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# Dispatches from The Fringe - An American Girlfriend charms and disarms

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American Girlfriend: Laura Levites  
*Laura Levites*

## American Girlfriend: Laura Levites

Rating: ★★★★★

Laura Levites has it bad. For a start she's Jewish, ginger haired and a woman. That's three strikes already in the people-the-world-loves-to-hate fraternity. But there's more: Laura Levites is an American. That's right. American! Living in L.A. no less, where everything is like all, oh my God and awesome and sunshiny and just, oh my God! To make matters even worse, this petite package of feisty, redheaded, American, Jewishness is in Luv, L.U.V. With a Brit, no less. And when it comes to love Laura Levites really has it bad.

Seemingly astonished at being both an American and a girlfriend, in *American Girlfriend*, Laura Levites humorously charts her own personal journey of self-discovery. Denied the opportunity to be with the man she loves, Levites begins her quest find a way to be with him, questioning in her own inimitable fashion what it means to be an American. And what it means to be a girlfriend. Because Levites doesn't do love. In an almost hour long show Levites humorously discusses America, the U.K. and love with self deprecating candor. Holding nothing back, Levite's invites us to consider her fascination with foreskins, her sexual preferences and her opinion on how raising

children in cold climates is tantamount to child abuse.

Like much confessional [comedy](#), the real interest is not so much the confession as the confessor and Levites is stronger than her material. It's Levites disarming honesty and vivacious personality that inexorably captivates you, making you care for her and her story. Throughout, there's a sense of bravado in her delivery, a sense that the wounds she bravely jokes about are still relatively fresh. But be clear, this show is not a self-indulgent process of catharsis for Levites. It's a brilliantly observed, heart-breakingly honest and quirky comedy with a heart bigger than it would care to admit.

Like many American's who profess to be embarrassed by aspects of their country, Levites is damn proud to be an American. In *American Girlfriend* she sets about challenging the Anti-Americanism she believes has become the acceptable face of racism. But it's the story of her journey to come to grips with her new found condition as a woman who finds she does do love – for her man, her country, her dogs, her adopted country - that makes this a memorable show truly deserving of a larger audience.

Will love conquer all? Maybe. Maybe not. But Laura Levites most certainly will.

*American Girlfriend* runs till August 26th at Alternative [Fringe@The](#) Hive.



**Chris O'Rourke**

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