

The Jackie Show

Kingbaby Productions—Cinematheque

Man, this was fun and one of my picks so far. This gem is brought to us from Bower Island, BC, by Jackie Minns.

This woman masterfully plays five screamingly funny and poignant characters. She has the kind of finesse that takes over each muscle in her rubbery body allowing her to perfectly morph into each distinct character.

The script is tight and achingly funny accompanied by a perfectly chosen soundtrack. Please go meet her charming cast of characters and be well entertained. Highly recommended.

Lisa Campbell

Threads: The True Story...

Tonya Jone Miller—Son of Warehouse.

This story, told brilliantly by Tonya, depicts a young American woman who volunteers to go overseas to teach English in Vietnam...during the 60s while the US and Vietnam were at war.

She describes the perils she went through in this strange land with a culturally rich but war-stricken people. She is moved by the orphans she tries to teach, and by the multitudes that show up for her

classes. She shares stories of her own brothers who become caught up in the war.

She describes venturing back to help the families that put her up during her stay in Vietnam, prior to the fall of Saigon. She returns to the war-torn land, fully pregnant, and has to fight to leave after turning over the financial aid she brought with her, nearly losing the baby there.

Luckily, she did not, because it is that daughter who is so eloquently telling the story today, written wonderfully by her mother.

Kevin Campbell

Catch As Catch Can

Ruus Productions—Playhouse Studio

These two best friends—well, one is the captor and the other, a prisoner of sorts—are in some sort of beach paradise. They play off each other, reminiscing about the hi-jinx of their early friendship. In fact, the banter between these two friendly adversaries, as they constantly try to outwit each other, is scored with a point value. What with several escape attempts, turning the tables on each other many times over, and many confessions of past indiscretions, the hilarity abounds (as does the beer flow, at least a cool dozen on the table by the end of the show.)

One note, almost 10 to 15 minutes into the play, five Fringers show up at the door, and the usher promptly let them in! This slightly threw the performers off as these people proceeded to seat themselves. I haven't seen that ever in my many years of Fringing.

Kevin Campbell

The Anger in Ernest and Ernestine

Inspired I Theatre—Alloway Hall

This lovely couple, Ernest and Ernestine, fall hopelessly in love. Now hopefully this couple will stay in love earnestly.

He, a tall gangly dorky man is set in his ways as he bounces off his quirky energetic firecracker of a wife. She has boundless energy as she reacts—and overreacts—to his silly self-indulgent needs!

These two have some great hilarious scenes of the sort of typical relationship fodder we've all been through one way or another. The chemistry between the performers will grow as this production goes on. They had some fun with some missed lighting cues opening night, and played it right to the audience.

You will leave laughing at the silly, hilarious relationship of Ernest and Ernestine.

Kevin Campbell

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