



## **Before the End Summerhall**

### **Catherine Graindorge**

This production combines elements of the personal, the political and the artistic, and does so such great effect that it is impossible not to be moved by her story.

A one-woman piece designed, written, acted and played by Catherine Graindorge as a tribute to her late father Michel. A politically committed lawyer, he gained notoriety in 1979 when his client Francois Besse (Jacques Mesrine's right hand man) made a dramatic escape from the Palais de Justice in Brussels armed with a gun that had been taped under a desk. Graindorge was arrested and spent four months in prison, accused of assisting the escape, before his acquittal.

But the essence of this work is that, most importantly, he was Catherine's father. Using old film, her music, words and images, she goes back over their life together until arriving at the point of Michel's death. He had asked that she do something in memory of him, and this is the result. It is more than that, though, as Catherine struggled to cope with the loss she tried many remedies without finding the peace she sought.

Perhaps the only way to achieve this was to immerse herself in their life together, and to revisit his passing. His assisted passing, as Belgian law allows for the end to be brought forward in cases of terminal illness, an act not merely of mercy, but of putting control of the situation in the hands of the one person who should surely be allowed to decide for themselves. A decision denied in the majority of "civilised" countries.

I would urge you to see Before the End, it will stay with you for a long time, and give you cause for thought.

Jim Welsh

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