

***Each human being is like a galaxy. Have you ever wondered how many guests live inside you?***

*"The whole experience of theatre in One Woman.  
I would do anything I can to see this show One More Time."*

**Norwegian Clown and Comedian Viggo Venn - WINNER Britain's Got Talent 2023**

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**Written, directed and performed by Monia Baldini  
Devising consultant Giovanni Fusetti  
Produced by KanterStrasse**

**Poster Jonny Woolley  
Photographer Lorna Milburn**

**Genre: Comedy/Monolog/Physical Theatre/Clown  
Running Time: 1h**

**Winner of the Award 2022 " SoHo Playhouse-Fringe Encore Series" (NYC, USA)  
Winner of the Award 2023 "Istanbul Fringe (Catania OFF Fringe Festival)"  
Winner of the Prague Fringe Creative Award 2023**

Come as you are and join Monia's six guests on a **cathartic** and **adventurous journey toward self-acceptance**: *The Hostess, The Artist, Venus, She-Lion, Tragic Actress, and Me*. Those are the author's guests, the pushes of the creation inside the author, but also human archetypes, that materialize themselves in six different roles or masks; each with their own physicality, voice, gestures, motivations and contents.

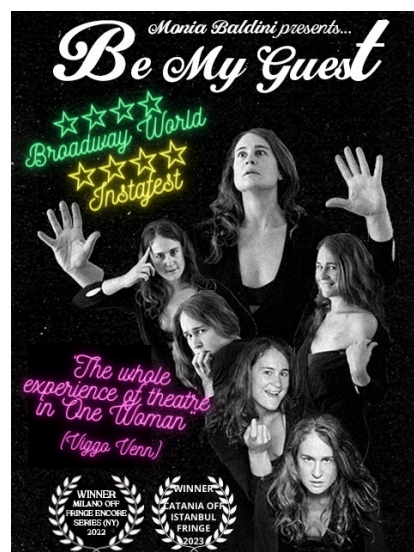
*Be My Guest* is an **interactive** and **meta-theatrical solo show** that explores ways to embrace human fragility through the magical worlds of **clowning, improvisation, cabaret** and **physical comedy**.

Themes are hot and urgent: **isolation, dreams, motherhood, and taboo**.  
The language is bold, satirical, and hilarious.

Monia explores, with the audience, the doubts and the **struggle of making a show** and the **artistic process behind it**.

The audience, also full of guests, is always involved since nothing is private, plays, takes part in the process, creates and changes, **their presence is a fundamental component of the show**. They're progressively more and more involved in this absurd meta-theatrical adventure that ends in a cathartic and shared collective ritual.

*"The research started from a vivisection of myself,  
from the unexpressed and hidden.  
I decided to share what can be pathetic about me, funny, what I can bring up to share, laugh  
about, my vulnerabilities, the human fragility.  
I met several personae and simply decided to play them all.  
I have decided to celebrate their existences and their acceptance by making a show  
for them in which they can finally interact with each other and learn how to coexist with, and  
without, the interaction of the audience.  
Finally, celebrate and recognise our multitudes and silliness."*



*“Baldini ticks an array of random boxes I didn’t even know existed in the theatrical world. It is raw and original. I came out feeling more connected to myself and the people around me and that is certainly impressive in itself.”*

★★★★★ **Broadway World**

[EDINBURGH 2023: Review: BE MY GUEST. Assembly George Square. The Box](#)

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*“Insane, intense, incredible! You won’t see anything quite like this. It’s a really fun show and Monia is such a talented performer, she understands how to engage and connect with an audience in a way which is charming and endearing.”*

★★★★★ **Instafest Review**

[https://www.instagram.com/p/CvukMmgNji9/?img\\_index=1](https://www.instagram.com/p/CvukMmgNji9/?img_index=1)

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*“Always intriguing, Baldini never pushes us away with her ready humor and she reads the room effectively. Interacting with the audience can be challenging to a performer and Baldini finds the right tone and way of inviting interactions.*

