

Four Wishes...**Gunstwork Puppet Mask Th.—Kids Venue SCD**

Four Wishes..., a one-person puppet/mask show, retells the moral of, "Be careful what you wish for, for your wish could come true."

Essentially in two parts, the opening part introduces the audience to Indigenous North American history and the specific hopes of four tribal members. Each has a wish and they share in their journey to fulfill those wishes.

The introduction and background take half an hour to recount and—as an adult—my attention waned. Kids in the audience got fidgety and some started their own dialogues. Fortunately, the crack Fringe staff kept audience disturbances to a minimum.

The second part involves you more deeply in the characters as they realise their wishes. The action and a bit of audience participation renew juvenile interest. The plot development overcomes the shortfalls of the first half and delivers a successful show.

As a children's play, the presentation has a couple of flaws. The script runs too long and shortening the first half would maintain attention better. Secondly, many of the words in the script are beyond adult normal usage; children would certainly not under-

stand them. One unrecognized word leaves the kids curious; a dozen leaves them disinterested.

Ray Yuen

archy and mehitabel**Ausable Theatre—MTC Up the Alley**

Jeff Culbert's jaw-droppingly wonderful, one-man show should be sold out through the end of its run, or there is no justice in the universe—and justice in the universe would greatly interest archy the cockroach, a revolutionary poet with a keen eye on humanity.

Providing a calm and poignant foil to archy's impassioned ranting is sleek mehitabel the cat, a formidable lady full of hard-earned wisdom.

Culbert moves with light and winsome grace between the two characters; his seemingly effortless physical artistry is a marvel to watch, and his vocal mastery of the material is absolute. His entire set and props consists of a chair and a pair of sunglasses; there is nothing on the nearly-bare stage to suggest another place, yet I left the theatre having had a most thought-provoking experience in a different world. This is one of the most delightful Fringe shows I have ever seen.

Leila Marston

Deadliest Improv Warrior**Micro Theatre—Exchange Community Church**

It's hard to review an improv show, but I'll do my best.

The premise of *Deadliest Improv Warrior* is like a Survivor game. Every show there is a face-off between the last show's champions and the challengers. Both groups were fantastic, but if you see their next show, you will see the challengers, Three Black Guys, competing against a new group.

Improv has always made me laugh, and when you have such talent as I'm sure is in all of the groups participating, you can't go wrong with improv.

Arden Pruden

Psycho Bitch**PK Pinup Productions—Aqua Books**

This is a monologue about a woman's courageous battle with mental illness. It's also a plea to the audience to try to love people with mental illness.

There isn't a lot of drama here in the academic sense, but there is an eloquent script and a genuinely moving performance. I think there's also an opportunity to learn something here; I know I did.

Kevin Longfield

Supporting the JENNY!

PREMIER GREG SELINGER & THE NDP CAUCUS

