

The Bike Trip

Martin Dockery—UofW

Having seen last year's *Wanderlust* and now *The Bike Trip*, I am in awe, witnessing the emergence of a remarkable talent. Dockery is able to take simple moments in time and bring them to life with such detail, humour and emotion that you can't help but feel you were right there with him when it happened.

John David Gordon

Tired Clichés

Acky-Made Productions—Aqua Books

"A good book can make your night."

So says the gifted Alex Eddington in this masterful one-character show. Replace the word "book" with "play" to understand the effect of *Tired Clichés*.

Alex is an energetic chameleon in this show, transforming himself and the stage into a dizzying swirl of characters and situations and the story of a minimum wage employee ranges from bizarre to poignant in a series of loosely woven vignettes.

Lighting, sound, and movement support the story wonderfully, and overall, these "tired clichés" are thoroughly entertaining and engaging.

Leila Marsten

The Particulars

Pyretic Productions—MTYP

One man. Alone in his house with his very set routines...and a scratching sound that he can't get rid of.

Winnipegger, Simon Bracken, does a wonderful job of bringing an insomniac into sharp focus. Even better, he deserves the laughs he gets working on a nearly bare stage. And better than that he takes us from laughter to silence.

My only grumble is we almost lost a very important word or two near the end of the play...and I can't help wondering, as I did with another one-man show at the same venue last year, if a smaller, more intimate setting would have even more power.

Ron Robinson

Smartarse

Rob Gee—RRC

Rob Gee offers up rapid-fire prose and story telling. This lad from Leicester has a gift for gab that is absolutely hilarious as he shows how there is a kid in us all, no matter how we try to change as adults.

He tells comic stories of children he's trying to teach about poetry and word play. One thing he observed is that adults tend not to like it when kids are funnier and cleverer than them, which Rob beautifully displays with stories of in his own upbringing and especially his crazy parents. Go see this wordsmith, and smartarse story teller, you may just get a lesson or two.

Kevin Campbell

D'n'D: Third Edition

Red River Serial—MTYP

Alas, I was unable to get in touch with my inner nerd to enjoy most of the cult improv that featured a battle between good and evil, decided by the roll of the dice (like my investments).

I must say the actors enjoyed themselves as did their friends and fellow gamers in the audience. In terms of theatre, it's something else. Masks, hoods and speaking to the back wall are a hindrance to communication. Still one member of the audience got a free bottle of Fanta at the show I was at. And I overheard one stalwart say he was coming back to see the conclusion of the continuing saga.

Ron Robinson

Phone Whore

Cameryn Moore—Son of Warehouse

If you come to this expecting to be merely titillated, you will definitely get more than you bargained for.

Cameryn Moore does more than bring you into the very unsexy world of the phone sex worker. She brings you into her life and the lives of the customers she services regularly. Some scenarios were so disturbing the audience was breathless—

totally silent.

Cameryn is an extremely competent actress with complete control of both the audience and her material from the very first second. She shares the insights she has gained through her work and explains how this has led her to a place of compassion.

If you are at all open-minded, you will leave the show more compassionate yourself. The program is the most interesting I have seen.

Lisa Campbell

Actionable

grow or die music—Rudolf Rocker

This is Bob Wiseman's first Fringe play! I think this maybe the true calling for this very talented and funny musician.

Bob wanders through this semi-autobiographical story of fame, record executives, agents and lawyers—lotsa lawyers—who Bob likes to play with in his lyrics.

This is the same Bob Wiseman who made it big with those Blue Rodeo fellows in the early days. It's too bad they parted ways, 'cause to me, this guy's got all the talent. Now Wiseman's not just well-versed as a musician, he's also very talented as a very quirky and funny multimedia performer. Even in this, his first play in his hometown of Winnipeg, he was able to improvise when his accordion strap broke mid-song and he had to switch to the guitar. Shortly afterward, he was able to prove to his spouse that he was quite capable of multi-tasking in a multimedia show by fixing said accordion strap.

Bob was able to playfully sing and harmonize beautifully with his counter parts on screen and film. He even Skypes with a lawyer who was a great duet partner.

The hump up the 3 flight of stairs is very much worth it.

Kevin Campbell



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the **Fringe**

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