

Mary Rose**Snakeskin Jacket Productions—MTC Warehouse**

This is a brilliant play, directed by George Toles. It is adapted from a screenplay for an Alfred Hitchcock movie that was never filmed. It has a cinematic quality. One asks why in the world was this mysterious story not put on screen? Gather around, Fringe-goers for one of the most eerie ghost stories ever told.

The young Mary Rose is abducted briefly by some unseen force on a remote island as a child, but then returned to her family.

Although this is a stellar cast with strong players and Winnipeg theatre veterans, I found the beginning confusing and was unable to connect the first scene to the rest of the story until much later on. Although this works for the screen, it is hard to decipher in the stage version.

At first you are given the impression that there is something frightening behind the door at the back of the stage. In the next scene Simon the Seaman is asking for the hand of Mary Rose from her parents. The parents give their blessing but not without tension and some reservation. There is something special about Mary Rose; and then it is revealed that she was abducted as a child. Her husband is warned.

Years later after they have settled into their marriage, they return to the Island and have a picnic.



Come to **June's Window**, fill out this ballot, and give it to our stage manager at Venue 2 for a chance to take home this handknit monkey.

Name: _____

Contact Info: _____

The pair treat each other tenderly, and Mary Rose adores her husband and new baby. Then Mary Rose admires a tree and says something peculiar, "This tree is jealous of you Simon."

Bone chilling.

A mysterious boat attendant joins them on their picnic, and tells blood-curdling stories of things that have happened on the Island. He is a character with a Scottish accent and provides comic relief as he is telling them what might happen next.

Mary Rose is beautifully acted. All characters are both horrified and mystified, and their acting skills are powerfully employed to tell the story of Mary Rose. She is lovely and angelic and childlike. You will fall in love with Mary Rose. You will be in awe over this play. It will be a campfire classic like Mary Shelley's *Frankenstein*. Be fascinated by the supernatural at this year's Fringe.

Yvette Jones

The Horrible Friends**The Horrible Friends—Cinemetheque**

Brent Hirose, Shawn Kowalke and Luke Falconer.

Who are these horrible guys? Well, as in the title, they are The Horrible friends. And these Horrible Friends are horribly, awfully, disgustingly the damn best improv trio on the circuit. I'd love to tag in and hammer them all with big plastic bats, and throw funny suggestions just to watch these horrible guys play! Just can't get this horrible giggle out my head!

Kevin Campbell

Here's an improv where some lucky audience members get to hit their favourite cast member with a plastic bat. Brent, Luke, and Shawn may be horrible to each other, but from what I've witnessed and overheard, their friends can be worse. They make you laugh, they make themselves laugh, they let you make them cry.

Sebastien Ball

SSPS Shameless Self-Promotions Shameless Self-Promotions

Fallis and Ball's Productions**Rogue Cop—MTC Warehouse**

Great Reviews From Fans:

"I've never smiled so much in one hour :)"

"Sooo Rogue!"

"Awesome show! Bang! bang! bang! click click."

And from some Reviewers:

"innuendo, man in underpants, cop type violence."

"no shortage of "testicular fortitude" to get the job done right."

GO ROGUE with ROGUE COP @ Venue #6!

No Traveler: A Comedy About Suicide**Pennypollack—The Playhouse Studio**

At first it seemed like a dance show. That was until the razor was used and then it became a monologue.

Throughout the show, Penny Pollack plays various characters, most of them suicidal or dead; and, yes, it's a very dark comedy about suicide. The emotional changes between the various characters are extremely well acted, and it's very clear when she's playing someone else (we are also assisted by a blackout). Her portrayal of a drunk is very convincing, and most of the characters she plays are drunk. A very good show.

Arden Pruden

Choosing Home**R-G Productions—MTC Up the Alley**

Slightly Bland. The actors needed to project more, and quite a few of them needed to express more. Others needed to express less. The costumes were quite good, and I could tell that most of the actors were enjoying themselves, but it was obvious that the audience was getting bored. There also seemed to be a lot of trouble with lines, and the show itself as a whole could use some work.

Arden Pruden

Houdini's Last Escape**Monster Theatre—Planetarium**

YES, there are really good magic tricks, but this show isn't about that. It's more the tale of Houdini's marriage and working partnership with Bess, his wife for 32 years. Christopher Barge and Tara Travis are two of my favourite Fringe performers, and always worth a look. Their physical comedy is non-stop with every movement meaningful. This is a visual, not a cerebral production, with the most props I've seen so far. A good bang for your entertainment buck.

Lisa Campbell

The Academy of Acting**Spring Awakening (Manitoba Museum)**

"SEX! LIES! SUICIDE! Spring Awakening is the amazing tale of teens and their hormones – A comedy dealing with love, masturbation, abortion, and every other juicy thing you can think of. With a double cast, each night is something new! The two male leads carry strength and innocence hard to balance, so it's amazing how remarkably well they pull it off. With the audience giggling the whole way through, the fun and bright characters leave you clutching your seat in anticipation!"

Photo gallery: www.fringeawakening.ca/media

