

DOWN IN COLORADO

Drugs, Depression, & Other Diversions



Credits

Author and performer: **Gabriel Bird**

With live original singer-songwriter music

Production: **Fraternal Compagnia Aps**

Organizational director: **Tania Passarini**

About the show

Down in Colorado tells the story of a young man who loses his way in life while grappling with the need for connection, his self-destructive impulses, and the fragments of the past he cannot leave behind.

Narrated through songs, dark humor, and compassion, follow him as he descends into his personal hell and emerges on the other side—not wiser or stronger, but alive.

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Something about the show...

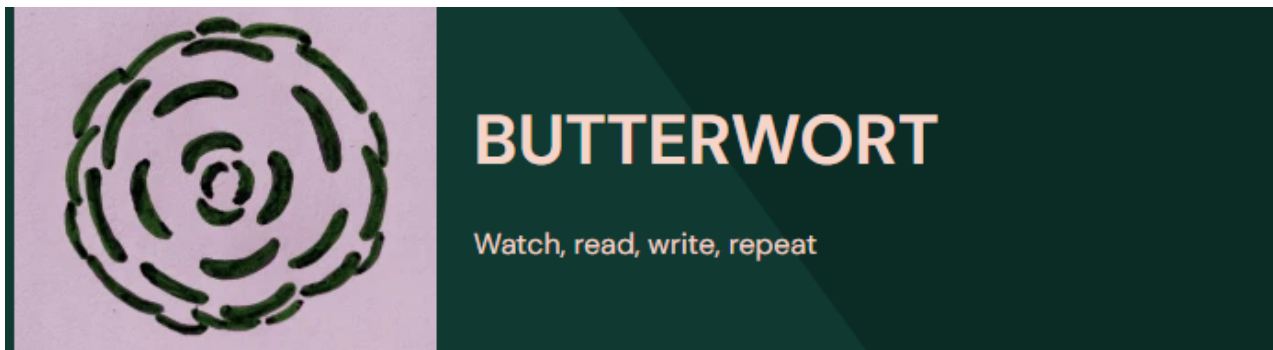
How does one keep busy in the town of Greeley, Colorado? Easy: you write songs, you drive your car, you smoke cigarettes, you drink beer, you write songs, you drink more beer, you smoke more cigarettes, you drive your car, you buy a gun, you smoke cigarettes, you write songs, you push your loved ones away, you drink beer, you snort something some stranger on the street gave you, you write songs, you stay up until 3AM with a loaded gun in your hand, you drink beer, you smoke cigarettes, you write songs.

Written and performed by Gabriel Bird, *Down in Colorado* is the story of a young man losing his way in life as he grapples with his need for connection, his self-destructive impulses, and the fragments of his past he can't shake. Told with songs, dark humour, and compassion, accompany him as he goes down in his own personal hell and comes out the other side - not wiser or stronger - but alive??

Here you can see a brief moment to understand the style of the show: <https://www.fraternalcompagnia.it/down-in-colorado/>



What they say about us...



“Gabriel Bird, class 1995, tells the story of the years he spent in Colorado in his original musical storytelling piece. From the first song, we already have a grasp of his dark humour, when with an accelerated, jolly rhythm he describes the setting of his attempted suicide.

Down in Colorado: Drugs, Depression and Other Diversions: as the subtitle rightly suggests, the main themes are treated with irony, but it is not a light-hearted show. One of the qualities of the show is in its brutal honesty: the filter of humour is held up against the emotional load, but towards the negative climax of the story, it has thinned enough to let words bare and emotions hit”

“All along the show, live songs intertwine in perfect continuity with the story and provide a musical counterpart for the humour, as the performer sings and plays on the guitar his original songs. Song composition is always surprising, varying in rhythms and moods, with a common country music inspiration.

“Despite his remarkable resistance to showing off virtuosity, Gabriel Bird is an excellent performer. In particular, the first part of the story is sided by his great mime technique, small supplements that add detail and do not appear redundant. Movement could be used more to support later moments of the show, when the spoken narrative tends to prevail.

Along the narrative, the protagonist finds reasons to cling onto life in the most unexpected places. Another significant resistance is worth mentioning: there is no moral to this story, no ‘easy’ way out of it. It is the story of a period in a life, with its extreme lows and few extreme highs. And somewhere in-between them, the non-obvious urge to live on is newly found”

Seen at Edinburgh Festival Fringe on the 18th of August 2024
4 stars – honest and powerful storytelling



Fraternal Compagnia APS

Fraternal Compagnia, founded in 2000, takes its name and inspiration from the oldest known Italian theater company with an official founding document. This historical record symbolically marks the beginning of professional theater, known as Commedia dell'Arte, where the term "arte" originally meant "craft," referring to an artisan practicing a trade.

The association aims to promote and develop cultural exchanges with institutions, organizations, and associations on regional, national, and international levels, to enhance Italy's artistic heritage and professional craftsmanship.

Working in theater education and production, the company has developed a specialized method over time, blending tradition with modern character development techniques. Through a fusion of Commedia dell'Arte, melodrama, and character work, Fraternal Compagnia has garnered international recognition for its innovative approach.



More recently it has broadened his theatrical language to include clowning and storytelling. The company has collaborated with various Italian Cultural Institutes, organizing tours in Japan, Turkey, Poland, Spain, China, Brasil, and participating in the Avignon Festival in France and in the Fringe Festival (Edinburgh).

In 2012, the association won the PREMIO ENRIQUEZ for theatrical and civil commitment in communication (best company, direction, leading actress, actor, and foreign playwriting). Since 2021, the company has received ministerial recognition as a Production Company, a status reaffirmed for the 2022-2024 triennium.

Fraternal Compagnia is a partner of ATI in managing the Teatrino di Villa Aldrovandi-Mazzacorati, with a structured and original project aimed at enhancing and preserving this small theater, turning it into a cultural hub for the entire city



Gabriel Bird

Gabriel Bird has been acting since the age of 8 in Geneva (Switzerland), starting with school theatrical productions in French. He has worked with the Geneva English Drama Society, in both full productions and playreadings. In 2015-2016, he studied theatre with David Grapes at the University of Northern Colorado (USA).

In the summer of 2017, he studied Commedia Dell'Arte with Enrico Bonavera in San Giovanni Bianco, Bergamo, performing at the Festival of Commedia Dell'Arte ("Le Vie della Commedia"). He returned to Geneva and began studying at the Geneva Conservatory of Theatre under the tutelage of Philippe Cohen, Anne-Marie Delbart, Jacques Maitre, Yvan Rihs, and Evelyne Didi.



In 2018, he attended the Louis Jovet Theatre School in Bologna, studying Commedia Dell Arte and the use of masks with Massimo Machiavelli, Tania Passarini, Luca Comastri, Carlo Boso, Alessandra Cortesi, and Colette Tomiche.

In June 2019, he participated in the Festival of European Anglophone Theatre Societies (FEATS) in Munich, Germany where he won the Best Actor award for his performance in "Metamorphosis". In the summer of 2020, he started a stable collaboration with the Fraternal Compagnia performing in "Capitan Fracassa", under the direction of Massimo Macchiavelli and Tania Passarini. He performed his own shows in the summers of 2021, 2022, and 2023 in the Edinburgh Fringe Festival (UK), in collaboration with Fraternal Compagnia. In August 2023 he received his Bachelor's of Art Degree Honors (First) from the MGA Academy (Bath Spa University).





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