

The Man Who Wasn't There

Looking Glass Productions—The Ellice Theatre

Initially, the length seemed a little daunting, but I soon realized that I had nothing to fear. A three-person cast had one man playing more parts than one would have thought possible. This multi-voiced radio show was captivating to watch as the lead male switched from persona to persona without hesitating a fraction of a second.

To try and sense how it would feel as a radio show, every once and a while I would shut my eyes, and it felt like I was wherever the characters happened to be at the time, be it a restaurant or a beach.

Brilliantly performed, expertly staged, and beautifully acted.

Arden Pruden

Irregardless

Stacey Hallal—Planetarium

Stacey's cute. She can act and sing. She's funny. And she had a crowd as lively as mold growing. A more spirited audience would have made this a better experience, as she had to drag everything out of the patrons.

She seemed to politely question our worldliness in regards to a lot of things, as if Canadians live under a rock, (she's from Portland).

She has some very astute observations of society and is entertaining, but this play didn't knock my socks off.

Lisa Campbell

Shelby Bond—The Poor Man's Guide To Being Rich

Shelby Bond—Crocus Building (Bannatyne)

This stand-up comedian is quite the people person, coming out into the lobby before the show and engaging nearly everyone in conversation, warming them up for his show.

Not only is he a people person, but quite the charmer, and had people laughing before they even entered the stage area. Once we did get in, it just got better. Entertaining us with songs, and stories of his life, Bond knows exactly how to put on a show.

Arden Pruden

Underbelly

Stars And Hearts—WAG

We are introduced to Willy the Writer (as in W. S. Burroughs) in Jayson McDonald's brilliantly written and acted play.

Will hangs with the beat society (Allan Ginsberg and Jack Kerouac) and proceeds to rattle thru truly demented stories of drink, drugs, and gunfighters.

He reminded me of my favourite author, Hunter S. Thompson, and his tales of drug-fuelled exploits and fantasy. Jayson's delivery in this one is, I feel, the BEST work I've had the privilege to witness over all the years I've been watching this talented Canadian!

Take yourself away from the mainstream, and dive into Willy's delicious dialogue.

Kevin Campbell

FRAZ: Lonely At Last

randombandname productions—Son of Warehouse

Hilarious! Fraz had the sold-out crowd howling from the moment he began to speak. His comedic timing is exceptional. This autobiographical account of Fraz's rise to lack of fame had me laughing and nodding along throughout. One of the best I've seen this year.

John David Gordon

Social Dialysis

Whether to Fly—Cinematheque

The main character in this play embodies the old saying that life is just one damned thing after another. Just as he adjusts to one calamity, another ensues; and through it all, he has to find a reason to get up and face the next day.

The script is not 100 percent there, and the direction is not everything it could be, but there is enough to hang your hat on; and thanks to an engaging performance by the unnamed actor, the production delivers some great moments.

Unfortunately there is no program, but the young man who performs in this one-person play has some serious potential, and I'd prob-

ably see anything he performs in the future if I just knew his name.

This production got pretty harsh treatment from both the Free Press and a previous Jenny reviewer, but that just reinforces my opinion that one should not use reviews as a criteria for selecting plays.

Kevin Longfield

The Tempest

The Knaveish Hedgehog Productions—Kids Venue

A delightfully nuanced delivery of the classic tale carried the audience (young and old alike) through without the complications and confusions occasioned by Shakespeare's language.

An ephemeral Ariel, and charmingly comedic Stephano and Trinculo punctuated mostly solid performances by the rest of the cast.

Younger members of the audience were captivated, and older ones delighted—a thoroughly commendable effort and a good bet for families as there are elements to appeal to all age groups.

Sharon Cramer

Peter 'n Chris and the Mystery of...

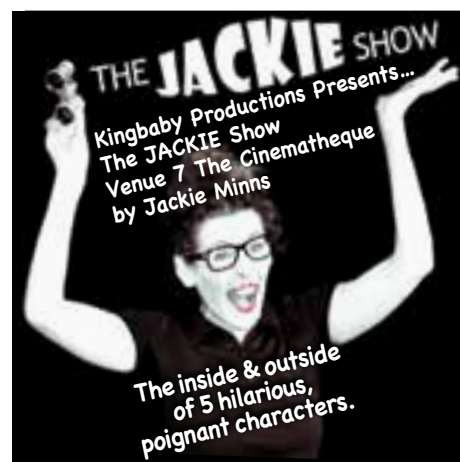
Peter 'n Chris—Rachel Browne Theatre

This is a fun show by two great high-energy performers

They end up at the Hungry Heart Motel after a car crash. Sadly, it is not the ideal place to stay as it is a bit too murderous, is in a cellphone dead zone, and the local radio station only seems to play a certain song by Bruce Springsteen.

You can tell they have worked together for quite a while as they have great chemistry together on the stage.

Murray Hunter



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