

The Lion, the Witch and the Wardrobe**flatlands theatre company—Alloway Hall***

The only thing surprising about this play was the suburb quality of the acting. If you are interested in revisiting Narnia or are a first-time visitor and want an exact retelling of C.S. Lewis' classic children's tale, this is it in spades. These two young thespians from Winkler, Manitoba, couldn't be more fresh-faced and just glowing with energy. They put this vigor to excellent use with precise and rehearsed perfection.

Just two actors play all the characters in a gem of a show, and don't need any help. Well done.

Lisa Campbell

*Manitoba Museum of Man & Nature

Tinfoil Dinosaur**Tinfoil Dinosaur Productions—Cinematheque**

Acting student Sam S. Mullins from Vernon..I mean Victoria, well actually Vancouver, has some issues. Well let's say some anxieties and yet he's trying to pursue a career in acting. Though he has some issues dealing with others, the stories he shares trying to audition for some pretty awful stuff was hilarious. Then there was the description of the theatre school. He was tortured through mis-castings and concluded he was just a bad actor. It wasn't until the standard backup job of an actor as a waiter at a busy restaurant was he actually to find his calling. That, he shares with you in a *Tinfoil Dinosaur*.

Kevin Campbell

The Return of the Revenge of the Son...**Puppy in Pants Productions—MTC Warehouse**

(Ed. note: The show's full title is: *The Return of the Revenge of the Son of the Bride of Macabre Tales of Horror and Macabreness II: Satan's Boogaloo*)

You will enjoy this show if you have not seen the first one in the Macabre Tales series, and if you like dark humour and horror comedy. The title is too long, though, guys. A simple Macabre Tales 2 would have sufficed. If you did see the first one, this is a sequel or 'shreik-quel' as they call it. Unfortunately, this is a sequel that does not live up to the first one.

This one dragged, and most of the sketches were boring. The jokes were not as funny. Satan was in true form, a bumbling drunk idiot. He didn't deliver quite as well as in the first one. There seemed to be less energy. I loved the first one. It was fresh and hilarious. But the sequel made me love Satan less. This time the writers just didn't make him likeable. All those jokes about MJ were tacky and tasteless, although the cast does the Thriller dance with ghoulish masks and that won me over again.



Erik de Waal remembers petty cruelties of apartheid.

This is a talented and funny cast, and they are good for shock value. In addition, they are well cast and really suit their parts. But I found many of the sketches heavy handed, long, and boring at times. There was a sketch that went nowhere until Satan got in the middle of it and stopped it. I didn't know whether to laugh at this or feel ripped off. The Scientist and Journalist sketch completely lost me. But they kept it alive with squeaking mice in the aisles to frighten the audience and some lines that were memorable.

This is a genre of humour best enjoyed at night when people are in the mood. It feels good to laugh and be scared at the same time. They accomplish this.

Go see it. But if you have seen the first one you might want to skip it. Not as laugh out loud funny. I heard muffled chuckles but not the guffaws of the first installment of this group's talent. They really lowered the bar on this one and Satan even said something about that in the beginning of the show. I am looking forward to seeing something better from them in the future because I know they can deliver.

Yvette Jones

Heartbeats**Anomia Productions—Playhouse Studio**

A one woman show about an old organic farmer, a CEO of a large and successful corporation and a young girl with a heart problem. All of these people

couldn't really come together, but in this play they do. The storylines of these three characters are laced when the CEO tries to take the down organic farmer, and brings him to court, taking money out of a heart transplant fund. The transitions between the three characters was extremely evident, especially considering the age difference it was quite amazing. And the show definitely kept my attention. A show to consider.

Arden Pruden

Every Story Ever Told**Ryan Gladstone—King's Head**

Ryan is back with *Every Story Ever Told*, and manages to accomplish that goal, with a timer!

Mr. Gladstone quotes bits from famous stories through the ages, with dabs of War & Peace, Tolkein, Lucas, Shakespeare, Wagner, Stallone... you name it. He touches base with them all in one way or another.

Gladstone relies on audience participation for story lines that get so convoluted you'll break a rib laughing. It might not actually be every story ever told, but it sure does come close. Go see this master of story telling!

Kevin Campbell

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