



# KC Fringe: ‘Dead Lines’

Original Comedy “Dead Lines” Makes Global Debut  
at The Kansas City Fringe Festival

Ben Schatzel’s New Show Premieres at KC Fringe

Among the dozens of new plays coming to this year’s Kansas City Fringe Festival, the new comedy one-act “Dead Lines” by award-winning writer Ben Schatzel will draw a balance between fans of sketch comedy, romantic comedy, and experimental theatre.

The Kansas City Fringe Festival has always aimed to present new and fresh theatrical experiences to Kansas City. Ben Schatzel’s “Dead Lines”, produced in conjunction with The Groundhog Day Theater, is sure to embody the KC Fringe spirit while providing tons of laughs to go along with it. The one-act comedy tells of a story between two sketch comedy writers, Diane Decker and Logan Lance, who work for the nation’s biggest comedy show. Over the course of five weeks, the two writers meet up at a local bar and hash through their sketch ideas, as each of these sketches is played out in real-time to the audience. Tensions rise as the two writers begin to explore different aspects of their professional and personal relationship while continuing to communicate primarily through the creation of their comedy.

Dead Lines will showcase a cast of local actors from across the Kansas City area, including Brent Custer, recently cast in

“Rock of Ages” with The Barn Players, Mia Beckerman, an actor originally from Los Angeles , Jordan Grant, a television and theatre actor from Lawrence, Manu Ajmani, a three-time Fringe veteran, and Briana Van Deusen, a KC native and Los Angeles transplant making her Kansas City Fringe debut. Van Deusen, who leads the show through the role of Diane Decker said, “This show has been a really good challenge for me to explore sides of my acting that I haven’t before.” Van Deusen, along with the rest of the cast and crew, is looking forward to present the worldwide premiere of the brand-new comedy.

Dead Lines will be playing five performances at The Westport Coffeehouse Theater, July 21<sup>st</sup>-28<sup>th</sup>.

For more information, visit:  
<https://kcfringe.org/2018/06/11/dead-lines/>