

Soness Stevens Kitano presents

## **SONESS: THE SUMO INJURY COMEBACK TOUR**

Former English voice of Hello Kitty, Soness Stevens Kitano, grew up homeless in a beat-up Datsun, became one of Japan's most recognisable English voices, unintentionally became the voice of AI, and ruptured her Achilles tendon sumo wrestling (twice). Now, at 51, she makes her Edinburgh Fringe debut with a warm stand-up comedy storytelling hour about reinvention when you decide to go off script.

With light, uplifting true stories, Soness invites audiences into an intimate conversation filled with curiosity, warmth, and rolling laughs. This isn't trauma drama comedy. It's the kind of show that leaves audiences smiling, asking questions, and wanting to hear one more story.

After two years of Fringe work-in-progress shows (*Big in Japan* and *Bigger in Japan*), Soness realised she had a choice: finally debut her first full hour or call the next version *Biggest in Japan* (which she feels would be inaccurate).

*"My entire life I've been handed scripts telling me who to be," says Soness. "This is my chance to reclaim my voice. I hope audiences leave feeling lighter and willing to try something new."*

For 25 years, Soness was the English voice of Hello Kitty and has voiced characters in anime, video games, commercials, documentaries, and educational programmes heard by millions around the world. She is also a 5-time TED/TEDx speaker, storyteller, as well as the creator of *Anime-Zing! Game Show: where voice actors dub indie anime live on stage*, an interactive show encouraging human creativity. *The Sumo Injury Comeback Tour* marks her first full-length Edinburgh Fringe debut.

Previous audience members have returned with spouses, colleagues, and friends... and even changed their honeymoon plans to visit Japan after seeing the show. Soness believes everyone should give something a go once (as long as it's legal!).

*"One of the most genial hours at Fringe."* ~ **The QR Review (★★★★)**

*"Bigger in Japan is what the Fringe does best: an intimate, fascinating glimpse into a life less ordinary... It leaves you grinning."* ~ **One4Review (★★★★)**

**Venue:** Laughing Horse @ The Counting House - Attic

**Tickets:** Free Fringe

**Dates:** 6-30 August (not 19, 26)

**Time:** 7:30 PM (60 minutes)

**Fringe Listing:** <https://www.edfringe.com/tickets/whats-on/soness-sumo-injury-comeback-tour>

For further information, images, or to request a media ticket, please contact:

**Soness Stevens Kitano**

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High resolution images and video stills available upon request.