



Dear Jenny,

A Love Letter to the Winnipeg Fringe

We missed you so much babe—it's so good to be back from out east.

Woah! Be cool now! It wasn't our fault! Toronto Fringe seduced us with her high condo buildings and exotic restaurants. A place that only serves avocados!

But she was cold, babe! Reviewers that kept their stars for themselves and audiences that would rather tweet than buy a seat.

Oh, we handed out poetic handbills all over Bathurst, but Toronto Fringe stopped taking our calls.

Then we thought of you.

With your hardcore Fringers, your swinging Old Market Square, your Beer Tent where every seat is taken (and then some). Your reviews by word of mouth in the lines for tickets, samosas, and lemonade.

Mmmmmmm....lemonade.

It took going away to make us realize just how good we had it.

So whaddya say babe—will you take us back? Maybe we can catch a show together?

**Matt and Mel* (Who recently finished performing *One Good Marriage* at the Toronto Fringe. They might not go back)*



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: _____

Dear Jenny,

RE: CHECK YOUR BAGGAGE (an open letter to Fringe reviewers)

Don't you have enough to lug around at the Fringe? Program book, water bottle, mosquito repellent, hell, probably a hip flask, pocketfuls of postcards, a laptop or some conspicuously unostentatious notebook. All of that is heavy enough already, do you really need to take the rest of this baggage, too?

Hard to say until you open it up and take a look. That lumpy duffel bag, for example, we can smell it from a mile away, that fantastic sex-phobic funk. Whether it's the spanking you got at age 4 because you said a "bad word" or something you learned in theater school about all sex in art being gratuitous by default or maybe it's been a few months since you got any and you're just tired of hearing about it...everyone's got sex baggage.

Really. But if you're a reviewer with an assignment, you have a special obligation to look at your baggage and then leave it behind when you're reviewing any show that has sexual components in it. Review things for what they are, and look at the sexy bits for how well they promote the work itself, as a specimen of the genre itself.

What about body shame? Are you keeping it in that battered Samsonite over there? Yeah. We all have it, insecurities about our own bodies, judgments about others. But that stuff is hard to move around, too, and it gets in the way of good writing. Your readers can tell if you are just a leetle bit obsessed about a performer's weight or shape or titties, and it comes off as creepy.

Look, you can stop clutching the handles. We're not taking your baggage away from you, even if we could. We understand. It's comforting to carry it around. You've always got inspiration for snark. Everyone else does it. You've always had it. If you leave it somewhere, what if other people see it and laugh at it?

Yeah, we know. But you'll write cleaner reviews without it, and your readers will thank you for it. So try it sometime, maybe next Fringe. Examine it, own it, and then leave your baggage behind.

Cameryn Moore

Rosie Bitts

Cameryn Moore, Phone Whore

www.camerynmoore.com

Making the world a better place, seven minutes at a time

Dear Jenny,

Beach Monday

Kami Desilets & Rob Gee

Attention all performers, volunteers, patrons and staff!! A new tradition is being born! Last year on the Monday after fringe a few of the travelling performers, a few locals, and a few volunteers made it down to Grand Beach for a day of unwinding, and had a glorious time. Whilst sitting in the King's Head patio the other night Rob and Kami thought it would be quite fun to do it again and get the word out to some more people, so that every year our little party could grow and grow. So help spread the word people! And the word is:

**Beach Monday
EAST Grand Beach
All Day!**

We chose East Grand Beach as it is less populated, the sand is nicer, the buoys and sand bars are further out into the water, and it would be easier for fringe folk to find each other. There are concessions on the West

beach, which is a beautiful 1-hour walk (or a quick drive), and there is a roadside bathing suit shop on the way.

Grand Beach is about a one-hour 45-min drive north up the 59 highway and WELL worth it. There are also great burgers and ice cream in the beach town of Grand Marais for eats on the way home.

So, locals, bring some beach toys and sunscreen to share—and travelers, take one more day before you head to Saskatoon—for a fun day in the sun! The weather forecast looks to be a promising Manitoba sunshiny day.

And those of you who are going back to work or have already planned to leave Monday morning, book one more Winnipeg day next year.

Hope to see you out there!

Kami Desilets

