

Fubuki Daiko: Godzilla vs. Led Zeppelin

Fubuki Daiko—WAG

Do you hear what I hear? The throb of the Japanese drums. Mighty thumping, choreography, a little bit of rap, and a dollop of humour.

All ages will enjoy. I SAID, ALL AGES! Just don't sit too close.

Ron Robinson

The Progressive Polygamists: The Sweetest...

PKF Productions—PTE Mainstage

This charming and humorous production, from Vancouver's PKF Productions, was researched, written, and acted by Emmelia Wheelia and Pippa MacKie. They portray two Mormon sister-wives or "sisters with the same mister", living in a mythical town named Plentyful.

Just after singing an a capella welcome, and asking an audience member to come forward to say a prayer, they state that their purpose is to be defenders of polygamy and will present the facts about it.

They first recap the history of the Mormon Church, and then present their female experiences of polygamy. This is not a play per se, as the two players, dressed in simple white dresses and black tights, speak directly to the audience at all times. Much of the time, they finish each other's sentences in rapid succession; at other times, they speak or sing in unison, as if being of one mind. Here and there, however, they slightly disagree with one another and so differentiate themselves, such as when they discuss what kinds of sex acts are acceptable.

There were many moments of audience participation, including one where a man was brought up as a stand-in for their husband, who eventually had to help swing a skipping rope in a competition to determine which wife he would be with for the next sleep.

The tone of this production was upbeat throughout; dark undertones of the polygamist mentality were only glancingly alluded to, such as when the women mention, in passing, their husband's extremely advanced age, or when they hint at the intolerance in their community by listing all the types of people who would not be accepted into it.

The naïve perspectives of the characters is just one source of laughter in this show. Wheelia and MacKie portrayed these two Mormon women so

well that it almost felt like they were not acting, but providing public education for their cause.

Konrad Antony

Almost an Evening

Naughty Sailboat—Warehouse

This Ethan Coen-penned evening of skits was accompanied by music from the soundtracks of Coen brothers movies "Oh Brother Where Art Thou?", "The Big Lebowski", and "Raising Arizona".

I knew I was in for almost(?) an evening with an absolutely demented Coen state of mind.

The Media backdrop was well used, as this very talented troop went through seven hilarious, dark, thought-provoking, inter-connecting skits.

Film, cartoons, debates, and darn right blasphemous behaviour help make this definitely the best ensemble group show on the circuit.

Go see this Coen brothers inspired production and you'll leave whistling their tunes!!

Kevin Campbell

Lulu: A Monster Tragedy

little ECHO theatre—Absurd Machine Studio

This is another 100+ year old play from the same company that performed a couple of the Grand Guignol shows a few years ago. I enjoyed the story and it must have been very shocking when it first came out, as it has many sexual overtones.

The story revolves around the tragic relationships of Lulu, usually more tragic for her current beau. Charline Van Buekenhout is perfectly suited for the lead role of the alluring Lulu. The rest of the cast is excellent as well.

The only real negative was the venue was quite hot and the acoustics were not that great, so sometimes it was hard to make out the dialog.

Murray Hunter

Leave the Radio On

Ten Thousand Wolves—MTYP Mainstage

I saw Ten Thousand Wolves during the 25-hour Fringe. They consist of Barbara Adler on accordion, Gavin Youngash on electric guitar and a drummer, whose name my sleep deprived brain has unfortunately forgotten.

This is not your typical Fringe show, as it is formatted as a live podcast. They choose a different theme for each show. The one I saw was "Accordion vs. Guitar Deathmatch".

They played a number of songs that featured

each instrument and scored the outcome. They then do an interview segment and end on a pair of songs written by each of Barbara and Gavin from a song idea provided by an earlier audience. In this case the songs were about "cats in space".

The overnight crowd seemed to enjoy it as much as I did, and I will be checking out another of their performances.

Murray Hunter

MY THREE MOMS

Virginia Bryan—Alloway Hall

The multiple characters in this show seemed like they would be a challenge for the actress, though she differentiated the individual characters' physicalities very well, and it was extremely simple to tell when she changed characters.

However, sitting through a re-enactment of three funerals did not make a very interesting show. The stories were very dear to her heart, and I could see her tearing up on occasion, seemingly from the personal nature of the stories, but in the end it just wasn't entertaining.

Arden Pruden

Jenny's of the World, Unite!



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