

Gametes and Gonads

Active Salad Productions—Son of Warehouse

I went into this expecting something different. And this one was quite the different ride indeed.

Jeff Leard takes us on a sci-fi ride full of characters and sound effects in what I can best describe as a recreation of un-average human reproduction!

He covers all the clichés, both scientific and crude! The energy he has is spellbinding, teasing us with corny, horny characters that left us all rolling in the aisles! The sci-fi references were hilarious and tied in tightly with the endless innuendo.

For lovers of Sci-fi and sex, all rolled into one!!

Kevin Campbell

TRUE STORY

Aerial Angels—MTYP Mainstage

This show was completely unlike what I had expected. The company name Aerial Angels, the photo in the Fringe program of an upside-down female acrobat on a ribbon, and the line "A trapeze artist trying to fly hosts a profound comedy", also in the program, would make one think that this was an aerial show. However, the acrobatics only make up perhaps a tenth of this entire 60-minute show. The rest is a series of acting exercises, which take place at stage level.

The solo performer, Allison Williams, of Kalamazoo, Michigan, displays a wide range of talents, from the aerial work, to fire eating, from dancing a striptease, to portraying a range of female characters of different ages and with different accents

She is also a very gregarious performer,

displaying a natural warmth and sense of comfort before the audience.

Unfortunately, her show is made up a diverse collection of odd stories that lack thematic unity. A friend who attended the show with me thought that these were all the experiences of one person at different points in her life, but the changes in accent and speech patterns that the performer employed from one vignette to another made me doubt this. The point is, this show lacked clarity.

Furthermore, it seemed like an inordinate amount of time was spent with the performer telling these stories while she remained in a static position. Her three direct interactions with audience members throughout the show also added little to her presentation, although it seemed like the people who were chosen enjoyed the experience.

Konrad Antony

Artichoke Heart

Theatre Outgrabe—MTYP Mainstage

This is a really lovely piece that integrates Pablo Neruda's poetry into a modern love story. The integration works seamlessly thanks to strong direction and performances.

I nearly did not go to this show because I thought that I might've been too tired to appreciate it, but I was swept away instantly. Too good to miss.

Kevin Longfield

Tales My Mother Never Told Me

Saucy Gal Productions—MTC Up the Alley

Leigh-Anne Kehler is back with her adult-version folk tales. The tales are as saucy as ever, but Kehler's performance was definitely

up a notch.

Her characterizations are stronger and her transitions cleaner—not that there was anything wrong before, but happily Kehler continues to grow as an artist. I particularly liked the way she framed the narrative so that the stories had a connection.

Kevin Longfield

The Adversary

Andrew Bailey—Cinematheque

I had the pleasure of meeting Andrew the second day of the Fringe. Our talk was so interesting and he is so charming I made sure to take in this latest effort.

He is talented at the art of monologue with expert comic timing. His true tale held your attention and he managed to find humour in dealing daily with addicts and street people.

If you've witnessed the brutality of life on the streets or can imagine it, his tale can't help but touch you. It made me think about how far we have to go in improving the existence of those far less fortunate, and it makes me want to take in some of his future works.

Lisa Campbell

The Touring Test

Treading Water—Alloway Hall

I went to see this because it was directed by Winnipeg's prolific, talented Ross McMillan.

It's funny, well-paced, and I liked the inclusion of some of our more experienced (read: older) acting talent. The audience laughed the hardest as a leg of the huge couch broke, leaving the actors bobbing up and down like a see-saw when anyone sat down on it. Priceless!

This show is amusing and worth seeing, giving each of the large cast time to shine.

Lisa Campbell

Redheaded Stepchild

Nobody's Business Theatre—RRC

Just the visual from the program had me hooked. You can't be let down by this hilarious and heartbreaking masterpiece!

Johnnie Walker has written and performed this award-winning gem that shows intelligence, ability and imagination. Please don't miss. Word is spreading fast.

Lisa Campbell

