



Rachelle Elie reveals it's not all fun and clown games beneath the greasepaint and red nose in MAL.

Man 1, Bank 0

PKF Prods.—PTE Mainstage

Truth is stranger than fiction. To a near sell-out audience, Patrick Coombs tells the true story of how, in 1995, he deposited a junk-mail cheque for \$95,093.35 into his bank account endorsing it with a happy face.

He expected it to bounce, of course, as this wasn't a real cheque! Surprise, surprise, the bank actually credited his account and we, the audience, are entertained with the consequences. Will he keep the money or give it back?

Although the story is 15 years old and may be getting 'stale', for those of us who have never seen it, it moves at quite a pace! The audience broke into uproarious applause—after all, we'd all like to 'stick it' to the bank!

Nick Ternette

MOLLY

Eye Of The Storm Prods.—Rachel Browne Theatre

Our Heritage Day ended with *MOLLY*, an adaptation of the final chapter of James Joyce's "Ulysses", a novel I've never had the stamina to finish, so it was great to find out how it ends!

Carly Tarret gives a fine performance; and when combined with Joyce's writing, you have a formula for a great show. It's more of a dramatic recitation than a play, though, so I have to admit that my attention wandered occasionally.

Still, it's an opportunity to see something that just doesn't reach the stage during the regular season. Too bad. I suspect that I would have gotten more out of the experience if it had been my only theatre event of the day instead of my third, and after seeing five shows the day before and staying up late to boot.

Kevin Longfield

Cactus: The Seduction

Epicworlds-Jonno Katz—Warehouse

Jonno has the whole stage to play with, which could be slightly dangerous for this wacky acrobat and comedian.

With his cheeky and outrageous accent, we are introduced to Phil, (a host of sorts), who explains the ground rules of this adventure. We are transported

to a desert, where Phil meets his mates, Yuri, the pole vaulter and Eric, the blog man in love.

Katz plays with his audience every chance he gets. He wanted to become part of us, and—really wanting to feel the love—he decided to body surf the crowd. Only a show at the Fringe—and only Katz—can carry off such a maniacal entertainment. He had us howling, guffawing, and gasping!

Kevin Campbell

Secondhandpants Science...

Phantom Planet Prods.—Playhouse Studio

We've seen this dynamic duo busking in the square in past years. Now they've moved onto the big stage, with one of the longest show titles I've seen in all my Fringeing years

They're still very 'street' in their musical presentation—stand-up string bass, ukulele, and goofy costumes. But now there's robots, and multi-media! It's a hilarious interfacing of the robot story with two silly-looking street musicians who have a way of time travelling.

It's all kind of hokey, but quite funny at times, with its slightly bad acting and corny dialogue. Throw in a rocket-man suit and you have some sort of sci-fi story. The robots—homemade ones—stole the show for me.

If you want a good belly laugh, with some good ol' knee-slapping music, tin robots, and Sasquatch to boot, this is it.

Kevin Campbell

Adventures in Kidnapping

Bombtree Productions—MTYP

Although the musical *Adventures in Kidnapping* does have its faults, it also has many fun moments and good qualities. The music is slightly distracting and can be overwhelming in sections; and the first song, "Happy Birthday", is far too long and slightly repetitive; but the later songs go from good to really great. Clark and Stacey's song about how they met in the hallway when she slipped was quite touching and well done.

There are some over-the-top moments; but, hey, we're dealing with a guy who kidnapped someone because someone else stole his girlfriend's bike! However the acting is good and you eventually get drawn into the characters and have a few laughs; and in the end that's all I was really looking for.

Patty Cochrane

Die Roten Punkte-KUNST ROCK

Die Roten Punkte—MTC Mainstage

Back again for a third successfully sold-out opening night, it's clear 'Peggery love Punkte! The crowd were doing the Rock Bang salute and wearing Punkte T-shirts. Otto and Astrid have a whole new show; continuing their story of Rock and Roll stardom.

This time Astrid is supposedly pregnant, so Otto is over the moon that he is going to be a daddy/uncle. The actors broke Fringe tradition, by taking pity on a poor girl who had to pee soon into the show. They invited her to use the backstage loo, so she could beat the "No Re-Admittance Rule".

There is lots of audience interaction as usual, all new songs from their latest CD, zany new costumes, one of which Astrid claims is a cross between a Geisha and Snow White. The only time we heard old material was in the two-song encore. This Winnipeg Fringe rock party should not be missed!!

Lisa Campbell

PROUD SUPPORTER
of the Fringe
& the Jenny

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