

7 (x1) Samurai

David Gaines—MTC Mainstage

David Gaines is brilliant.

This show has the largest cast I've ever seen in a one-man performance, and a sense of humour and play pervades every moment and gesture. His minimalist use of masks and an empty stage leaves him to present the entire tale: which he does with incredible skill.

A trained mime, Gaines moves seamlessly between characters and scenes and brings the audience with him. The show itself is spellbinding, and the bloodshed and mayhem is both impressive and hilarious.

Gaines' sense of character and presence is phenomenal. There is almost no dialogue in the hour-long piece, and those moments of actual speech are perfectly placed for comic effect.

Gaines uses his movement to impart the classic tale, and the minimal use of words amplifies the sense of humour.

This is a show you must see—twice, if you have the chance.

Christina Fawcett

Large venue, huge comfy seats, A/C, and a show that saved my opening night. It is amazing. We all loved it. It's no wonder that David Gaines won so many U.S. Best of Fringe awards.

A master of mime, movement and masks, he manages to share an incredible story with multiple characters without ever losing the audience. You can't help but laugh and be awe-struck with his physicality at the same time.

David got the standing ovation he deserved on opening night. A definite must-see!

Lisa Campbell

Rant Demon

Doctor Keir Co.—Planetarium

Master Fringe performer, Keir Cutler returns with another of his brilliant "rant" monologues. Watch Keir's veins pop out of his forehead while

he tells of his woes as a Problem Ranter. Listen while he details his decision to face his disorder through talk therapy. Enjoy his self-realization and the transformation that occurs.

Once you've seen *Rant Demon* you'll know why I say, "Congratulations Keir & Evelyn, too!"

Tim Hogue

The Doctor is in, and Cutler has some demons to work out. Keir is spot on with his usual impeccable timing and stylized rants punctuated by his piercing glare, in this autobiographical tale of taming his demons.

Family, friends and peers in the theatre world provide stories of his ranting behavior. He goes through rant therapy, analyzing past shows (*Teaching Shakespeare*, and his hit, *Teaching the Fringe*, spawned by THAT LETTER!). He continues until he reaches this point in his otherwise rantless life... 'cause this ranting demon has found...love.

So go see this ranting doctor, take two feel-good pills, and call him in the morning!

Kevin Campbell

Scar Tissue

Dancing Hen—MTC Mainstage

Well, I have never written to you, let alone submitted a review—ever. But let me tell you now, you must see *Scar Tissue* at MTC Mainstage. No, actually, it is mandatory that you see it.

I saw it opening night with nine other "Fringe friends". When it was over, we all sat there for a few minutes and could not move...all of us, we were stunned. It was like we just had finished great sex. I needed a cigarette. This play was that good.

The performance by Dorothy Carroll (Kathryn) was stunning. I would recommend it just for that performance.

She was brilliant. You can only wonder if you could ever put on a performance like that yourself.

The other actors seemed to feed off what she

was giving them. And she kept on feeding them.

The play was beautifully written by Muriel Hogue—and includes her captivating performance as "Grandma."

Nancy Drake has directed this group in a performance that needs to be known for what it is... the one to see.

Ward Massner

Cabaret Terrarium

Turtleherder Productions—Planetarium

When, on walking into a show, you are given a wooden frog and a stick, you know right away you're in for a very fringy experience. (We of course played with them relentlessly throughout the play).

We are introduced to a pair of odd characters—Narr, the pantomime artist, and Gustaf, the cabaret singer and host from Belgium.

My opinion is, if Andy Kaufman had any offspring, these are them. They playfully tell a story of murder, international travel, family gatherings and nerdy gyrating classic rock covers with funny instruments...oh, and some duct tape.

These are the same two who brought us the hilarious but sublime *Hotel California* a few years back. Get in line, and bring an imaginary friend—though you'll have to pay for them—cause it's worth it.

Kevin Campbell

The Excursionists: A Matter of Seconds

Baronspieler—Playhouse Onstage

Christofer Bange and Johah Von Spreechen are back again from Seattle.

Having seen all their past, outstanding productions—*The Excursionists*, *More Bange for Your Buck*, *The Medicine Show*, and a tale of a macabre school master so good I saw it twice—I can safely say this is their weakest effort.

It's still worth the price to see these two display a mastery that can only come from working together for so many years. I saw it on opening night, so it might improve as it goes on. The audience still seemed well entertained.

Lisa Campbell

all the best!
to the fringe & the jenny



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★★★★★
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