Swimming Lessons With Paisley Kite

Cross Country Trampoline—Conservatory

This is a thoroughly talented performer doing some very clever material. Unfortunately, I emphasize the "some."

There are some brilliant jibes and laugh lines, as well as some immensely soulful moments, but both are a bit to far between.

I enjoyed the performance, but the story of her journey had too many dry points. A one-person show makes character interaction difficult, and this was the failing point that slowed things down.

Anyone will enjoy this play, but minor changes could make it phenomenally better.

Shawn Kowalke

THE AMAZING FOX SISTERS

Phat Phoenix —Playhouse Studio

I'm not a superstitious person, but we always seem to get billets with kick-ass shows. It's almost enough to make you think that someone from the spirit world is guiding talented performers to the Longfield house.

The Amazing Fox sisters are the three women in blonde wigs, 19th century dance-hall costumes, and makeup you've seen around the fringe or on the front page of Tuesday's Free Press.

Their show is about the three sisters who started the spiritualist movement that was all the rage a little over a century ago. This is a very tight, professional show that explores the human need to believe, a need so strong that it will help us ignore the most contradictory evidence.

The three actor/authors work as seamlessly together as if they were real-life siblings. It left me wanting more, and I suspect that indeed there is a longer work trying to emerge from this fruitful collaboration. I hope some day to see a full-length version of this story.

Kevin Longfield

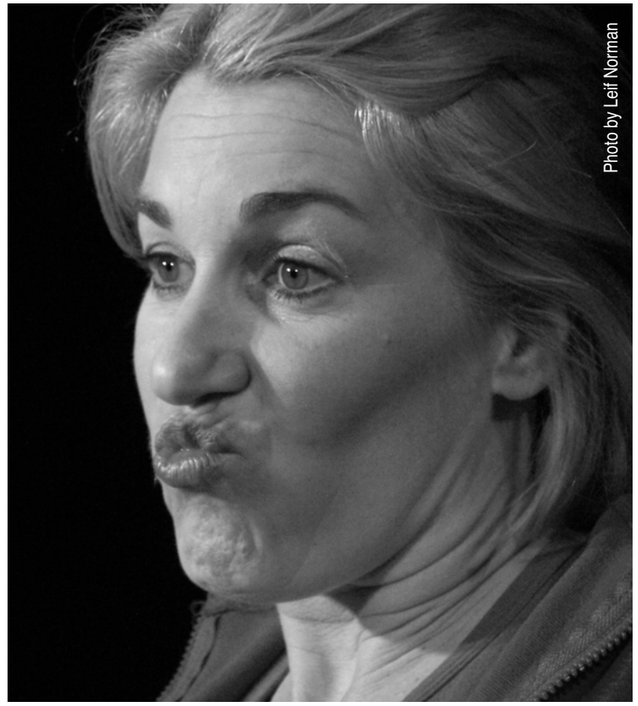


Prepare yourself for the sounds, songs and rhythms of the sea! A young, prairie man ventures off the farm and quests to become a tall-ship sailor. A thrilling, musical adventure through time, tradition and myth!

By: Jeffrey Pufahl & Andrew Auerbach
Original Music By: Julie Spangler

Venue 2— Up the Alley.

July 16 7:45pm
July 17 4:15pm
July 19 1:45pm
July 20 6:45pm
July 21 11:45pm
July 22 4:00pm
July 24 12:15pm
July 25 9:00pm



Susan Jeremy faces the audience in one of the multitude of roles she plays while portraying an entire New York City school in P. S. 69

If Ugly Was a Color

Banana Peel Productions—Planetarium

Someone DID throw a bag of crazy on the stage and out came Kim, Will and Rick. They are hilarious.

Strong performances by all, with the duo of Rick and Will playing a diverse group of characters and even cross dressing as females.

This is a first-time appearance for these three very talented local artists. The 50 minutes flies by very quickly with a great deal of laughter. A must see.

Liz and John Pats

There is talent in this cast, and some clever material, but this show needs some serious work. Most of the humour is juvenile, to say the least, and a younger crowd would likely enjoy it, but I'm old and bitter.

