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The More the Merrier (TmTm) Arts Radio

Wednesday, 13 July, 2011

Finally...Fringe Reviews



So, I've finally had the chance to see a couple of the plays mentioned during my 5-Minute Fringe show on July 2nd and here are my thoughts and ratings:

Finally An Epic Cycle

Rating: **** 4/5 Stars

You've heard the phrase, "Keep it simple, stupid." Thank you, **Finally** for sticking to a simple story that is well told and well acted. Everyone shines in this ensemble because they are all equally talented. Convincingly playing Gen, the confounded ex-girlfriend who is trying to win her ex-boyfriend (Michael Rode) back with Leaf tickets is the fresh and lovable Sarah Cody. Gen's sardonic, comic-book nerd roommate, Will, is charmingly played by Luke Marty. There are scene stealing characters like the robot jock girl (Cassie Muise), and a Quebecois bounty hunter/bike messenger (Je t'adore, Derek Perks), but considering that

these cast members also play other roles with the same competence demonstrates that good casting and acting is not anathema to the Fringe. Good on ya, guys! You won't be disappointed by this play.

Helen Gardiner Phelan Playhouse

60 min.

Fri, July 15 5:15 PM 855

Sat, July 16 1:45 PM 860

The Billy Willy Show

Rating:**** 4/5 Stars

Where were you? I was really disappointed by the small audience for this late afternoon show, but was highly entertained by this excellent character comedy. I know the late shows have been selling well, so hopefully the remaining shows will have even bigger audiences. Gay content galore, country music in small snippets, and a delivery by West Virginian native, Billy Willy, that's drier than a Mormon bar. Hello, sister Fruit Flies, PFlag members and small town queens! Get your honey buns down to the Solo Room and have a knee-slapping good time. Think of it as a cruising while you Fringe;-)

The Solo Room (at the Randolph Academy)

45 min.

Fri, July 15 10:30 PM 539

Sat, July 16 8:00 PM 543

The Giant's Garden

Rating:**** 4/5 Stars

I've seen some dreadful 90-minute shows at the Fringe, but let me tell you this isn't one of them. Bird is a delight, and Flower is a scream in this delightful family musical. Alas, there weren't enough kiddies (lots of grown folks, though) in the audience when

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BLOG PALS

Film Market Access

The Most Anticipated Films For Venice, Telluride & Toronto - The Oscar launching pads start at the Venice Film Festival (August 31-September 10), followed by Telluride over Labor Day weekend, and then finally the Tor...

3 weeks ago

Hye's Musings

Twitter Has Limits...Who Knew? I Didn't! - Okay, so the other day I noticed a fellow tweep friend of mine mentioned he'd reached his daily limit. I said, "WT__? How can it be that there limits in an a..."

1 week ago

I attended, but maybe the word will spread that this play, although not part of Fringe Kids, has kid appeal. As for the adult content, there's plenty, especially lines sprouted so gaily and Diva-liciously by Flower, and sung so vampishly by Winter ("I don't cook!)", a woman waging a war of vengeful icicles against her sister, Summer, the Giant, and the children who love the garden. I've become sick and tired of body mics being used for everything, and really appreciate the cast using their natural voices rather than Auto-Tune, but not everyone is able to project well at all times. The strong singers stand out, calling attention to the lack of chops by others, but this is a minor point, and one that has probably been corrected now that the show has had a few runs.

George Ignatieff Theatre

90 min.
 Fri, July 15 8:45 PM 657
 Sat, July 16 4:00 PM 661

The Soaps

Rating:*** 3/5 Stars

Hmm...I was expecting more. It's not that this improvised soap opera is not entertaining, it's just that with the caliber of actors in the ensemble, I expected stronger characterizations. I know the story changes with every performance, as the story progresses, so maybe I saw a week night. Stand outs for me were actors, Lisa Merchant, Paul Bates, and Jim Annan, all of whom knew how to carry each improve suggestion (from the wonderful, Matt Baram) without missing a beat. Surprisingly disappointing was Robin Duke (SNL) whose scenes were cut short because of lack of delivery. I was at a loss to explain her performance.

Bathurst Street Theatre

60 min.
 Fri, July 15 7:30 PM 356
 Sat, July 16 4:00 PM 361
 Sun, July 17 Noon 366

For all things Fringe, please visit: www.fringetoronto.com or call **416-966-1062** or **1-866-515-7799** for ticket information

Posted by donna g 0 comments  Links to this post

0

Reactions:

Saturday, 2 July, 2011

Are They Trying to Seduce You?

Hey, TmTm listeners. Here is a list of the titles, show times of the 9 Fringe companies that dropped by CIUT's second floor studio to convince you to go see their shows.

