# Controversy Surrounds Play 'Terf' at Edinburgh Fringe Festival Over J.K. Rowling's Views on Trans Rights



A play titled "Terf," based on author J.K. Rowling’s views on trans rights and her falling out with stars of the Harry Potter franchise, has stirred controversy at the Edinburgh Fringe Festival. The performance, scheduled to run for 23 dates at St Stephen’s Theatre in Edinburgh’s Stockbridge area, might face cancellation following claims that the venue’s owner has vetoed the show.

Producer Barry Church-Woods stated the venue management informed him that they need to find a new location for the play. Church-Woods described the situation as "alarming" and emphasized that the Edinburgh Fringe is meant to be a platform for new work. The play explores the aftermath of Rowling revealing her gender-critical views and the subsequent backlash.

The controversy escalated due to scathing press coverage labeling "Terf" as one of the most controversial plays in years. Despite the backlash, Church-Woods insists the play is humorous and balanced rather than a hit piece on Rowling. An online petition has been set up to demand the show continues as planned.

The play's blurb in the Fringe guide states: "Joanne Rowling was the most beloved author of all time... until everything went to hell in a broombasket. We all know how. It’s time to know why." The venue, St Stephen’s Theatre, has not provided a comment on the matter.