

Bookworm**Big Sandwich Productions—Planetarium**

Is it possible for a spiritual doppelganger to be 30 years younger? Corin Raymond is the Johnny Appleseed of reading, and his lifelong connection with Ray Bradbury's "Something Wicked This Way Comes" mirrors my own.

Now you don't have to be a soul brother to delight in his relaxed storytelling of a reader's life (although it helps). His biography includes his father's labyrinthine library of a home, his dad's recounting of the Greek myths on long car drives, the delight of being read to (and that's true of all ages) and the fracture that the introduction of comic books into the house produced. Spider-Man, synchronicity, and a treasure chest of reading possibilities are shared. The guru of Fringe Theatre, TJ Dawe, gets some credit for the genesis of this show and the result is a "revelation."

Ron Robinson

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

Pats tells the true story around the events leading up to his suicide attempt.

The show goes from dark to hilarious several times. I felt his pain and then laughed out loud at each segment. The pacing and changing of mood was perfect.

This should be a sleeper hit and one I highly recommend.

John David Gordon

Huff**Dependent Theatre Productions—MTYP Mainstage**

It would be impossible to exaggerate how good a show *Huff* is. Cliff Cardinal is endearing and compelling, playing many deeply flawed characters with compassion and dignity, and the script, also by Cardinal, is captivating from start to finish.

The direction by Karin Randoja, a founding member of Primus Theatre, is full of some of the Primus qualities I remember—the intensely focused physical work, the sharply drawn characterizations, and attention to vocal and visual detail. But if you thought some of Primus's work was abstract, expect more from this play.

Cliff Cardinal uses everything in the Primus arsenal to snap, writhe, and morph from one

character into another, sometimes playing five characters in a single scene. The story is fast-paced and crystal clear, each character expertly drawn, and Cardinal is so generous with his story that we never feel he's showing off—one is drawn completely into the poignant, tragic life of the main character, Wind, that we see unraveling before us.

The beautiful video and set design by Elizabeth Kantor mixes smoothly into Cardinal's performance, to bring us into Wind's trickster-haunted world.

Five hours after seeing the play, I still feel emotionally reborn. To say I was moved to tears would fall short of capturing the full experience of this play. It evokes laughter and love for the characters, as well as sorrow. It's devastating, yet life-affirming, entertaining, amusing, and even hilarious at times.

This is a top-notch show that could easily hold its own on any professional stage of any size (and will!). Fringers shouldn't pass up the chance to see it now.

Kent Suss

Vernus Says SURPRISE**Fringetastic!—Planetarium**

The tale of this old gent bouncing from one distraction to the next beckoned to me several times. I knew I was in something special.

I was swept into the magic of mime, brilliantly performed by Ken Godmere, as his elderly character, Vermus bumbles his way through the day, jousting with modern technology, bank machines, and retail dilemmas, all for a birthday gift for his granddaughter.

There was a wonderful background soundtrack

of voice, sound effects, and delightful musical themes that accompanied his follies. There is always one play that just stirs you during a given Fringe run, and surprise! This is the one for me!

Kevin Campbell

We've found it!! Of the 23 plays I've seen so far, this is far and above the best.

I slipped in as it fit a time slot I had open, and I'm still celebrating! I'd like to see it again and I NEVER do that. The play has you right from the start of the wonderful "soundtrack" as they call the musical background.

Ken Godmere wrote and performed this diamond. He plays an 89-year-old man so realistically that some seniors have been brought to tears.

Ken has been blown away by the appreciation Winnieegers have been showering upon him. He brings a voice to Vernus, a man who never gets heard. His confusion with technology—answering machines—ATMs, computers is side splitting.

As a grandparent, my heart just puddled watching him struggle to get the perfect gift for his beloved granddaughter's birthday.

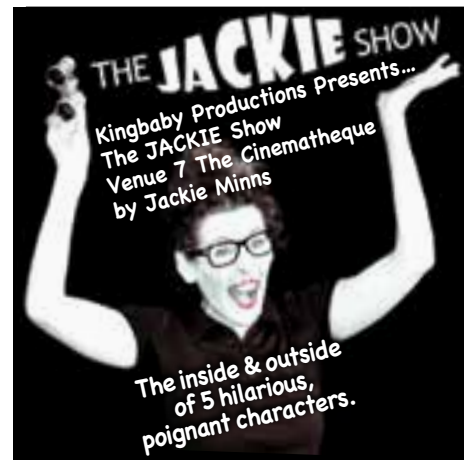
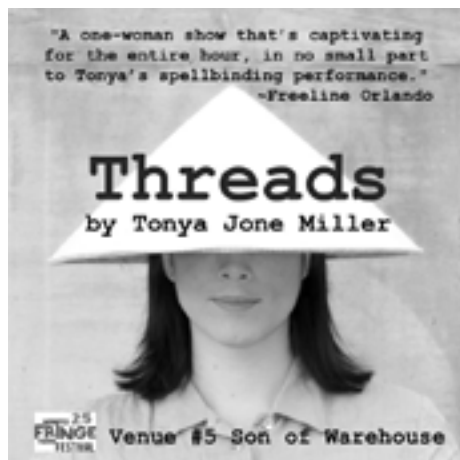
If you only see one play this Fringe, make it this one; and bring your parents and your grandparents and share a real bonding theatrical experience.

Lisa Campbell

LITTLE LADY**little lady—MTC Mainstage**

If this Artist had only her feet to work with, she would still be one of the most articulate, creative, expressive performers in the Fringe. 'Gelsomina' would be proud.

L. Coutu

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