

Eccentrically We Love**The Fugitives—MTC Mainstage**

The wonderful sounds of The Fugitives are BACK! After their one-year layoff from the Fringe circuit, they're back with unbelievable harmonies, soulful renditions of new material, and poetry.

With rhythmic foot stomping, hand clapping, and a celtic/jazzy/folky feel to their sound, you are riveted to your seat, toes tapping, as your ears cannot believe what they are hearing.

This beautiful production took place in an intimate environment on a slightly raised stage with only one microphone, giving you a sense of what I can best describe as a recording studio.

The players competed on this stage with story, poetry, and song...and what songs they were! It was a thoroughly enjoyable evening with these artists!

Kevin Campbell

The 25th Annual Putnam County Spelling Bee**Stage 16 & Winnipeg Studio Theatre—PTE Mainstage**

Can you spell accomplished? This collection of energetic nerds certainly can.

Imagine if the cast from the musical *You're a Good Man, Charlie Brown* were teens and you're half way there. The competition to be

the top speller is fierce, but it isn't long before each character distinguishes himself. Everyone has a star turn, and this is not like my memories of Gilbert and Sullivan at high school. Sing, dance, play the piano, speak 6, not 5 languages! Hello Rainbow Stage, have I got good news for you.

This Tony Award-winning show knows when to shift gears and move from drill to pandemonium. Never mind hockey moms...look out for spelling dads, as we learn more about each contestant. Favourite moment? "The Magic Foot Song". And yes favourite is spelled with a "u" in Canada. Trust me, the Bee deserves an "A".

Ron Robinson

Juliet and Romeo**U of W Theatre Dept—UofW**

This production of Romeo and Juliet got me thinking harder about Shakespeare than I should have been—not that that's a bad thing.

The first thing I noticed was that there was no program and it took me some time to figure out who was who. Once I did, though, it was smooth sailing.

One aspect of this play was that, save for the actors playing Benvolio, and Friar Lawrence, it was an all-female cast. This made the casting of the men in it at all, interesting to me.

Something else that really caught my attention occurred halfway through the show, when the actors playing Romeo and Juliet were replaced by another Romeo and Juliet, leaving me disoriented to say the least. This was not a very good idea on the director's part, but I respect what he did.

What I mainly look for is to see if the cast is having fun or not. It was clear to me that they were. So, despite the casting switch, I enjoyed the play.

Arden Pruden (age 13)

Wild Abandon**Lonely Egg—Playhouse Onstage**

Zach Council is back (*Bat Boy: The Musical*) in this Daniel MacIvor-penned play.

He is a very strong actor who works hard and really sweats. He succeeds in sharing this sometimes-funny, but mostly gut-wrenching story.

He could cut out one of his orgasms (we got the point), as the real climax of the story is much more moving. See a comedy before or after this angst-filled presentation of young man's life.

Lisa Campbell

Supporting the JENNY!

PREMIER GREG SELINGER & THE NDP CAUCUS

