

**THEATRE**

**I Miss Communism**

★★★★☆

It's probably a testament to this one-woman show's emotional range that you find yourself doubting the authenticity of its autobiographical spin.

Yet a true story it is, and for actress and co-writer Ines Wurth (pictured) – brought up amid the turmoil of, first, communist Yugoslavia in the 1980s and then war-wrecked Croatia, as it became in the 1990s – it has obviously left a lasting impression.

First explaining to us the dynamics of her family – herself, her mother and grandmother, all living in the same old house that has seen three wars come and go for each generation – she then tells how she escaped to the supposed freedom of the West. But the West (in her case, Los Angeles) is not so free after all, although a terrifying tale of her visit back home during the war in Croatia is enough to make us believe that pig-headed cops are the preferable alternative.

Hingeing on her fear of the dark as a metaphor for many other unseen evils, Wurth's tale is a curious mixture of storytelling, song and dance that leads to the simple conclusion that we're the only people who can conquer our own demons. Layered yet easy to understand and held together by a fine performance, I Miss



Communism reveals the human story beyond the weighty subject matter.

*David Pollock*

Until Aug 29, Pleasance Dome (V23), 4.15pm. [www.pleasance.co.uk](http://www.pleasance.co.uk)

**COMEDY**

**Gareth Jones – How Everything You Know Could Be Wrong** ★★★★★

How2 presenter and former roadie to The Alarm Gareth Jones (or Gaz Top, but don't say it to his face) sticks firmly to his geeky guns with this debut Fringe appearance.

Any notion of him 'going edgy' for the Fringe is grinningly excised with one tap on the lid of a shaken Irr-

Bru can and Jones embarks on a wholesome brew of PowerPoint-based memoir and wide-eyed, How2-style science tricks.

Biographical anecdotes and silly experiments with water fill much of the hour, with his quick, flimsily hypothetical treatment of the show title's bold assertion lending a slightly disingenuous air.

There are tasty revelations in there, though (did you know the Earth is likely to flip on its head in the next 150 years?), and the story of his life and career is mildly diverting, despite a whiff of narcissism.

It's an endearingly innocent change of pace from the swears rigours of a lot of Fringe comedy, and a godsend for those with children to divert, but there's little here you couldn't see by watching the video. *Kit Macdonald*  
 Until Aug 28, Gilded Balloon (V14), 1.15pm  
[www.gildedballoon.co.uk](http://www.gildedballoon.co.uk)