Page 8 — Gateway

Fantastic Fringe Finishes Fabulo



The Fringe hit the street this year, with a bang.

reviews by Suzette C. Chan and Gilbert Bouchard

Gimme That Prime Time Religion (Nexus Theatre): Preaching to the converted: liberals telling fellow liberals about the evils of right wing showbiz evangelism. The jokes were funny but the play was pointless. Attempts to show how someone can be attracted to TV evangelism were unconvincing despite superior performances by Murray McCune and Audrey Webb. Prime Time Religion is scheduled for the upcoming Nexus Theatre season. Hopefully the show will have become more substantial.

Penumbra (Penumbra Theatre) This Edmonton company lived up to its billing of presenting "an exciting evening of corporeal theatre." Mime and dance combined to comment on inter-personal relationships or the lack thereof. Crowd favorite: the amusing (and dangerous) stilt scenes.

The Citizeri's Tango (Nebulous Rebels): Calgary's David Cassel was inexhaustable in this hour-long performance piece dealing with fear and loathing in the big city. There were few fresh insights, but Cassel's highly visual interpretation of dehumanization and alienation were intriguing nonetheless. From the Memoirs of Johnny Daze (Toy Gun Productions): Ava Rave (Ava Rave), an emerald green-haired caricature of a human being, is addicted to art. Luli Zinc (Shirley Sutton Jones), a contemptuous, shallow performance artist, is the only thing or person who can satisfy Ava's need for a daily fix of art — that is until Ava starts demanding too much. Johnny Daze (the play's author John Beckett Wimbs.) all icing, no cake a kept boy living on welfare till he can find a sugar mama, is Ava's best friend, and can only watch helplessly as Ava succumbs to her obsession. From the Memoirs of Johnny

Daze, chronicling a vicious circle of exploitation and possession, played out on a set with golden garbage cans and broken baby dolls, is a wonderful satire of everything from bad movies to instant art to trendies. The winner of technical and originality awards at the Quebec Drama Festival, it could have won the same in Edmonton if (God forbid) the Fringe gave itself awards. Here's hoping Toy Gun Productions returns next year with such a brilliant flash.

GB & SCC

The Metamorphosis (The Acting Gypsies): Irreverent adaptation of Franz Kafka's novella. Gregor Samsa is reincarnated not as a giant insect, but as a homosexual couple handcuffed to each other. The laughs are fast and furious, but with a wee bit of character development, it would have been a perfect lampoon. A shame the Acting Gypsies don't plan to mount *The Metamorphosis* again. SCC

P.S. Your Cat is Dead (P.S. Productions): A pointless, badly scripted, insensitive "comedy" about a loser who goes bonkers and ties up a gay cat burgler in the kitchen. Don't ask how the loser discovers the burgler is gay or why it should be important. Every situation in *P.S. You Cat is Dead* arises as unnaturally as the Swamp Thing as excuses to launch rafts of bad jokes. Adds a whole new meaning to the word homophobic.

GB & SCC

Sometimes She Lets Her Colours Out (Mary Jo Fulmer); Calgary dancer Mary Jo Fulmer spent six months in Japan and borrowed Japanese themes and aesthetics in this uneven presentation of dance and poetry. Some pieces were very strong, others seemed flat or superficial. Ten-year-old Jocelyn Thierrian and 13-year-old Megan Kinny stole the show with exuberant performances

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A juggler entertained an evening crowd at the street dance.



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NOVEMBER 1 MIGHEL LEMIEUX Montreal's HOTTEST NEW MUSICIAN

Free Food and Beer; The Comedy Com

mission: Two Edmonton comedy troupes of the SCTV persuasion. Free Food and Beer would have benefitted with better pacing. The first half of the young company's set was bubbly, but the second half was flat. Skits ranged from the hilarious Michael Swell Meets the Dull Family to the unfunny Foreign Fiilm Festival. The Comedy Commission is a professional quartet of warped souls. Their visions of Jim Keegstra discovering that God is Yiddish and of Friendly Giant's Jerome the Giraffe as a minor political philosopher had the audience in tears. There were only a couple of boring skits that could have easily been chopped from the program.

SCC

SCC

Issues in the Loo (Loo Enterprises): Disappointing series of vignettes probable inended to lampoon aspects of modern life. Biggest problems: lack of funny jokes or situations, no sense of timing.

Red Sands and Strange Remembrances did not belong at The Fringe. It is nothing more than a badly-typed collection of horrible prose poetry. The Fringe is a *theatre* festival,

Fringe. The surprise o apart from a few bor most were well worth t **Two Elizabeths**, for exa musical featuring the r two teenagers, both na in 1961, and the other ii ines the solution of so love and relationships decades.

and theatre is suppos

characters, dialogue,

action. Red Sands is ju guy in a bathrobe star

sparse set and recite

of-consciousness. L'il Abner (E.L.O.P.E. bad Broadway script and

trained cast, coupled v tions, make for one m **Buried Child**,(Gonze

on the other hand, is a

play that was matched

cast in a tight theatr

Fringe verage descri thriller, d the pro

production was so goo it was almost a self-ind

by Robert Clinton. Mi

1983 Alberta One-Act I

tion, is a witty, well-wri

wanderers. A fine, ente

of life that really de

There was no shorta

duction.

Another prize-winn

Another enjoyable a Hard Place, a satirica and all is masks. A slashes through many hood, from stripper, to

hood, from stripper, to My favourite musica period) had to be **Din** la Quindicina) **Wine** excellentplays by Stew sharp and dry, like a v be hearing more about future, I'm sure.

Most plays at the Fi Some were for what Take, for example, I Productions) a moderr chological drama. Per capture the flair and t than English without script's direct appeal. I last days of Christophe exile and his (possible kespeare's plays. A bit enjoyable

Other plays that we men Behind Bars (a goo too long). Present Ten deeper than your aver Man Who Called Him Lee meet Philosophy (OK, 1 guess, but 1 1 Theatresports (Theatre name).



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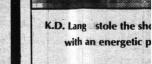
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