

Gunpowder

Stars And Hearts—PTE Studio

Jayson McDonald is dead...but that's a good thing. It means he can investigate his own murder and interview the usual suspects...as played by Jayson McDonald.

As with *Boat Load* and last year's *County Fair*, it's like a ride at the Red River Ex.

Do you want to go faster? You will...as Jayson's mind jumps from thought to logical thought, and the topics and the outcomes become ever more hilariously bizarre. As always, the character transitions are razor sharp, the jokes are here, there, and...we'll return to that one later.

Gunpowder is explosively funny.

Ron Robinson

The Screw You Revue

Beth Marshall Presents—The Conservatory,

I was dragged into this debauchery of improv and cabaret, and left holding my sides.

An ornery, bigoted, American legend, Weyburn Sassy, and his lanky, faux femme partner, Didi Panache, proceed to lambaste and shake up their Canadian audiences the improv way.

There are no holds barred when it comes to insults, language, contests or cabaret. No one is safe.

As the old fart, Sassy, states: He's got us—we're locked in!

BTW, this production comes from the producers of the Orlando Fringe.

Kevin Campbell

A Day in the Life of Miss Hiccup

Shoshinz—RRC

I had high hopes for this one, all the way from Japan. My only conclusion was that I was not getting the Japanese humour. This act is really Fringey. This sweet, feminine, flowery, woman does VERY un-ladylike things, PETA would be after her.

When she sings "normally", she has a breath-takingly lovely, strong voice; but she mostly screeches Yoko Ono-like in a crazy language. Her control of body and facial movement is masterful and impressive.

Very different.

Lisa Campbell

Love in the Time of Mother

Long Division—Son of Warehouse

A perfect little play.

Harvey's angst, neuroses, and sexual obsessions are laid out for us to cringe at. Touching as well as funny, this play was at least partially based on fact.

Harvey deserves a visit from you. You will be rewarded by the sweet ending.

Lisa Campbell

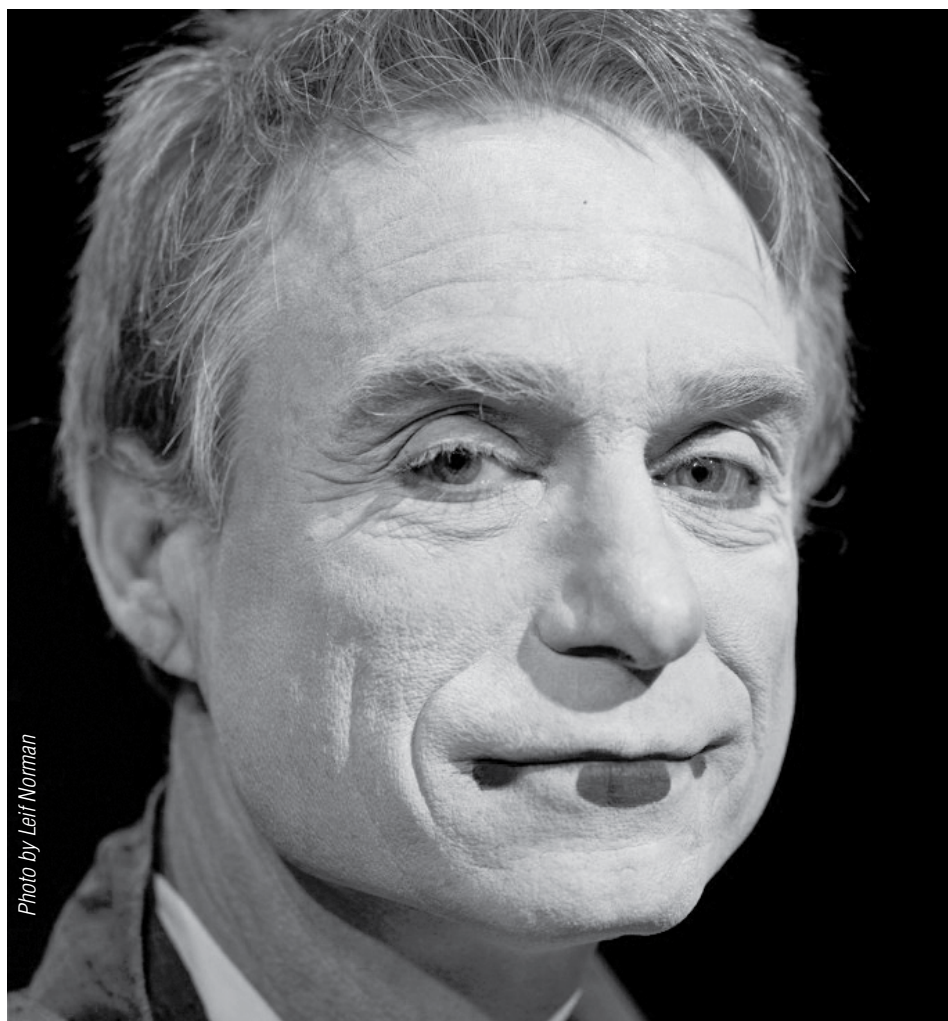


Photo by Leif Norman

David Gaines in his single-handed take on that movie about village bandits in feudal Japan in 7 (x1) *Samurai*.

Burning Man and the Reverend Nuge

Tommy Nugent—RRC

This monologue tells the story of a man trapped between a religious calling and his search for a different purpose.

He begins at the tender age of 22 attempting to be a Pentecostal preacher, and tells hilarious stories of converting the gangs of Detroit, of demon exorcisms, and of speaking in tongues.

After failing as preacher, he goes to the other extreme becoming a bartender...in a stripper club...in Las Vegas.

From there, he loses himself, and after much experimentation winds up at the Burning Man Festival in the Black Rock Desert. Here he has several revelations with brownies, atheism, lovers, Hunter S. Thompson's gonzo spirit, and the meaning of life. "Enoughness", as he says.

Go see these revelations told by a man who seems to have seen it all but is still trying to find out.

Kevin Campbell

Snow White the Comedy...

Chase & Hammill—Kids Venue SCD

You can't beat the old children's stories. Well, you can, but then they're all soft and pulpy.

Here we have a variation that preserves the bare bones, but introduces three slobs in lieu of dwarves. The magic mirror is played in fine style by Kevin Hamil in a silver grey dress shirt with ruffles. He does his best to keep the White girl from the evil designs of the basically insecure Queen.

High energy from the word go. At least I think the word was go. The other actors roared on stage and spoke so quickly that "itallrangether". A quick set change (often the bane of keeping up momentum) moved from palace to the slobs' house. An appreciative audience laughed and followed along, and there was even the occasional joke for the adults. Only one child had to be removed which is a good indicator of attention span.

Ron Robinson

