



Bird (Jeff Schissler) and Flower (Dale Miller) in The Giant's Garden. Photo by Lindsay Anne Black.

The inter-species friendship between Bird and Flower in *The Giant's Garden*

Nintety minute-long family musicals are not usually popular fare among the Fringe masses, but *The Giant's Garden* had a *Toy Story*-like appeal to both younger and older audiences. The story, based on an Oscar Wilde fairy tale, and the cast were both uniformly charming, but the odd couple of Bird (Jeff Schissler) and Flower (Dale Miller) was particularly heartwarming. Their friendship was the stuff of legend—Bird being the persistently upbeat go-getter, Flower the endearingly vain and sassy counterpart. Their banter may have appeared superficial at first in the utopia of the Giant's garden, but thrown out in the face of perpetual winter, they proved to have each others' backs (wings? stems?) despite being from completely different worlds. Should they fly south? Should they find warmth and take root? Should they split up? In the end, we wished we had a friendship that no external forces could tear apart, be it a spiteful Winter or flora/fauna conflicts. And one we could celebrate with a catchy tune to boot. (*Carly Maga*)