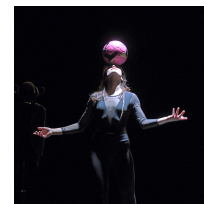


PRESS RELEASE - Adelaide Fringe 2026

Lucia Mallardi

The SoccerActress



A fierce solo show blending autobiographical storytelling, character comedy and freestyle soccer. Written and performed by Lucia Mallardi, a Berlin-based Italian former semi-professional soccer player turned street artist and then actress and comedian.

The SoccerActress is a powerful one-woman drama-comedy show that is poetic, conceptual, physical and emotionally raw. Through juggling balls and juggling life, Lucia explores her journey as a woman torn between soccer stadiums, street performances around the world, and theatre stages – between societal expectations and burning artistic drive. The show breaks stereotypes, spins the ball and the narrative, and reclaims space: both on the field and in life.

Lucia Mallardi uses the soccer ball not only as a symbol of discipline and power but as a living instrument of expression – blending movement, rhythm, and languages to tackle gender politics, cultural identity, and the beauty of athleticism as an art form.

Lucia says: "I deeply believe in the social mission of my work and I believe that Soccer can serve as a fundamental means of combatting all forms of discrimination and marginalisation – be it racial, gender-based, related to sexual orientation, or inequality in any form. Put a ball in the center of the field and we are all the same: children playing and chasing a ball!"

Lucia first created this show as a 10-minute monologue titled *La CalciAttrice* (*The SoccerActress* in English) in 2018. Her performance at Teatro Le Sedie in Rome earned her dates for a one-hour version the following season. Since then, she hasn't looked back, with further performances at the prestigious Piccolo Teatro di Milano, in Naples, in Berlin (in a German version), and in Genoa. She recently performed at the Edinburgh Festival Fringe 2025 (*The FootballActress* in the UK) at C aquila studio, C ARTS | C venues. For Edinburgh, the show was translated and entirely re-directed by the artist herself, marking its UK and English-language premiere. At the United Solo Theatre Festival – Fall 2025 in New York, she reinforced the show's global momentum with a deeper, more layered version, which will also be presented in Adelaide at Goodwood Theatre & Studios. Lucia believes that the Adelaide Fringe 2026 and the Australian market are the natural stage for this bold new incarnation, and she remains true to her goal of merging cultures, languages, and disciplines.

Best Actress Nominee

DarkChat, Edfringe 2025

★★★★★

"A unique story of courage and determination."

Raccordo sullo sguardo, Edfringe 2025

★★★★★

"A charming fusion of comedy, drama, storytelling and movement."

Broadway Baby, Edfringe 2025

★★★★★

"The story is enhanced by Lucia's impeccable skills as a soccer juggler that guide us through what feels like a road movie touching several European countries."

Fringe Review, Edfringe 2025

Written, Created and Performed by | Lucia Mallardi

Photography by | Pino Montisci

[instagram.com/lucia_mallardi/](https://www.instagram.com/lucia_mallardi/)

[tiktok.com/@lucia_mallardi/](https://www.tiktok.com/@lucia_mallardi/)

www.luciamallardi.com/

Listings Information

Goodwood Theatre & Studios at the Adelaide Fringe 2026 | 166 Goodwood Road, Goodwood, SA 5034, Australia

Fri-Sat-Sun, 20-21-22 February, 2026 at 9:00 pm (60 min.)

Fri-Sat, 27-28 February, 2026 at 9:00 pm (60 min.)

Sun, 1 March, 2026 at 9:00 pm (60 min.)

Theatre (Storytelling, Character comedy, Drama, Solo show, True-life)
(recommended for ages 16+)

Goodwood Theatre & Studios box office +61 8 82723036 / chris@goodwoodinstitute.com.au

For further information, images and interview availability please contact

Lucia Mallardi at +39 333 5384122 or thesocceractress@gmail.com

or the Goodwood Theatre & Studios press office at +61 8 82723036 or chris@goodwoodinstitute.com.au

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