The Big Oops

To the Moon—Playhouse Studio

Sam is a children's entertainer who is just as perky offstage as she is on. She and her boyfriend, a cynical aspiring filmmaker, live a perfectly perky life in their rather dingy apartment building downtown, but things are looking up; Sam has attracted the interest of the CBC. Then she has to make two of the biggest decisions anyone has to make, and life becomes complicated real fast.

This show attracted a near-sell-out at 1:15 on a Thursday, and I would say deservedly so. TJ Dawe had a hand in the production, and Cara Yeates is a talented actor. All the same, it's only fair to say that on her first performance in the venue she didn't have her absolute best day.

I'd have liked the main action to have started a little earlier, although once it started, the script really fired on all cylinders.

And then there was the person whose cell phone buzzed interminably during the performance, to the accompaniment of purse fumbling and what seemed like 200 compartment zippers opening and closing. Here's the drill, folks: before you go into a show, take out your cell phone and flush it down the toilet. You'll be a better person for it.

Kevin Longfield

Countries Shaped Like Stars

Mi Casa—Rudolph Rocker

Every year there are magical shows discovered by word of mouth that make me exclaim "this is what The Fringe is all about!"

Quirky, fun, & playful! My inner (outer?) child wanted to jump out of my seat and dance along with the performers. I'll be humming the songs for weeks! FYI, this show is both kid and adult friendly.

John David Gordon

BUNGALOW

Death & Taxes Theatre—Rory Runnels Studio

Former Winnipegger, actor/playwright Vern Thiessen's newest play is very funny, often touching, and sometimes tearful.

BUNGALOW is the story of a grown man who has come home to sell his parent's house. Uncertain and a little annoyed, as he sets about the task he is baffled and overwhelmed with the memories of a warm but conflicted urban childhood flooding from every corner of every room.

Having grown up with Mennonite parents in North Kildonan in the '70s, Thiessen uses his own memories as a backdrop for the universal irritation of nostalgia, taking this very Winnipeg play into Any Neighbourhood, Any City.

And we're SO there. Visually the play is stunning, even visceral at times, and there's very effective use of family slides, home movies and audio.

Thiessen says BUNGALOW is a work in progress. It's interesting to note that the risks he takes as a playwright and as an actor-on the stage for the first time in four years—are risks he's taking on home turf.

Thiessen won the Governor General's Award a few years back and has found success in many corners of the world. But BUNGALOW is a play set where it belongs: Winnipeg. A must see.

Moloney

Spiral Dive, Episode Three

THEATrePUBLIC—MTYP

Wow, I need to lie down. I'm emotionally drained. Can't believe I forgot to bring Kleenex.

I don't know if I can imagine a finer piece of theatre than this trilogy. This was my wife's first Spiral Dive show. If you missed the first two and are wondering if you should go...GO!

John David Gordon

Alack!

dRagamuffin Productions—Kids Venue SCD

Alack!, a Kids Venue show, is perfect for older audiences as well. The comic story of Princess Ariana trying to get captured, and Prince Stewart trying to save her, is full of jokes for kids, and parents both.

As the play opens, a narrator describes a perfect kingdom, in which resides a normal Queen, a single and desperate Princess, and a King who only ever says "Quite".

As the story unfolds, the lovers meet, but can't marry until Prince Stewart rescues Princess Ariana from something. During Princess Ariana's quest to find a dragon, and Prince Stewart's guest to find her. both face challenges and obstacles, leading to the hysterical conclusion of this reverse fairy-tale.

This one is for the whole family.

Arden Pruden

MAL

Crowning Monkey—Rudolf Rocker

Rachelle Elie's latest one woman show is an autobiographical journey through her acting career and her growth as a clown. It starts with her dismantling the stereotype of a "Kid's Party" type of clown, which too often is all people think about when you talk about clowns.

Those who have seen her previous shows, will recognize a couple of her previous incarnations such as Om Shanti, from last year's show Big Girls Don't Cry, and Joe, The Perfect Man. Those not familiar with her older work may not be ready for Om, as she is kind of an acquired taste, but that love her or hate her attitude by audiences is part of the fun.

Rachelle shows how the different styles of clowning she learned has influenced her performing career and the characters she created. Her final clown character shows the ultimate result of finding her true inner clown. The result of this is a great performance that the entire audience enjoyed.

Murray Hunter

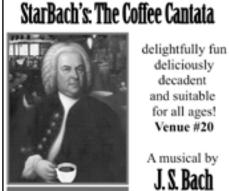
all the best! to the fringe & the jenny



George Hickes MLA for Point Douglas

944-8379





A musical by J. S. Bach