

# ThreeWeeks IN EDINBURGH

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## CABARET

### Circus Burlesque

Lola LaBelle's House Of Burlesque

Our host for the evening is the phenomenally talented Tempest Rose who almost steals the show with her own quick wit, sublime stage presence and snap, cackle and jazz singing voice. It is she who introduces the hooting and hollering audience to a tour (de force) of the seven deadly sins, each one represented by a different luscious lady and all are as sinfully enrapturing as the next. The finale by Lola LaBelle is absolutely spellbinding and leaves the audience transfixed, jaws dropped and going straight to hell. Add comedy and contortionists into the mix and this is burlesque as it should be; bold, bawdy and absolutely beautiful, an hour just isn't enough for this festival knockout, a must see.

Assembly @ George Street, 5 - 30 Aug (not 23), 9.20pm (10.20pm), £12.00 - £15.00, fpp 45. [tc] tw rating 5/5

## CHILDREN'S SHOWS

### The Stag King

C Theatre

"Hello magic girl!" is how I am greeted as I enter the venue, received by a crowd of bouncy and excitable Magicians, who proceed to narrate an energetically performed tale. A young Prince presented with a magical gift is nastily overthrown, and must strive to win back his kingdom, honour and, of course, his lady. Although it sounds like a stook fairytale, this enchanting tale is refreshingly performed, as bodies roll out of carpets, men turn into Stags and Magicians cough paper streamers. I left the venue with a beaming smile and an infectious good mood which lasted all afternoon. 'The Stag King' is everything a Fringe children's show should be: hilarity and happiness with pure, pure magic.

C, 4 - 30 Aug (not 16), 3.40pm (4.40pm), £5.50 - £9.50, fpp 20 [lvs]

tw rating: 5/5

## COMEDY

### Some Comedy (In A Horse)

PBH's Free Fringe (Gareth Morinan, Daniel Smith, Fred Forse)

This is a galloping, good and gratis evening with three bright young comedians. Gareth Morinan is an expertly awkward compère, mixing politics and whimsy in his drawings and stories such as 'Obama and the Llama'. The frenetic Fred Forse draws some startling parallels between 80's soft-core porn and the Bible, though his material on the Olympics is less strong. But it is Daniel Smith, more fringe than man, whose stand up stands out: from his opener about fourteenth-century philosophy to his languorous lists, Smith manages to be exciting despite exerting less energy than a coma patient. If you're expecting a



**SNAP OF THE DAY:** Fringe theatre legend Pip Utton guest edits this week's weekly edition of ThreeWeeks, pick up your copy now! Photo: Kate Edwards

genuine horse, you will be disappointed; if it's courageously clever complementary comedy you're after, this is the show for you.

The White Horse, 7 - 28 Aug, 7.45pm (8.45pm), free, fpp 124. [gg]

tw rating 4/5

### Domestic Goddi Wonderland

Avolon Promotions Ltd

When entering 'Wonderland', the flowery banner and tea-service furniture seems like the domain of a Cath Kidston enthusiast. The trio appear, armed with sketches aplenty, beginning an hour of well crafted and charmingly idiotic segments. Top picks include the depiction of a disappointed manual labourer and his gourmet disenchantment with pie 'n' mash, and the woman's answer to the 'Top Gear' challenge. Smiles and guffaws are widespread, but truly hearty laughter is sadly scarce. The set is pleasant, but mostly tame - like being told a joke by a grandparent, perhaps - and over-polished deliveries reduce the thrill of spontaneity. However, this doesn't tarnish the act, which remains a well conceived and well executed series of sketches.

Pleasance Courtyard, 4 - 30 Aug, 2.45pm (3.45pm), £7.00 - £9.50, fpp 56. [np]

tw rating 3/5

### Ronnie Golden 'First A Fender' - A Beginner's Guide To Rock

Ronnie Golden uses his first solo show to describe his most enduring love affair - with a guitar. This takes the form of an on-off

guitar lesson and potted history of rock and roll, illustrated with excerpts of songs from each period as well as a couple of his own. This isn't really stand-up as we'd recognise it; rather, it's a collection of his own rockstar anecdotes, from his first guitar to his days in the Fabulous Poodles, which are entertaining and occasionally funny, and the odd impression (including some impressive behind-the-head Hendrix picking). It's a different pace to the rest of the Festival, and perhaps appeals to a specific crowd, but it's no less engaging for this.

Fringe at Le Monde, 6 - 13 August, 1.45pm (2.45pm), £5.00, fpp 117. [tc]

tw rating 3/5

### The Incident Sam Simmons and David Quirk

Bafflingly brilliant, Sam Simmons and David Quirk manage to take you on the most ridiculous ride of your life. Watch as Dave meets (then molests) Sam for the first time in a shop that apparently stocks nothing but one well used cardboard cut-out of Sarah

Michelle Geller. Then sit back and enjoy the highs and lows of their blossoming bromance. The oddness of the show does take a little getting used to and some of the jokes fail to take flight as plot and continuity are forgotten, jumping from the rapid consumption of sun cream to the art of making miniature walnut men. If you have a penchant for the weird and wonderful, however, then this show is a must.

Assembly @ George Street, 5 - 29 Aug, 4.45pm (5.45pm), £9.00 - £12.00, fpp 71. [gm]

tw rating 3/5

### Dommett and Lampaert

CKP by Arrangement with Lisa Thomas Management presents

In a delightfully haphazard and chaotic show, Dommett and Lampaert proved themselves to be fine young comedians. Their humour is perfect for the (predominantly student) audience they play to and in the separate sets they perform each provide the goods. Joel Dommett's material centres on the horrifically pretentious (and horrifically bad) shows he has seen at the Festival - something the audience can relate to. Eric Lampaert's set is equally funny, discussing his cosmopolitan upbringing, with a theme of 'Where's Wally?' running throughout (see the show and all will become clear). The most enjoyable element to the evening is the interplay between the pair and their audience, leading to superb banter that was clearly improvised - the sign of a good comedian.

Underbelly, Cowgate, 5 - 29 Aug (not 17), 7.50pm (8.50pm), £8.00 - £10.00, fpp 56. [amb]

tw rating 4/5

### Adam And Phil - Contains Mild Peril

Adam and Phil/PBH's Free Fringe

As these two grown men entangle themselves in a heap on the floor, all you can think of are naughty schoolboys making only themselves laugh while adults look on with weary disapproval. Adam and Phil take it in turns to introduce one another's stand-up, with a bit of banter (seemingly their favourite word) in between. Goodness knows what goes on in Phil's head to inspire drawings of

cont>>

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