

the Jenny Revue

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50¢

*We are
creatures
of habit.*

That's partly why, every July for the past 25 years, Winnipeggers have flocked to the most heat absorbent part of the city and endured the most searing of temperatures, in order to crowd into darkened spaces ranging from the delightfully air-conditioned, and cold-beer-serving, to the nearly airless and claustrophobia-inducing, where the only thing to recommend the spaces in question is that the walls keep the ceilings from crashing into the floors.

Is this an example of mass insanity? Well, yes. But we call it The Fringe.

For 25 years, ravenous Fringe fans have come to partake of a full service menu of drama, comedy, music, dance, improv, puppetry, clowning, multimedia, and the purely unclassifiable, cooked up by the fevered imaginations of artists of all flavours (including some pretty exotic dishes).

The Fringe has been the starting point for many relationships both artistic and personal, and this year's Fringe volunteer teams, venue stages, and theatre seats are occupied, in part, by members of the under-25 set, many of whose first Fringe visits were in utero.

But for you real newbies, standing in the square, a little bedazzled, clutching a Jenny Revue or finding us online at www.jennyrevue.ca for the first time ever, a little history lesson.

Back when the Fringe was in its infancy, your phone was hard wired to the wall at home. Newspapers, TV, and radio were the only media providing daily news and reviews, and when it came to Fringe shows, if the company didn't cross an ocean or a border to get here, they really weren't all that interested.

That's where Jenny came in, determined, despite every technological setback known to man or machine, to let the people who bought the tickets and sat in the seats say whatever they wanted

about all they saw and heard.

And here we still are, 21 years later, the original Fringe media. And while we've never had the budget to hire cute girls with high tech lap tops to solicit beer tent denizens to review, nor the resources to hire folks to cover every show on the lot by Monday, we're still combing the email and eagerly accepting oddly shaped slips of paper on which are inscribed your reviews, free form opinions, letters to Jenny, and anything else that you, the people of the Fringe care to talk about.

So now let me explain how you can take part:

How to Jenny— First, see something—and not a YouTube video on your phone, but an actual Fringe event with live humans. It can be indoors, outdoors, whatever. Then—whether your reaction is 'love it', 'hate it', 'meh' or 'huh?'—get out a pen and paper, or your iPhone or sit in front of your home computer and tell us all about it.

Make sure you give us a few cogent facts, namely names: the name of the show, the name of the company, the name of the venue where you saw it and your name (that would be your real name—no pen names, nicknames, or avatars, please. If your mother can't tell it's you who contributed that well-thought-out or honest, visceral reaction, then we're probably not going to print it.). Give us a phone

number or email address where we can reach you, in case we need some sort of clarification (long about 5 AM, the near sighted and addlepatented fool currently assaulting you with this instruction manual is pretty unclear about a lot of stuff).

You can slip hard copy into one of the Jenny boxes whose locations are listed on the back page of every Jenny, or email it to us either by using the direct link on the www.jennyrevue.ca web site or typing jennyrevue@shaw.ca in your own email program.

And that's it. You too can be a part of Jenny history (all of which to date is on display at www.jennyrevue.ca). Just write your raves and rants and get 'em to us.

Aqua to Crocus— It's old news by now, but in case you missed it, the suddenly homeless shows evicted from permitless BYOV number 20, Aqua Books, are now ensconced in the Crocus Building at 211 Bannatyne.

And so, a few delays notwithstanding, Fringe life has returned to what we laughingly call normal.

Coral McKendrick



Dave Pruden 7/15/12

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