*Baldini is a refreshingly creative and resourceful performer with entertaining stories and characters, all infused with her rapid fire wit.”*

**RECOMMENDED SHOW, Fringe Review**

[Be My Guest – FringeReview](#)

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*“In an interview, Baldini told me how she had made a definite choice to rely exclusively on body language and vocal skills rather than on different costumes and stage props to evoke the characters. She also values audience interaction, which she sets up with great skill, sometimes bringing people on stage, at other times inviting them to comment on the raft of characters. Baldini’s mesmerizing stage presence and empathy for her audience make this a very special theatre-going experience.”*

**Maggie Rose**

[Italian women theatre makers at the Edinburgh Festival Fringe](#)

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[TRAILER HERE](#)

[PICTURES OF THE SHOW](#)

 **BE MY GUEST Tech Rider 2023**

## OUR GUESTS



At the doorstep, in the stalls, waiting for the arrival of her guests, we meet the charming and shameless **Nina Divina**, the hostess maitresse of the show. Using her sophisticated and unpredictable sense of humor encourages the audience to enter in the shared and participative atmosphere of the show.



The **Tragic Actress**, deeply connected with the Muses of Greek Theatre, searching endlessly for tragic catharsis, dying multiple times in the most dramatic ways.



There is in me also an **Artist** who wants to make art that is universal and relevant but sometimes she takes herself too seriously.





We meet **Venus** that needs to be loved desperately by the audience and has to seduce them to make sure they do.



Then we meet **SheLion**, a wild and untamed creature that is there to empower the inner beasts inside each audience member and helps them to reconnect with their instinctual nature.



In a private little corner of my soul there is also **Me** a naive creature who wants to tell my real story with all the struggle to work in the theatre system, the difficulties to make money, to be an artist mum and to be me.

**The Hostess** Ladies and Gentlemen and everyone in between...  
**The Artist** Are you following this? Is this making sense to you?  
**Venus** This is not the right question, the question is are you loving it?  
**Shelion** Do you feel more free?  
**Tragic actress** Is it tragic enough?  
**Me** Do you want to hear my story?

The work begins from an autobiographical dimension, talks about failure, success and the condition of the artist in our society.

Inside this absurd and meta-theatrical situation, where the fourth wall is knocked down and rebuilt several times, this tourbillon of characters and archetypes let us enter in the story and in the world of the author. The author, never seen but behind everything, using the weaknesses, and vulnerabilities of the characters will tell the story and will perform a cathartic ritual, with and in front of the audience.



## THE CREATIVE PROCESS

The acting techniques I use in this show belong to the universe of physical theatre and clowning. The script of the show has been made starting from improvisation and developed in a fixed canovaccio that leaves a bit of space to fill with the improvisation and the audience responses.

*Be My Guest* has been developed since May 2021 and has been part of a series of creative devising workshops led by Giovanni Fusetti of Helikos School in Padova. The creation of the show was supported by Regione Toscana (IT) during a creative residency hosted by KanterStrasse company in Terranuova Bracciolini (Arezzo, IT) at the beginning of 2022. The show is available in English and in Italian.

**Be My Guest is currently touring. Since its debut in April 2022 Be My Guest has been performed at:**

IL RESPIRO DEL PUBBLICO FESTIVAL, Teatro di Cestello, FIRENZE, November 2023

OPEN | Creative Work Space, CATANIA OFF Fringe Festival 2023, October 2023

IMBONATI11 Art Hub, Milano, MilanoOFF Fringe Festival, October 2023

Apres-coup Bistrot, Milano, MilanoOFF Fringe Festival, September 2023

Edinburgh Fringe Festival 2023, The Box, George Square (Assembly), (full run) August 2023

Applecarts Theatre, London, July 2023

SoHo Playhouse Theatre, New York City, (part of Fringe Encore Series 2022),  
Dec- Jan (2022\23)

