

Flashback**Drive Dance—Rachel Browne Studio**

I will preface this review by saying that I love dance, but don't know a lot about it.

Flashback was a beautiful performance. It was an awesome display of power, grace, coordination, and physical communication.

The show is composed of six different dance pieces, all unique and all moving. They were by turns haunting, heartbreaking, amusing and exciting. The music was varied, from classical to electronic, but all of it fit the dance it was chosen for.

My personal favourite was a piece called *Lithium for Medea*. It was choreographed by Stephanie Ballard and performed by Kathleen Hiley. I strongly suggest that you see this show and pick your own favourite.

Eric Rae

The Curious Case of the Killer Crossword**Insania Brevis—Playhouse Studio**

A light comedy in the style of "Murdoch Mysteries." The action is swift and the dialogue was good banter with which the sold-out audience seemed to sing along.

They won Best of Fest for their venue. Nothing original, but it is an enjoyable 45-minutes.

Vello Ruus

The Darling Family**Broken Still Productions—RRC**

If you are looking for something light and funny, look elsewhere. If you are looking for some heavy themes and some intense and honest performances, this is the show for you.

Megan Andres and Justin Otto pull out all the stops in bringing Linda Griffiths' hard-hitting script of a new couple's struggle with an unplanned pregnancy to life. Andres is particularly striking in her portrayal of her nameless character's troubled past.

Simplistic lighting differentiates between nighttime conversations in bed, what the characters really want to say to each other, and what they actually say. There are moments when both characters are monologuing on stage at the same time, creating great tension for the audience because we find out, all at once, that they want completely opposite things and they will never work out (or so it seems). This is a great alternative to a regular scene, as it moves faster and conveys the frantic nature of both characters' thoughts. It also breaks things up again and keeps them fresh.

This script is one that could easily drag on for far too long if not performed well. It is mostly a window into a matter that most people hope never to have to face and there isn't much that actually happens in the 90 minutes. And that's ok, because the onstage duo puts on a strong performance that keeps the audience enthralled from start to finish

Eric Rae

The Plague Doctor's Daughter**One Bird Walking Theatre—MTC Mainstage**

We decided to put on our Fringe hats again this year, checking out *The Plague Doctor's Daughter*.

The near-capacity crowd responded to the well-cast ensemble, which worked through a finely paced story with some admittedly plaguey-dialogue.

The energy and ups and downs of some of the actors brought the play to life. Key performances come from Dave Verinder as Salambine, Heather Krahn as Enza, and Rob Brown as Ghezze, who took the script to a different—and sometimes animated—level, pulling the show together. The best work of the supporting cast (Mylene Chicoine, Iris Dyck and Sean Cunningham) is reserved and more subtle.

T. & M. Sanderson

Revolver 101**Resonator Theatrical—Alloway Hall**

The program—and a handbilling girl outside MTC—led us to our next adventure, *Revolver 101*.

Lacina Dembélé and Rob Brown go toe-to-toe for nearly an hour. The rawest acting (such a positive) you will see in this Fringe.

These two waded through a topical tale on stage with some strange and decent twists. Not for everyone's taste, but worth it for the timeliness or performances alone.

T. & M. Sanderson

Til Death Do We Part: The Six Wives of Henry VIII**Monster Theatre—PTE Studio**

One woman plays the part of Henry VIII and his 6 wives, all at the same time.

The action takes place in Heaven's holding area, after each of them has departed this earth. This actor is so talented and funny as she changes her voice and posture for each wife she's portraying. The script is hilarious. She received a well-deserved standing ovation.

Cheryl Chase

The Touring Test**Treading Water—Alloway Hall**

This show is about a show within a show within a science experiment.

One of the actors is a robot, and both the actors and audience are supposed to guess which one. The show is hilarious and a lot of fun for the audience.

Most people think the actuary-turned-actor is the robot, but I know from personal experience that some actuaries may only appear to be robot-like.

Cheryl Chase

