

I Hate Bill Pats**Bessie-Jean Productions—Cinematique**

Bill Pats is a smooth, relaxed storyteller, reminiscent of a TJ Dawe on Valium. He had the audience laughing right from the outset.

With great comedic timing, Bill relates the interesting tale of how he ended up stealing over 36 thousand dollars from his employer (apparently a true story).

This show was much more than I expected from the brief glimpse of his act at the Jenny Prevue. This show is a true gem. P.S. Don't take fire safety lessons from Bill.

*Lisa Campbell***The Horrible Friends: Addition by Subtraction****The Horrible Friends—RRC**

Two guys, two bats, and opportunity for abuse. These two have an improv rapport that belies their name, and despite a small opening night crowd, the laughs kept rolling in.

A thoroughly enjoyable way to spend an hour. A tip: when they ask for a volunteer, go for it.

*Heather Madil***Morning Coffee****Theatre 1974—Rachel Browne Theatre**

It was nice to finally see more than one person on the stage after nine one-person shows. There are always a lot of relationship break-up plots at the Fringe, but this is one of the better ones.

The whole play takes place in a living room. as a five-year relationship ends. They both agree to split but bitterly disagree as to who gets custody of the apartment. I thought the pace could be a bit faster in spots, the beginning in particular.

David is quite the jerk. They bring to mind Basil Fawly and Sybil with the vicious barbs behind each other's backs. Katie had all my sympathies for a while, but then—boom!—she loses it. And then, the war is on with her starting with the invisibility of his penis. No subject is off limits—nose picking, sex, money, clothes, and on and on. The dialogue is really witty and time flew. Well done.

*Lisa Campbell***Fishbowl****Mark Shyzer—Playhouse Studio**

Loved it. Mark is bitingly funny, so comfortable on stage; and it takes him just a second to change into another of his perfectly portrayed characters. I particularly loved the teenage schoolgirl.

A rewarding way to spend an hour. The word is spreading, so get there soon.

*Lisa Campbell***Against the Wall****Prairie Q Productions—Son of Warehouse**

Last evening I attended *Against the Wall*, a new Fringe show by a new company, Prairie Q. A friend had recommended this production and I was uncertain what to expect, but having been a Fringe viewer for many years, I gave it a chance.

The characters were profound; the comic relief was a sharp and welcome contrast to the intense dramatic scenes. The use of the mime boxes, with the impactful quotes, provided a perfect segue between the scenes of past and present. At times, I felt tears in my eyes, but then laughed at the break in tension.

Adam Jennings brought the perfect element of believability and emotion as the lead character, Ash. I was unexpectedly moved and wonderfully involved, along with the rest of the audience.

I am a Fringe-goer of many years and am always open to new productions. This creation not only moved me but made me rethink those hidden fringe gems. Thank you.

*Angeline Dudek***The Holy Land Experience****Martin Dockery—U of W**

I had the privilege of listening to Martin Dockery recite part of this show when it was still a work in progress two years ago at a beach outside of Winnipeg. I knew that if this evolved into a full-fledged Fringe show I would HAVE to see it.

Well here it is, I've seen it and it's a knockout performance. Dockery is a master storyteller. Despite the large number of one-person Fringe shows, there are relatively few truly gifted storytellers and this guy is the real deal! I've seen a few of his previous shows and this may be his best ever.

Dockery's varied expressions, changes of voice and volume, and wild hand movements serve to further highlight his story and make you believe you are there with him.

The story cleverly compares and contrasts a visit to an Orlando theme park with a trip to Jerusalem, with a number of intriguing side plots thrown in for good measure. If you are paying attention, you'll see how Dockery ties a number of these stories/tales/lessons together in some subtle and satisfying ways. Don't miss this one!!

G. Walker

Mr. Dockery is back with a tale from the Holy land, be it Orlando or the actual birthplace of the Messiah in Israel.

In it, Martin just can't help but be truthful as he shares with us—and a Canadian border guard—his story of his tourist adventures in both love and faith.

His explanation of his relationships with both his

internal self and with others is delivered kinetically in a wild ballet of hand motions and gestures!

In the end, he does find the right girl in the right country. And we actually find out the meaning of faith right on the spot!

Go see this wildly entertaining wordsmith and he will take you away to the heavens, As in business, truth in advertising can pay off sometimes.

*Kevin Campbell***The Complete History of the Mustache****Puppy Ranch—Crocus Bldg (Bannatyne)**

The highlight of Kristian Reimer's production was the hilarious PowerPoint presentation of famous moustaches throughout history including Louis Riel and the figure on the Pringles can.

He goes on to tell us the story of his childhood dream of owning a 'stache and how he goes about it. Christian is a charming and engaging storyteller.

For me, his story was not that riveting and the funniest part was in the video at the beginning.

I saw him opening night, breathless after arriving late from Toronto, and he may well improve the second half. This is for someone not looking for anything heavy.

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