

fringe

PRESS RELEASE

# Atticist **Life According to Saki** by Katherine Rundell



**1916. In the trenches of the Battle of Ancre, a soldier tells stories. That soldier is Saki**

Like a cross between Oscar Wilde and Roald Dahl, **Saki's** creations are witty, absurd, and peculiarly optimistic. This new play by young, award-winning children's author **Katherine Rundell** (*Rooftoppers*, *The Wolf Wilder*, *The Girl Savage*), is inspired by the short stories of Saki.

**'It is difficult to know what one thinks about, oneself, in the trenches'**  
*Saki*

Beginning with early misrule and school-age rebellion, Saki's stories move through the complexities of youth and adulthood, thwarted desire, charm and chaos, friendship and jealousy, and, finally, death. Performed by an ensemble cast, the world of **Life According to Saki** is brought alive through acting, music, dance, clown, and puppetry.

Saki was the pen name of the early twentieth century writer **Hector Hugh Munro**. Described as **'a master of the short story'** (*Guardian*), Saki's stories often mirror his own life. Born in British Burma before being sent to live, unhappily, with distant relatives in England after the death of his mother, he explored a youth of parties and celebrity, as well falling in love as a gay man in a time when homosexuality was very much illegal. Just over the age of conscription when the First World War broke out, he joined in 1914, before being tragically killed by a sniper in November 1916.

**Life According to Saki** is a collaboration of emerging young professionals, and the first production by **Atticist Productions**. Directed by **Jessica Lazar** (*École Philippe Gaulier*; *Another Country*, *The Caucasian Chalk Circle*, both Oxford Playhouse). Design by **Anna Lewis** (whose work has been seen at the National Theatre, Oxford Playhouse, The Gate, The Finborough, and Secret Cinema). It is Katherine Rundell's first play.

## **C venues**

vibrant vivacious variety

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## **Listings Information**

Venue

C, venue 34, Edinburgh Festival Fringe

Dates

3-29 Aug (not 15)

Time

14:15 (1h10)

Ticket prices

£8.50-£10.50 / concessions £6.50-£8.50 / children £4.50-£6.50

C venues box office

0845 260 1234 / [www.CtheFestival.com](http://www.CtheFestival.com)

Fringe box office

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