it means to feel alone in a hyperconnected world.

With English-language lyrics drawn from anonymous social media posts, *LOL* transforms digital confession into a raw, live experience. Acclaimed countertenor Morten Grove Frandsen delivers a tour-de-force solo performance, channelling a multitude of voices, vulnerable, furious, intimate and searching, in a work that places the audience inside a theatrical echo chamber.

Directed by **Louise Beck**, the production breaks down the boundaries between performer and audience, creating an environment that is at once unsettling and deeply human. Direct, unflinching and emotionally charged, *LOL* pushes the limits of what opera can be, speaking urgently to a generation navigating identity, connection and loneliness online.

Director Louise Beck said:

Since premiering in Denmark in 2023, *LAUGHING OUT LONELY* has toured internationally to critical acclaim across the Nordics and Canada, with upcoming performances at Lincoln Center, New York in October 2026. This marks its Edinburgh Festival Fringe debut.

Press response has been striking from international runs.

ISCENE described the show as “*a furiously beautiful and in-your-face experience*”, while *Politiken* praised “*the impressive vocal level of Morten Grove Frandsen.*” International critics have called it “*a sublime, violent, sometimes grotesque – but always captivating – opera*” (Monsaintroch, Quebec) and “*a breathtaking ride*” (*Kristeligt Dagblad*).

Produced by Copenhagen-based company OPE-N, known for 25 years of bold, contemporary and socially engaged opera, the work reflects a commitment to reaching new audiences through innovative, interdisciplinary performance.

Presented within the #DANISH Showcase, a curated platform championing boundary-pushing work, *LAUGHING OUT LONELY* forms part of a collective amplifying bold Danish voices on the global stage.

Urgent. Intimate. Unmissable. This is opera reimagined for the digital age.

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NOTES TO EDITORS

About OPE-N - expanding Opera

Based in Copenhagen, OPE-N is an award-winning company with 25 years of experience creating bold, contemporary opera. Known for site-specific and socially engaged works, they collaborate internationally and tour productions across Europe, North America, Asia, and Australia.

<https://www.ope-n.dk/>