Who succeeded, who didn't get you to fall for their sweet words? Only their box office takes will know for sure: -) All tickets are an affordable \$10. For complete information on How to Fringe, please visit the Toronto Fringe Theatre Festival website at <http://fringetoronto.com/index.htm>



Excuse Me, Would You Like to Buy a Bar? by Wesley J. Colford
 Web: <http://www.theatreadmin.com/FRINGE/ExcuseMe.html>
 Trailer: <http://www.youtube.com/watch?v=1JYAIFUKI2U>
 (search our title on Facebook)
 presented by Don't Panic Productions from Toronto, ON
 Director: Marc Richard
 Genre: Comedy, Drama

Outside of time, six people are trapped in an absurd cycle of broken dreams and regret. Their only hope: one boy on a mission to sell the most chocolate bars and be the best. A play that challenges the intentions and methods of teachers

Mark Leslie's Blog



HNT - Warrior Dash Barrie 2011 Postmortem - I completed my first Warrior Dash this past weekend with two of my buddies. It took place near Barrie at the Horseshoe Resort on July 9, 2011. Chad, Pierre...
 1 day ago

Movie Moxie

Film Fan Fridays for Friday July 15, 2011 - Hello Film Fans and Fanatics! Welcome to Film Fan Fridays for Friday July 15, 2011 aka Harry Potter Finale Day! I can't believe it, it's finally happened. ...
 4 hours ago

Popcorn and Sticky Floors



from embryo to woman in 4 1/2 weeks -
 5 days ago

TAP: Turn Around Projects of the Arts



Summer 2010 - *Jamaica 2010 * The violent outbreak on May 22, 2010 which shook the country of Jamaica, forced the TAP Executive to spend a considerable amount of time ...
 9 months ago

THE JUXTAPOSITION APE

Why are we still using Rockets? - by Khama Murray Tragically we are still using rockets to go into space. It was my hope that within my lifetime that I would be around to see the creation ...
 6 days ago

[Mperience](#)



[Toronto Comic Con 2011](#)

and parents, students and children, lovers of all creeds, and above all, the human artist. It's better than Llama Cats.

Winner of the Tarragon Theatre 2010 Under 20 Playwriting Competition. Presented in partnership with the Paprika Festival.

Venue 5 The Solo Room (at the Randolph Academy)

60 min.

Wed, July 6 8:15 PM 502
 Sat, July 9 8:30 PM 514
 Mon, July 11 7:30 PM 522
 Tue, July 12 6:45 PM 525
 Thu, July 14 9:45 PM 535
 Fri, July 15 5:15 PM 536
 Sun, July 17 5:45 PM 547



Finally: An Epic Cycle

by Sarah Cody
 presented by Phone It In Productions from Toronto, ON
<http://www.phoneitinproductions.com/>
 Director: Joanne Williams
 Genre: Comedy
 Warning: Mature Language

It was only a matter of time. It took nearly half a century, but finally the unthinkable has happened: The Leafs made it to the finals. Gen has a problem: she's misplaced her tickets... Just hours before the game. Stories collide in this quirky comedy that explores the world of bike messengers, relationships and underdog hockey franchises.

Venue 8 Helen Gardiner Phelan Playhouse

60 min.

Fri, July 8 1:15 PM 807
 Sat, July 9 9:15 PM 818
 Mon, July 11 10:45 PM 831
 Tue, July 12 4:45 PM 834
 Thu, July 14 9:30 PM 850
 Fri, July 15 5:15 PM 855
 Sat, July 16 1:45 PM 860



The Giant's Garden

by Peter Fenton & Scott White
 (www.thegiantsgarden.com)
 presented by The Giant Collective from Toronto, ON
 Director: Scott White
 Choreographer: Laura Caswell
 Cast: Paula Wolfson, Mark Terene, Michael MacLennan, Dale Miller, Jody Osmond, Laura Caswell, Lucas Meeuse, Tara Lisowski
 Genre:

Family, Musical

From the composer who brought you the Fringe hit Top Gun! The Musical, comes a new show of epic proportions. Travel into The Deep Dark Forest and experience a tale of bravery, friendship and the power of love. Featuring a cast of 13 colourful characters, and a score filled with unforgettable songs, The Giant's Garden will enchant children and adults alike.

Venue 6 George Ignatieff Theatre

90 min.

Wed, July 6 10:30 PM 603
 Sat, July 9 5:15 PM 616
 Mon, July 11 8:00 PM 630
 Tue, July 12 3:00 PM 633
 Thu, July 14 Noon 645



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