

fringe

PRESS RELEASE

# Love Lee Productions

## Ursula, Queen of the Jungle

by Chris Eldon Lee



**'I've embarked upon an almighty Girls Own Adventure with monumental consequences'**

Drawn from the autobiography of **Ursula Graham Bower** and a 1951 girls' magazine strip cartoon, this is the breath-takingly unlikely but totally true account of the amazing auntie of the former BBC India correspondent **Mark Tully**. In WW2 Ursula settled amongst the head-hunting natives of Nagaland and led them against the invading Japanese.

In 1939 Ursula, a Kensington debutante, travelled to the remote jungle of N E India to film the customs of the local tribes for the Pitt Rivers Museum in Oxford. However, she was totally unaware that 10 years previously a 16-year-old, self-proclaimed Naga Goddess had led a popular revolt against the British Administration and, when imprisoned, promised her followers she would return in 'unrecognisable form'. So, when a rare, white woman appeared in their midst, they drew their own conclusions. When war broke out, the Japanese invaded Burma and viewed the Naga Hills as a route into British India. General Slim in Calcutta, determined to keep them out, encouraged the Nagas to monitor incursions. They agreed, provided they could be led by the one Brit they really trusted; **Ursula Graham Bower**. Thus, Ursula became the only combatant female officer in the British Army. This was not the 'done thing' of course, so she was hidden in army records as a 'typist'... until the legend of The Naga Queen emerged.

This new play by veteran Radio 4 producer **Chris Eldon Lee** has been adapted from Ursula's own characterful and comic writings and a ridiculously frank interview she gave to Cambridge University shortly before her death. It trumpets her remarkable adventures and her deepening relationship with the Naga tribesman. It also exposes the fierce grievances felt by the Nagas when the British pulled out 70 years ago and handed them to India. They sought Ursula's help to right the wrong – a destiny inherited to this day by her daughter Trina. This is a one-woman play performed by actor/impressionist **Joanna Purslow**, who premiered *Shakespeare's Will* at Elsinore Castle in April 2016). Joanna plays Ursula, Trina and nine other characters; including three Naga tribesmen. Ursula's naturally naughty wit shines through the show.

### C venues

vibrant vivacious variety

general manager  
Shannon Steele  
artistic director  
Hartley T A Kemp

year round administration

**C venues London**

5 Alexandra Mansions  
Chichele Road  
London NW2 3AS

during the Fringe in August

**C venues Edinburgh**

Press office at C royale  
22 George Street  
Ticket collection at any C venue

press office tel 0845 260 1060  
fax 0845 260 1061  
box office tel 0845 260 1234

email [press@Cvenues.com](mailto:press@Cvenues.com)  
[www.Cvenues.com](http://www.Cvenues.com)

### Listings Information

Venue	C primo, Lodge N° 1, Hill Street, EH2 3JP, venue 41
Dates	13-28 Aug
Time	16:35 (1h25)
Ticket prices	£9.50-£11.50 / concessions £7.50-£9.50
C venues box office	0845 260 1234 /
	<a href="http://www.CtheFestival.com/2017/ursula-queen-of-the-jungle">www.CtheFestival.com/2017/ursula-queen-of-the-jungle</a>
Fringe box office	0131 226 0000 / <a href="http://www.edfringe.com">www.edfringe.com</a>

For further information, images and interview availability please contact Chris Lee at Love Lee Productions on 07885 467499 / [eldonlee@supanet.com](mailto:eldonlee@supanet.com) or the C venues press office on 0845 260 1060 / [press@cvenues.com](mailto:press@cvenues.com)

**C venues**

**venue 41**  
LODGE N° 1  
HILL STREET  
0845 260 1234  
[www.CtheFestival.com](http://www.CtheFestival.com)  
The Edinburgh Festival  
**fringe**