Teatro Comunale di Cavriglia (AR), Festival Materiali In scena, December 2022

Centro di teatro Internazionale di Firenze, September 2022

Teatro "Fabbrica di Lampadine", Milano, MilanoOFF Fringe Festival, September 2022

Chelsea Theatre Festival, London, August 2022

Helikos International Theatre School, Padova, June 2022

Cockpit Theatre, London, April 2022

Teatro Le Fornaci, Terranuova Bracciolini, April 2022

### **Upcoming events...**

Red Pearl Clown Festival 2024 (12.3.-13.3.2024)  
<https://hurjaruuth.fi/en/program/monia-baldini-it-be-my-guest/>

Prague Fringe Festival May 2024 <https://www.praguefringe.com/>

Istanbul Fringe Festival September 2024

## THE TEAM

### Monia Baldini , DIRECTOR, WRITER, PERFORMER of *Be My Guest*



**Monia Baldini** is a comedian, cabaret artist, theater maker and theater trainer with an international training and education. She graduated at the International Theater School of Philippe Gaulier in Paris, has a degree in Management and production of artistic events at the University of Florence (IT).

She took her first steps in the Italian theatre scenes performing in *Kaspar Hauser* 2007 (Directed by Gianfranco Pedullà and Nicola Rignanese, *Blitz!* 2009 ( Directed by Cristina Pezzoli, written by Letizia Russo and Antonio Tarantino), 2008-9 *Il Grattacielo sullo Spillo*, *KITE ambiente d'avvio* ( Directed by Daniele Bartolini, DLT). She was the author and the director of *Hansel e Gretel: un pasticcio di fiaba* in 2009-10, *Devota Italia Oscena* 2009-10. In 2010 she reached the finals at the Italian award Premio Hystrio for actors under 30.

In 2012 she moved to Paris where she attended the International Theatre School of Philippe Gaulier in Paris where she discovered that Physical theatre, clown and comedy were the way to follow. From 2016 to 2019, after giving birth to Noah, she worked and lived in London where she founded *Tuttifrutti Production*, her production company, which she has been the artistic director until 2019. In those years she worked, mainly as a hostess, for several events companies.

She produced and hosted the variety show *A Tuttifrutti Cabaret* 2017-19 (TOP TEN MUST SEE CABARETS 2017-The list) with a cast of all international female clowns that has been performed in many venues across London (Blue Elephant Theatre, Her Upstairs, The George Tavern, etc.) and in Festivals (Edinburgh Fringe Festival, London Clown Festival, etc.).

She was also the co author, co director and performer of the clown show *ragic scenes of legendary where snakes were (kind of) present* with her clown partner Lucia Pena Pin, produced by Mouth of Lions and performed in London and



European Festivals between 2018 and 2019. In 2020 she came back to Italy and since the beginning of 2021 she has been working at the creation of Be My Guest.

She's been working as a theater teacher and trainer for several years. She specializes in Physical Theater, comedy and clowning. She works in Italian, English, Spanish and French.

During the years she had met, worked and studied with many theater makers and teachers, among them: Philippe Gaulier, Giovanni Fusetti, Walter Leonardi, Matteo Destro, Cristina Pezzoli, Francesca Della Monica, Pippo Delbono, Letizia Russo, Antonio Tarantino, John Wright, Toby Park (Spymonkey), Avner the Eccentric, Paul Hunter (Told by an Idiot).



## THE PRODUCER

**Kanterstrasse** is a theatre company based in Tuscany, Italy. The company was founded in 2002 and since then has been producing and creating theatre shows mainly in the field of physical comedy. Kanterstrasse manages and organises a theatre season in the "Theatre Auditorium le Fornaci" in Terranuova Bracciolini (Arezzo) and organises drama and theatre classes for children and adults. Their work is supported by the Italian art council and by Regione Toscana. "Be My Guest" by Monia Baldini is one of the productions of the company.

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