



**In this year when Rose Ayling-Ellis won Strictly
and CODA won the Academy Award for Best Picture**

A TRUE CODA STORY COMES TO THE FRINGE

Deaf Ears – How I Learned to Hear

Written and performed by **Joe Friedman**

Pleasance Courtyard (Below), Wed 3rd – Mon 15th Aug 2022 (not Weds 10th)

BSL Signed: 8th and 14th

CODA – Children Of Deaf Adults

The movie CODA won three Oscars. But it was fiction. This summer, experience the true story of growing up as a hearing child with deaf parents. Parents who didn't sign. Parents who insisted on having a telephone, even though they couldn't hear it ring. Parents who used being deaf as an excuse not to listen.

What was it like growing up with parents who couldn't hear?

You'll discover in this remarkable fascinating autobiographical show. Joe takes us from being the kid who navigated the hearing world for his parents to a lucky escape from a face-off with the Chicago police (not recommended!) through to a life-changing appointment with one of his most challenging patients, who regularly drove Joe mad, but eventually taught him what it was to truly hear.

For Joe, growing up with deaf parents drove a lifelong desire to connect with others. It led him to become a successful psychotherapist and an acclaimed children's author, to explore improvisation and do stand-up comedy. Ultimately it led to *Deaf Ears*.

Performing Deaf Ears

It's a real act of courage to start a whole new career as a solo performer, taking the starring role in your own life story, just when most people are thinking of retiring.

Joe smashes this change of direction. He proves to be an enchanting storyteller, captivating his audiences by taking them into an unfamiliar world on a journey that is moving, amusing and full of unexpected illumination.

Deaf Ears premiered last year and was an immediate success, selling out and being nominated for awards. It featured on BBC Radio 4's 'Four Thought'.

"Highly recommended show. Spellbinding storytelling." Fringe Review

Finalist, Standing Ovation Awards. Pub Theatre Review

Surprising Accessibility Issues

In Edinburgh, Joe hoped to offer performances accessible to people like his parents. To his surprise, there is no funding for signing or captioning at the Edinburgh Festival Fringe.

Joe has set up a **JustGiving** page to raise funds so that he can offer both signing and captioning for *Deaf Ear*. And he's not stopping there. Any excess will be used to create a fund to provide accessibility for other Edinburgh shows. This fund will be administered by the Fringe Society to further deaf access at the Edinburgh Fringe.

Signed/captioned performances should be available as the norm. We hope to enable this.

Quotes from Joe

"I didn't inherit my parent's deafness literally but was affected by it almost as much as if I had!"

"As a hearing person, I thought I understood what it was to hear. Writing this show taught me different!"

"When I realised there was no funding to make shows accessible to deaf people like my parents, I decided to do what I could to change this."

Notes to Editors

Title	Deaf Ears – How I Learned to Hear
Performance Dates	Wednesday 3rd August – Monday 15th August 2022 (not Weds 10th)
Running Time	60 minutes
Location	Pleasance Courtyard (Below), 60 Pleasance, Edinburgh, EH8 9TJ
Box Office	Tickets are available from www.pleasance.co.uk or 020 7609 1800. Midweek: £11.50 (£10.50) Weekend: £13.00 (£12.00)
Written by	Joe Friedman
Performed by	Joe Friedman
Produced by:	Graham & Townley Productions
Website:	www.deaf-ears.com
Crowdfunding:	https://www.justgiving.com/crowdfunding/joe-friedman
Twitter:	@DeafEars6 @ThePleasance

All enquiries, high res images and further information:

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