### Lunatic Van Beethoven

**Dr. Keir Co.—PTE Mainstage**

Was Beethoven a lunatic, a genius, or both? That is the question that Keir Cutler poses in this play. Is genius not one step removed from insanity?

Cutler appears as a "born again in the 21st century" Beethoven who attempts to dispel the myths around the "real" Beethoven.

Cutler shows what it's like to be a child prodigy (Beethoven), forced by his father to play the piano as a young boy, and compete with the other prodigy of his time, Mozart.

Even more poignant was the actor's portrayal of Beethoven's illnesses, especially going deaf—describing what it was like to continue to compose music in your head when you could no longer actually hear it.

But would Beethoven be able to survive as a musician in the 21st century? His proclamation that he was the greatest musician to ever live, might be questioned today.

If you are interested in learning more about Beethoven, this play is a "must see". Cutler has a humorous, but cutting style that intrigues the audience from the moment he steps on stage.

*Nick and Emily Ternette*

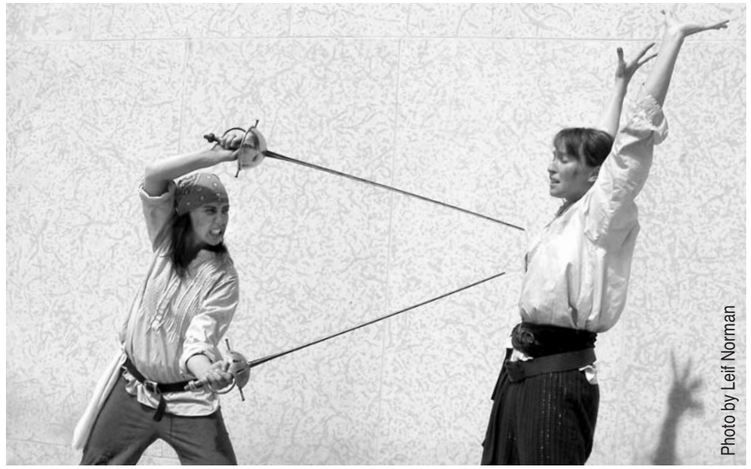


Photo by Leif Norman

*Pirate women exchange sword tips in R (The Swashbuckling Tale of Anne Bonny and Mary Read)*

## SHAMELESS Self-Promotion Self-Promotion

### Screwed & Clued

**Pinocchio—School of Contemporary Dancers**

Screwed & Clued are back for their 7th Fringe!

True, there's only two of us, our hair's a little thinner (and certainly not red), but we are still trying hard to create exciting, challenging, relevant theatre.

Some people think we've succeeded. Some of these people are reviewers. (Pinocchio was "Critic's pick at Montreal, Toronto, and Ottawa Fringes). Some are audience members (Pinocchio was voted "Best in Venue at Ottawa Fringe).

But we want to know what YOU think. So come see Pinocchio. (Disney, it ain't.)

### SHOESTRING PLAYERS

**Ernie's Incredible Illucinations—PTE Studio**

How can you resist Alan Ayckbourn's answer to childhood ennui?

Come to PTE Studio and see young Ernie's creative solutions to the restrictions placed upon him "at home, at school—everywhere he goes." The library and boxing scenes alone are worth the price of admission.

Children, bring all the adults in your life. They'll never undermine your imaginative powers again.

### Assiniboine Theatre Inc.

**HAROLD AND MAUDE—Warehouse**

Hey! What are you doing reading the Jenny Revue when you could be watching the epoch-shattering theatrical event that is Harold and Maude?

See it now! See it often! And if you don't agree that the production of Harold and Maude is a mind blowing, white hot, grease fire of pure entertainment, I'm gonna come lookin' for ya.

See it with someone you love, someone you hate, even a passing acquaintance. Just go!

### TrEaD tHe EdGe

**MY REALITY—WCD Studio**

Two people on a reality show when reality gets in the way.

No, really. It's good. Really. Good.

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Photo by Leif Norman

*Montreal's Chica Loca Productions injects music, dance, comedy...and fruit ...into Kitchen Cantata*

### Enter Captain Rogue

**Where's Bobby Productions–MTC Backstage**

Enter Captain Rogue is one of this Fringe's wonderful surprises.

Where's Bobby Productions has put together a show you can't help but love. It's funny. It's tight. It has six different theatre styles, all masterfully presented in just under an hour.

See it before it sells out!

*Justin Deeley*

### The Song of Solomon

**David Stubel—Planetarium**

Pleasure from across the centuries is at the heart of this biblical recitation. The longing, yearning soul heard is as alive and recognizable as it was then. No light show, no gimmicks—except for the offer of a free raisin cookie from Bread & Circuses on the back of the program (but then one of the lines includes "Sustain me with raisins").

The truck driver with the astonishing memory shares the stage with multi-instrumentalist, Greg Hanec, who decorates the sonorous lines with clarinet, percussion and recorder, and sets a middle eastern tone with his saxophone.

Quibble? A bit of context would help, and the interplay of music and voice could be smoother.

He who has ears to hear, let him hear. Bartley Kives: too much sturm and drang music has shriveled your soul.

*Ron Robinson*

### Prairie Salt

**Bside Productions—MTC Up The Alley**

A Saskatchewan boy leaves the prairies and finds his Prairie Schooner in Key West. He tells his adventures through song, poetry, and stories. Set sail with Jeffrey and his friends and be guided through the stormy seas by a wonderful 5-Star constellation of musical theatre.

*Frank Martin*

This is a musical about a prairie boy who goes away to sea and comes back a man. The call of the sea is a powerful thing, but so is the call of home.

Sailing, like acting, is one of the most ancient professions, and those who are called to it have a special bond, and common superstitions. If you have ever felt the wind fill the sails, or set yourself a difficult course to see if you will survive it, you will relate to this story.

The three people on stage all sing well, and have an engaging stage presence. Jon Pinksen, in multiple roles, particularly impressed me with the physical distinctions he gave each role.

The whole cast gets my congratulations for enduring a patron who answered a cell phone, noisily took notes, changed seats twice, and capped it off by leaving early. That is truly sailing through difficult waters, and they did it masterfully.

*Kevin Longfield*

### The One Man Lord Of The Rings

**Chicken For Supper Prods.–PTE Mainstage**

Peter Jackson spent hundreds of millions of dollars and three or four years making his LOTR trilogy. Sure he cleaned up at the Oscars, but his efforts pale in comparison to the heroic performance by Charles Ross. He amazingly compresses 9 hours of movies into his one hour 'One Man' show.

His impressions of all the characters are amazing, you could close your eyes and identify every character from the scrawny hungry orc to Gandalf, by voice alone. However, nobody would want to close their eyes for a second, because they might miss some of Mr. Ross's frenetically wonderful performance.

So get out of your parent's basement and go see it. The Fiery Eye of Sauron commands you!

*Murray Hunter*

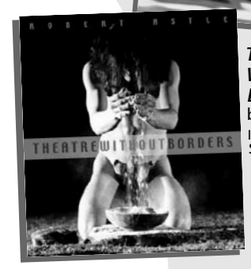
beyond the fringes




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