

Sherlock Holmes: The Case of the Hansom...

Lonely Egg—Rachel Brown Theatre

I first must commend the actors on their hyper-active costume changes (that looked like quite the hassle) and also on the full house that they got and deserved.

Three actors playing more than three times that number of characters, with quite a few seemingly improvised skits occurring while the actors frantically changed backstage.

This was a new take on Sherlock Holmes with a focus on watching the behind-the-scenes work of his famous housekeeper, Mrs. Hudson. The women took charge on both sides, however, pitting Hudson against her greatest adversary, Moriarty!

A wonderful play, filled with humour, that will likely change slightly with every showing. The speedy quick changes from the actors added an element that all other actors will appreciate. An interesting new take on our beloved detective that definitely works.

Arden Pruden

Wings of Darkness

White Rabbit Productions Inc.—Warehouse

I was fascinated by the aesthetic of this performance. The mask work was brilliant, reminiscent of *THE LION KING* on Broadway. I commend White Rabbit for recruiting the talents of local Aboriginal artisans for designs and direction. Director/Playwright Columpa Bobb tackles morality matters in a colourful and engaging way... carefully balancing battle-worn creatures and comedic moments.

What happens when the legged and winged creatures find themselves at odds? What happens when one comes along who represents both but is unwelcome in either camp, because he has the potential to be "the other"? What happens when the rejected creature decides to spitefully stir the pot?

It's the aboriginal equivalent of the snake in the Garden of Eden—an unwelcome creature, condemned for its treachery. Despite his scheming, you feel for Bat (Leith Clark) because he doesn't fit in. It's one of the moral stories that transcend culture and religion. Be careful what you do—because you will have to face the consequences.

D. Penner

Little Green Hat

Donkey Derby—Playhouse Studio

Mary (McManus) is hiding in a barn. Away from the rambunctious townfolk of Letterkenny, who are eagerly awaiting the annual donkey derby—a hilarious Irish tradition where 3 unwilling participants are nominated to race stubborn donkeys while the town watches, drinks, laughs, and enjoys. There, she finds Percy the Donkey, who lends an ear as Mary tells poetic, quirky tales of social anxiety growing up in Northern Ireland, and reveals the incredibly Irish adventure that is a donkey derby.

WONDERHEADS

LOON—School of Contemporary Dancers

Donning their signature oversized masks and propelled by questions of amorous proportions, the WONDERHEADS (who brought you last year's 5-time Best of Fest winner *'Grim and Fischer'*) step into the life of a lonely man and look for love.

Frances, who is plagued by isolation and tickled by whispers of childhood imagination, has hit rock bottom and discovers that he has nowhere to go...but up. And up! But will plucking the moon from the sky satisfy his deepest desires?

John Montgomery Theatre Company

Preparation Hex—RRC

The show is at its heart a love story, the totally true story of how I fell in love with an amazing and unfortunately unavailable woman, interspliced with the equally true story of my battle with a debilitating hemorrhoid. It is all about the mistakes I made in looking for my one true love, how I truly felt that I had a hex placed on me, and the outrageous things I did to try to remedy that situation.

Colin Godbout

The Greatest Guitarists in the World—Johnny G's

Follow six 6-string visionaries on a quest to be the best. Django dreams of a castle in his caravan as Chet fingerpicks from the Tennessee foothills to hillbilly heaven. Hendrix kisses electric ladies in the sky as Breau canonizes his ebony queen. In the eyes of his Canadian father, Clapton descends the crossroads into the arms of his holy mother as Page climbs a Stairway to Heaven backwards. Hear the hottest pickers' riffs unfurled in *The Greatest Guitarists in the World*.

Nobody's Business Theatre

Redheaded Stepchild—RRC

Nicholas: an awkward middle-schooler with bright red hair. Mary-Anne: his chain-smoking, ex-Jehovah's Witness, golf pro stepmom. Rufus Vermilion: his imaginary friend and fabulous alter ego. Writer/performer Johnnie Walker plays all three characters in a tour-de-force, critically acclaimed solo show directed by Morgan Norwich.

"Five stars. Outstanding Performance, Outstanding Production...A wonderful new play... Honest, heartfelt, and funny."—*NOW Magazine*

"A terrific, moving, very, very funny production"—*CBC Radio*

Phoenix Productions

Murder at the Fringe—Planetarium

Tired of all those negative reviews at the Fringe? Ever fantasize about the ultimate revenge? Well, so did we. Want to know more?

Then you'll have to come and see *Murder at the Fringe*. And if you hear any ominous sounds from the theatre, don't worry...it's just us taking care of "business"!

