



Photo Credit: Diverse.com

Winnipeg's Contemporary Dancers honour a most unconventional woman of the early 1900s in *Bash On Regardless*.

Happy Slap

Rob Gee—Planetarium

Our beloved Rob Gee has returned to treat us again to his intelligent, perceptive, and hysterically funny views on life.

I've loved his shows at previous Fringes. Each is new and unique, unlike some performers who drag out the same old material each year (you know who you are and so do we).

Rob uses a series of poems to create this show. He opens with a wonderful one, "I Need You", to welcome us. I particularly loved the poem "Being Dumped".

Since he does such great work and is always bouncing about the Fringe-making friends, he has gathered a large and loyal following. They showed their appreciation by loud and continuous applause! I can't imagine any Fringer not loving this production.

Lisa Campbell

RUN FOR YOUR LIFE

Sinéad Cormack—MTC Mainstage

Upon entering the theatre, you are asked to sit up high. Once seated in the higher rows, you notice a massive map of the world on stage.

Sinéad Cormack starts off with some sort of Gaelic intro, then switches to English, describing past productions of this travelogue/geography lesson.

There is an over-layering of narration naming ALL the countries in the world, while Cormack hop-scotchs and bounds to each country as it is named and is sometimes lost or confused as to where some of these countries are. This occurs while she describes growing up in Ireland, and her schooling in Wales.

The next act involves her sitting at the edge of the stage and proceeding to draw a map of Ireland and Wales with all kinds of geography text book stats! Oh how exciting!

The third act is about travelling to all the places in the world any one of us would like to travel to, though I'm not sure I'd like it with her—just too many mundane facts.

She proceeds to run across the globe on the stage, with yards of green tape. The Irish accented narration kicks in again, naming all the capitol cities of the countries, during which she gets lost several times. The tripping on, and tangling up in that darn green tape was annoying, not amusing.

One interesting point, I walked down to the stage after the show where she chalked that map for Ireland and Wales...they were dead on!

Weird, quirky, and a lesson well taken.

Kevin Campbell

Raven Causes Mischief: Ancient Haida Stories

Sharkhouse Productions—Kids Fringe SCD

We file into the theatre on a hot afternoon, and in the cool darkness we make out a chair with a drum on it. The drum is decorated in the distinctive Haida style. Beautiful music plays in a language unfamiliar to the prairies.

Then Kung Jaadaa (Roberta Kennedy) takes the stage. She wears a beautiful black and red robe with bright sequins, the significance of which we will learn later. With commanding presence and precise gesture, she begins weaving the tales of northwestern BC.

We learn the Haida creation story, and how the moon and stars filled the heavens. Between stories she sings Haida songs in a clear alto voice, accompanied by the drum. Afterward the audience of about two dozen rewarded her with sustained applause.

This is one of the reasons I love the fringe: where else would we have a chance to see a performance like this? Although it is at the Kids' Fringe, I highly recommend this experience to everyone. The audience I was part of spanned at least six decades, and Kung Jaadaa kept us all rapt.

Kevin Longfield

June's Window

Theater Anywhere—MTC Up the Alley

My 2011 Fringe began with this two-woman show about a young woman who needs to deal with a persistent, and rather too "open" neighbor. It's complete with flashbacks to her younger days, though the reasoning for them wasn't clear.

The subject matter and language warnings are very accurate, so if you're offended by those issues, really factor them in before you go.

Overall, a good show. The acting was believable, and the show was well presented. A show for Fringe-goers to consider.

Arden Pruden

Jenny's of the World, Unite!



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