The gag most employed was "constipated-lady-in-toilet-making-fart-noises," second being "men-in-dresses." I highly recommend this to any high school students at the Fringe this year.

Having made my criticism, let me mention that the cast itself is quite young. They are all first time Fringe performers doing a play by a first-time writer.

It takes a lot of balls to get on stage for your first time, especially doing some pretty nonsensical material. The Fringe needs more people willing to take these sorts of risks, instead of a lot of the media-friendly tripe that has popped up in the past few years. These kids have talent that will come to fruition as their experience grows.

Shawn Kowalke

Where Was I?

Verb Communications—Red River College

I'm really glad to have seen the very good, one-woman show, Where was I?

It's so full of humour. I had to hold my stomach and my cheeks after this good presentation, because I had to laugh through the whole show.

I didn't realize how fast the time went by and since I'm a German you can see that Brita Lind is a real good actor.

I understood every joke and every story very well. My favorite story was the one in the library.

So don't miss this show. It's great.

Kati Domkolosky
Weimar, Germany



Screwed & Clued masterfully bring Pinocchio to life in a frantic modern world

Needle & Branch

Gallimaufry Productions—Playhouse

This play is a beautifully told story that will appeal to any one who has ever ventured on a journey or simply desired to do so.

The script will pull you in as Andrew Cooper speaks of his nightmares, the beauty that he sees in the wilderness, and his struggle at being alone and the decision that brought him there.

The script is raw with emotion. It is truly refreshing to see a young man be vulnerable on stage, as he reveals his thoughts and emotions about his journey that brought him to tree planting. The script will surprise you in its poetic feel and insight. Absolutely beautiful, it will touch you.

Shannon Pidlubny

Never Swim Alone

Lucid Theatre—Conservatory

If I were asked to pick a set of Canadian plays for everyone to see, Never Swim Alone would be at the top of the list. It's one of the richest, most complex, most poetic and creative scripts ever written anywhere. At this Fringe, you have a chance to see the play at its best.

Director Nancy Drake has drawn first-rate performances from Tom Soares, Wilson Pimental, and Sherry Philips. Soares and Pimental throw themselves full force into their roles, an absolute must if you are to do the script justice. Philips as the girl on the beach and the referee seems to have been born to the part.

Two men in nearly identical suits engage in a series of one-upmanship contests judged by a girl in a bathing suit. The winner gets to talk to the audience. As the stakes and hilarity escalate, so does a sense of foreboding. I directed this play a few years ago, so I know it very well, but the ending still nailed me.

A word to the wise: since this play is in Venue 7, you need to get there early for a good view of the entire stage. No matter where you sit, though, you are in for quite a ride.

Kevin Longfield

Trouble in Tahiti

The Little Opera Company — Warehouse

I'm not usually one who goes for ANY kind of musical theatre whatsoever, but I was tremendously impressed by the Little Opera Company's performance on Wednesday night.

Opera at the Fringe can either be very, very good, or…best not mentioned. Each cast member had a voice that I sincerely envied, and the story was strong and well delivered. Very professional. I highly recommend this one!

Sarah Bennington

The Horror of Macbeth

aztec theatre—School of Contemporary Dance

This 60-minute version of Macbeth plays with the silent movie horror genre. The two person cast interchange characters, using physicality and costume pieces in very creative and hilarious ways while the running slide show helps place the action of the story.

This production plays with the over the top aspects of the silent movie genre and I found myself smiling and laughing throughout. The director (Stephen Furmaniuk) and two actors (Alison Vargo and Chris Sable) show their talent for both comedy and drama as the two successfully combine to create a fantastic theatrical experience.

Andrea Siemens

THE JOY SHOW

Hollywoodland Productions—The Attic

If you are feeling a little melancholy after seeing a number of heavy dramas and need some really good belly laughs, this one woman standup performance by Joy Gohring is the answer. Her take on the youthful g-string fashion statement is worth the price of admission. I highly recommend adding a bit of Joy to your life.

Murray Hunter

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