

## The Last Time

### Old Boy Productions—Playhouse Studio

I have to say, in the beginning, I had no idea what was happening. The scenes could have been flashbacks at some point, but they didn't have the feel that flashbacks would have. And considering events, it was very unlikely they were. About halfway through however, things cleared right up and the story blossomed and became a lot easier to follow.

Overall an interesting show, with some excellent drunk acting to boot. Aside from the confusion in the beginning, this was a good show put on by some very talented actors. And they certainly weren't kidding about the language warning.

Arden Pruden

## Mamasita Can't Do It All

### Sinful Hags—Planetarium

The title *Mamasita Can't Do It All* best describes this performance by Raire Hoken and how she really can't do it all in this one-woman play.

She labors through the performance at times, leaving the stage bare for...well...minutes! Timing always develops during any given run, however, this one needs less back 'n' forth on stage. Nonetheless, this description of a "hag's world" was a little amusing, but nothing really as poignant as I was expecting.

Kevin Campbell

## The First Canadian President of the United States

### Ashke Theatre—Planetarium

This is a Jem Rolls penned play about a future female politician, Kimberly White-White, played wonderfully and strangely by Priscilla Yakielashek.

This fictitious political romp makes fun of many acts in the politicking circus. This honorary speech which she shares with us, is controlled by Roger, the mind controller of President White, and forces her to tell the truth about her meteoric rise to power including exposing some truths about the men in her life!

Kevin Campbell

## Barkers's Battle

### Small Heroes Theatre—Warehouse

This is the story of William George Barker, a WW I flying ace from Dauphin, Manitoba. The large ensemble cast is put through their paces as they describe the story of Barker as he leaves the family farm to join the forces in 1916.

He is invigorated by the opportunity to join the world of aviation, flying the famous Sopwith Camels.

Along the way, we see the camaraderie that developed at the bases and during the air battles and how Barker summons the courage needed for such heroic deeds. Despite total disregard from his superiors, he impresses others in power with

his valour and his prowess in air battles.

When his luck finally runs out, and he's gravely wounded, the story turns to another chapter in his life

During his long and painful recovery, he hooks up with the other famous Canadian ace, Billy Bishop, and the two try many times to go into business based on their past glories.

Drink and family pull him apart and put him together again, with him finally sobering up in time to meet his Maker.

One note: this production did run an extra 15 minutes, leaving me running to the next one.

Kevin Campbell

## '33, a kabarett

### Big Empty Barn Productions—Crocus Bldg (Bannatyne)

Bremner Duthrie has developed a large and loyal following at the Winnipeg Fringe. We loved *Whiskey Bars* last year. This year's performance might top it.

The play opens with an obviously traumatized man's voice pleading as his mind unravels. The bare stage shows what must have been a nightclub—a kabarett, with a ladies' high-heeled shoe, overturned furniture, etc. The place was obviously abandoned in a hurry.

We learn that Bremner was the MC, the person whose job it was to poke fun at the powers-that-be and the audience. He relates his tale, interspersed with songs, some perfectly suited to the times, and some not. Each beautifully rendered song gives even deeper meaning to the trauma experienced in the nightclubs of Berlin as Herman Goering ordered them raided and closed.

Our MC, bleeding and bewildered by the insanity around him, has witnessed pure horror. Each of his friends and co-workers were dragged away, one by one, only to be tortured, or worse, by the Nazis.

Come witness the last night of his career and reward yourself and your senses. I actually heard sighs of satisfaction from the audience during some of the more powerful moments.

Lisa Campbell

## LITTLE LADY

### little lady—MTC Mainstage

She tells a story through facial expression and mime, except for a few careful sounds. No words are exchanged with the audience but her message is nonetheless conveyed.

The girl is never far away from a perception of her changing body image. How do you blow away these negative self-perceptions and societal expectations? A wonderful portrayal of being comfortable with being you.

Frank Martin



SEPTEMBER 15-22

ASPER CENTRE FOR THEATRE AND FILM (AT U OF W)  
WWW.FEMFEST.CA

*Bitter Pill Ensemble*  
**Tucker**  
**Mother Lode**  
by Dave Colvin

Thu July 19, 12:00 PM

Fri July 20, 3:45 PM

Sat July 21, 9:15 PM

Mon July 23, 10:45 PM

Tue July 24, 1:45 PM

Wed July 25, 7:00 PM

Fri July 27, 5:30 PM

Sat July 28, 10:45 PM

Tickets: \$10

\$7 for Matinees

Warnings: Language

**Venue #4**

Alloway Hall (Manitoba Museum)  
190 Rupert Ave.