

## A Thousand Doorways review at C-Primo, Edinburgh – ‘epic story, skilfully told’



*A Thousand Doorways*

Reviews Theatre by Paul Vale - Aug 22, 2017

Diane Edgecomb is a force to be reckoned with. An American-born storyteller of great energy and imagination, *A Thousand Doorways* provides a lengthy but evocative introduction to her book *A Fire in My Heart: Kurdish Tales*. Prompted by a visit to Italy, where she hears the story of the Kurds' plight, Edgecomb sets out to venture deep within Kurdistan to record as many folktales as possible in the now outlawed Kurdish language.

Edgecomb paints a vivid picture of her epic journey, capturing the beauty of the landscape alongside the veracity of the Kurdish people. She hears tales as diverse as a Kurdish Cinderella and the story of the Farting Bride but her journey is no fairytale. There is a constant threat of incarceration or worse from government spies, keen to subdue the Kurdish language in the hope of eliminating the culture altogether.

On the way, Edgecomb learns how her own country is complicit by supplying arms to the attackers and to some extent, her mission becomes a form of redemption. In an age of increasing global fear and intolerance, *A Thousand Doorways* is a timely reminder of the power of language to unite rather than breed hate. Edgecomb's performance may represent a personal testament but its message is universal.

### Verdict

Epic story told with genuine passion and consummate skill

