event listings

Compelling tale from the underrepresented

Etcetera Theatre

ne life of transwoman Lili Elbe, the first known person to undergo full surgical reassignment, will soon receive the Hollywood touch in Tom Hooper's new movie The Danish Girl. But the Camden Fringe has beaten him to it with this short play based on Lili's diaries and developed by The Theatre Writers Workshop, with input from the trans cast and crew reflecting their own challenging journeys.

That sympathetic reading lends the piece strong authenticity. However, with only 50 minutes in which to cover a complex tale, it's more whistlestop tour than satisfying drama.

Danish artist Lili, born Einar Mogens Wegener, underwent five experimental operations in the early 1930s, causing a media sensation. She managed to get her sex and name legally changed, but her marriage to Gerda Gottlieb was invalidated by the King of Denmark.

Lili focuses on the intimate rather than the epic, hinting at the wider public reaction, but centring on a fracturing relationship. It's a nice study in contrasts, with Victoria Elizabeth's Gerda (here Greta) bustling and practical, while Simona Continente's Lili is a capricious prima donna, all sharp cheekbones and languid sensuality. Refreshingly, this

London NW3. War has always had devastating repercussions for those who remain at home and those who look back on wars in later years. Some very powerful war poetry has been written by poets not involved in combat. In particular, women have had to face the loss of loved ones throughout the centuries. FREE with an admission ticket (£5.50/£3.50 concession - ticket lasts for one year). Drop in. 3-4pm, Saturday, August 9.

Jazz at JW3: Elaine Delmar. JW3, 341-351 Finchley Road, London, NW3 6ET.Box Office: 020 7433 8988. Web: https://www.jw3.org.uk £15 (Standard), £7.50 (concs) "Fashions may change but quality is timeless, which explains how the stylish Elaine Delmar has survived the passage of so many vocal trends over the years" 8pm, Sunday, August 10.

- Hampstead Comedy Club, Camden Head, 100 Camden High Street, NW1 0LU. Enquiries: 07722 832635. www. hampsteadcomedy.co.uk Saturday, July 26 (Early show)
- Monkey Business. The Sir Richard Steele, 97 Haverstock Hill NW3. Doors 7.30pm, Show 8.45pm. Tickets £12.50 /£10 concs. www. monkeybusinesscomedyclub.co.uk Martin Besserman's birthday Special Elliot Mason, Martin Davies, Garath Richards, Luke Stephen, Katy Lane, James Bennison & Saban Shaban Kazim MC Martin Besserman. Saturday, August 2.

Neekly Clubs and Clas

Hampstead Heath Croquet Club.



Simona Continente's Lili is a prima donna

pioneer is not painted as a saint, but a flawed human being who trod an extraordinary path while still indulging in reckless fantasies.

There's a veritable feast of ideas, sadly left undeveloped in Liz Lees' rather clunky production, including the couple's creative rivalry, grieving Greta's stoic support and sacrifice, and Lili's changing artistic viewpoint, identity confusion, subsequent

Croquet lawns, near the tennis courts, Golders Hill Park. Details at hampsteadheathcroquetclub.org.uk.

- Energy Healing Highgate Healing Centre. Highgate United Reformed Church, Pond Square, Highgate, N6. £5 donation. Details on 07597 199299. 6pm-8pm. Tuesdays.
- Abbey Community Centre. 222c Belsize Road, NW6. 07447 932564 Over-50 Men's IT. Computer and internet basics. Free. No booking required. 11.30am-1.30pm. Wednesdays. Coffee morning. 10.30am-noon. Fridays. Bingo. 20p a game. 2pm-3pm. Tuesdays.
- Earth, Twig and Fire. Highgate Society Hall, Pond Square, N6. For children aged six to nine years. Outdoor activities. Details on 07712 885974. 4.30pm-6pm. Wednesdays.
- Holly Lodge Community Centre. 30 Makepeace Avenue, Highgate, N6. 020 8342 9524. Hatha yoga class: 2pm-3pm. Thursdays. Tai Chi class: 8pm-9pm. Thursdays. Women's Institute, 7.30pm-9.30pm, Every third Wednesday of the month.
- **Belsize Wood and Adelaide Local** Nature Reserve Green Gym. At Adelaide on the last Sunday of the month, all other Sundays at Belsize Wood. Free. For ages 14 and above. Details on 07769 642395 (weekdavs). 11am-2pm. Sundays
- Fleet Music Group. Swiss Cottage Community Centre, Winchester Road, NW3. Mainly classical music. Contact 020 7722 0059. 3pm-5pm. Fridays.
- Weekly Clubs at Burgh House. New End Square, Hampstead, NW3. Bridge: 1.30pm. Wednesdays. Scrabble: 2pm. Thursdays. Singing Sessions: 12.15pm-1.15pm, Fridays

depression, and desire to become a mother as the ultimate symbol of womanhood. The groundbreaking team is

hamstrung by a script featuring inelegant exposition, broad generalisations and a timeline that rivals Moffat-era Doctor Who in its confounding haziness. Nevertheless, this is a compelling story passionately voiced by an underrepresented community. Until August 2.

Marianka Swain

- Primrose Hill Community Choir. Primrose Hill Community Centre, 29 Hopkinson's Place, NW1. 020 7586 8327. 7.30pm-9.30pm. Mondays.
- Raised Voices Political Choir. Doreen Bazell Community Centre, Chenies Place, Somers Town, NW1. 7.30pm-9.30pm. Thursdays.
- Hampstead Music Club. Burgh House, New End Square, Hampstead, or Christian Community, 34 Glenilla Road, Belsize Park. Contact anna. slavin@orange.net. Tuesday eveninas
- Over-60s Keep Fit Class. Primrose Hill Community Centre, 29 Hopkinson's Place, NW1. 020 7586 8327. 3pm-4pm. Free. Tuesdays.
- Birdwatching Walks on Hampstead Heath. Marylebone Birdwatching Society. Meet at Parliament Hill staff yard, NW5. Contact 020 7267 8434. Free, 10am, Tuesdays
- Laughter yoga. Parliament Hill Fields bandstand, Hampstead Heath, NW5. 020 7609 6145. Donation to charity. 11am-noon. Sundays.
- Ivy House Toddlers. London Jewish Cultural Centre, 94-96 North End Road, Golders Green, NW11. 9.30am-10.45am, £5, Fridays,
- Egyptian Belly Dance Class. The Recreation Club, Fleet Road, Hampstead, NW3. Call Hazel on 07930 969305. 7pm-8.30pm. Mondays.

To get your event or class featured on the Ham&High's event listings pages, email events@hamhigh.co.uk



T&C's: Postage and packing fees may be applied. Offer open only to UK residents. One copy per household. By returning your details to Pure Weddings you will automatically be subscribed to receive news and offers from Archant London. To opt out visit the link on all future email communication