

## Bursting Into Flames

Martin Dockery—U of W

It's Dockery Night in Canada! I just walked out of *Oh, That Wily Snake*, Dockery's other playful production! I was blown away by both these plays, showing off Martin's mad kinetic style with words and motions. In this one, we are thrown into the mind of Dockery's Heaven and Hell scenario...and what a ride we are taking. He basically describes what we all wish Heaven would be like...but are we sure that's what we want? Complications arise, and before you know it he takes you down to Hell with his body contortions and warped mind! His rapid-fire delivery and energized movement are mesmerizing.

So come join Martin's demented mind and performance.

In Heaven and Hell, you will repent!

Kevin Campbell

## Whiskey Bars

Big Empty Barn Productions—Playhouse Studio

This play has more of the tragic than the comic—the opposite of the program description. We are treated to songs of the late 1920s to 1940s from the top composers of the time sung masterfully by veteran performer Bremner Duthie. We also get a well-told original script that really allowed me to escape for at least the hour of this show. Isn't that one of the great things theatre can do?

Duthie pulled at my heart with his portrayal of a man full of bravado, who is really like an insecure little boy seeking approval. He still managed to keep my sympathies even as alcohol-fueled outbursts showed the nastiness he could display when he thought he was being attacked. The tale works out at the end if only for one night. Very entertaining

Lisa Campbell

Man "interviewed" in dressing room prior to his comeback stage show of Kurt Weill tunes. Good singing, good acting, good times.

E.T. Pritchard

## Illuminati II: The Second One

Kiss the Giraffe Productions—PTE Mainstage

Dolphin vs. Nazi

The amount of material that Joseph Aragon crams into one musical never ceases to amaze me.

In the second instalment of the *Illuminati* franchise, we follow Dexter, Ethel, and Echelon (the Android) as they protect our world, and protect a dolphin (with its trainer) from a neo-Nazi takeover of the song-and-dance variety (Mel Brooks would be so proud).

Microsoft vs. Apple. The Illuminati vs. the CIA (the other one). Nazis and nuclear weapons vs. Flipper and friends.



Photo Credit: Diverse.com

Will & DeSiRe Theatre brings us romance by misadventure. What 'maid' through yonder window breaks?

A strong cast delivers fabulous new Aragon songs, solid harmonies, a toe-tapping Bill Gates, and a rap battle of epic proportions. With helicopter sequences and high speed boat chases; expect schtick the likes of which you see only from the mind of veteran Fringe director Leith Clark.

Dispel reality and enjoy!

D. Penner

Right off the bat, this show deserves more than the 2 stars CBC graces it with. It sucks that the stellar Friday night show was seen by such a small crowd.

I'll admit it's not my fave Joseph Aragon show, but it's still worth a watch.

Great job by the whole cast and crew.

Joel Passante

## slut (r)evolution

Cameryn Moore—RRC

This is the person who did *Phone Whore* last year. *Slut (r)evolution* is about her personal exploration of her sexual boundaries. She has an engaging stage presence and really inhabits the experiences she portrays on stage. She's also a very strong writer who often had me asking myself, "Why didn't I think of that?" On Thursday, particularly at the beginning, her speed of delivery degraded her enunciation, and I had to struggle to understand what she said. All in all, though, an eye-opening journey that's well worth the fare.

Kevin Longfield

## The Price of Admission

Jurasco Productions—RRC

This was a very loose production from a generational farmer who has turned organic, in spite of having been brought up with traditional non-organic farming methods on a family farm.

This humble farmer had in his younger days pursued a career in theatre. In this play, he now

expresses his desire to convey his concerns for present day non-organic farmers.

He has come up with many convincing arguments through song and story telling. So watch, as this kind-hearted poet and funky farmer blinds you with his steel guitar and a few hymns...oh, nice dig at the Folk Fest, too!

Kevin Campbell

## Mythic

No Snowcones Productions—Cinematheque

Let's start by saying, "physically awesome". The No Snowcones guys do a lot of cool things like creating a giant by one jumping on the other's back and playing three characters at once, the bottom guy is one, the top guy is one and together they are one. The stage combat throughout the show is awesome. At one point the narrators get tired of talking and decide to turn a conversation into a battle and "show you so you don't get too bored."

The witty speech in the show is a second highlight. The guys use heroic verse to absolute perfection. (Heroic verse consists of the rhymed iambic line or heroic couplet. To put that in context, it's harder to write than Shakespeare.) You can also enjoy the word play when they deal with a nasty troll or when Kale and Kim banter back and forth.

With some very funny pieces and an overall fun, real story told as if it were a heroic quest, *Mythic* is a very funny, smart show. So if you've ever wanted two narrators to tell a story from your life as if the fate of the world relied on it, this show is definitely worth checking out.

Eli Grendel

## Written in Hot Pink Lipstick and a Lady's Tears

Acting As A Way of Life—Son of Warehouse

Excellent show, needs nothing.

Awesome.

Fred Penner

