

the Jenny Revue

20TH ANNIVERSARY!

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Follow Jenny (The Safety Donkey) Rules

We've received a review for the show *Brain Cravers* that was signed with only the initials "M.F." The first pair of words that brings to mind doesn't seem to be a moniker one is likely to choose for themselves, but either way it means someone is attempting to remain at least somewhat anonymous in their views on the show. So for the (literally) 20th time, here's how the Jenny Revue works:

We want to know what you think. When you've seen a show that you loved or hated, or it just made you think, or there was just this one detail they could have fixed to have something really great on their hands, write us a review for it! I suppose you could also write a review for a show you had no opinion of, but that seems like a waste of a good drinking arm. You can write it down and drop it in any one of the Jenny Boxes you've seen scattered about the grounds. And we've even given you the paper to make such a miracle happen. Yes, that's what those little pieces of paper and pencils are for at the Jenny Box in the Beer Tent. Not for spitballs or beer coasters. Not for illegible scribbles or pictures of your mom's penis. They're for reviews. Or Dear Jenny Letters. Or SSP's. Or your banking information.

For the more technologically savvy, you can also email your reviews to the few of us staffers that have discovered the "ON" button on this oversized toaster, and know how to use it to find real pictures of your mom's penis. So again, no need to draw those.

Whether you write or email or etch your review into a marble effigy of Don Knotts, there are a few things we need on it: the name of the performance, your name, and your contact info. It is extremely rare that we actually contact anyone (who has the time? This toaster is taking forever!) but we need it for a couple of reasons. If we suspect someone is trying to promote their own show with an amazing review under a fake name, we will call you. We don't publish those, that's what Shameless Self Promotions are for. If we suspect someone is trying to get a really awful review of someone else's show published under a fake name, we will call you. If that happens because of some grudge against somebody, leave us out of it. That sort of baseless slander is why the interweb was invented. And if you really just didn't like a show, then have the courage to be honest about it, tell us why, and sign your name to it. If



you can't stand behind your convictions, then the performing arts might not be your niche.

If we can all follow these rules and learn to play together nicely, the Jenny Revue can still be your paper. Even you, "M.F." So let's get out there and write some reviews! Thanks, M.... F....!*

Further to my heads-up about Portage Place from last issue: umm... remember those bathrooms I said you could use? I'm told those are technically IMAX bathrooms. They are totally available for public use, but they lock them when IMAX closes at night. So if you're coming out of a late show you may be out of luck if you have a deuce that needs a home. There are a few venues that don't have direct access to bathrooms so that shouldn't be the end of the world, we just want to warn people that if they're expecting the facilities they remember from past trips to PTE, be prepared to hold it in for a while. Don't say we didn't warn you.

Ummm...and remember that elevator you use to get up to the third floor of Portage Place from the Parkade? Yeah, somebody broke that. At least when we left our show at about 10:00pm on Sunday it wasn't working, and hadn't been for two days. With the amount of big casts and amazing musicals at

the mainstage this year, I wouldn't be surprised if we stretched the load limit a bit too far. The other elevators and escalators (and even *gasp* the stairs!!) still work fine, so your route to the Parkade just becomes a touch more convoluted. Not a problem if you know ahead of time, just hoping to save you from missing a show because 5 minutes should have been plenty of time to get upstairs. The lack of elevators and facilities doesn't seem to have affected the numbers coming out to PTE Mainstage so far, and I feel like there's a ParticipACTION ad in there somewhere.

Triumphs Over Adversity—The Illuminati folks would like to apologize to everyone if their sound levels were a little skewed on the Saturday show making a few of the singers difficult to hear. Just as the cast was about to take the stage for their opening number, the sound board crashed. The techs worked frantically to reset everything, but all of the music came in pretty hot at the beginning of the show to be brought down to the right level over the next few numbers.

In the opening show of *Kyle's Pile*, Jason Broadfoot had it a little worse. At some point in the middle of the show everything went black. All the stage lights went out for a solid 5 minutes. Jason was left to improv his way through this stretch while the tech did his best to find the problem. *Kyle's Pile* is in the Kids Venue, which means an audience full of children. Jason had a room full of preschoolers who may have been afraid of the dark. The fluorescents came on while the tech looked around for the problem, and finally discovered that an audience member had leaned back against a cord and bumped it out of the lighting board just enough to quit working but still look like it was in place.

Jason tells us, however, that many of the kids in the audience told him that they loved the part where it went dark and he had to be funny. A reviewer even mentioned that the improv through the blackout was her favorite part of the show.

So every one of you owes your tech a beer. They save our asses everyday and if you haven't thanked them for it, don't wait until something goes wrong to appreciate how hard they are working to keep your show on track.

Always in pursuit of politeness, the Jenny editorial board has decreed that Shawn's epithet regarding M.F. crossed one of our invisible laser beams, and was sizzled down to 2-point text. If you really want to know what Shawn wrote, you can go to www.jennyrevue.ca, locate the PDF for this page, and set your electron microscope beam to 800%.

The Jenny Revue is a proudly independent publication NOT affiliated with the Winnipeg Fringe Festival

