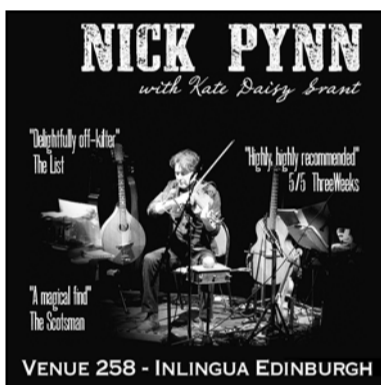
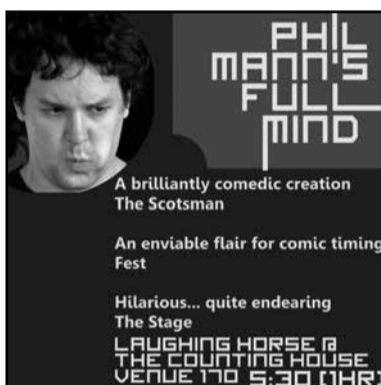


ThreeWeeks EDINBURGH



Cabaret

Lady Carol Must Die

Lady Carol/Assembly Rooms

A raw but sensuous voice pours from Lady Carol as she uses music and laughter to explore and share her own life experiences. She takes blues back to its empathic roots, as they pervade her touching and very human view of difficult family relationships. Emotion and song strengthen and deepen each other, whilst Lady Carol's delivery is sweet yet wry, only occasionally misjudging the delicate balance between comical tone and serious subject matter. As she describes her entry into the harsh world of performance, she begins to remove her glamorous accessories until she looks more like the little girl playing in the photo sideshow behind her. A powerful, personal and exposing show, which was an utter privilege to watch.

The Assembly Rooms, 2-26 Aug (not 13), times vary.

tw rating 4/5 | [Jessamine McHugh]

The Jewbadour

Daniel Cainer

Having performed 'The Jewish Chronicles' at various Fringes past, 'The Jewbadour' is Cainer's new exploration of his Jewish heritage through the medium of witty and cleverly crafted songs. Regaling us with tales of a drug-dealing rabbi, his grandparents' disgruntlement at Jewish heaven and a fifteen minute ode to his off-the-rails Aunt Naomi, Daniel Cainer offers a twist at every corner on this walk down memory lane. He is a talented musician adept at both piano and banjo, and the various styles of music reflect the tone of each story in this musical 'Who Do You Think You Are?'. The whole show oozes charm, and you'll spend a pleasant hour being lost in Cainer's family history. You might even pick up some Yiddish. Oy vey!

Mood Nightclub, 4-25 August, 4.15pm.
tw rating 3/5 | [Anna McDonald]

COMEDY

Men Of Character

Confused Moose/Free Festival

Strong performances from Matt Payton and Michael Blomquist were let down by the uneven script of this character-led sketch show. The admirable versatility displayed during the first few scenes, which saw both men flit quickly between several characters, was demonstrated less and less as the sketches become longer. Protracted speeches such as a diatribe from a school board candidate and characters like blind-dater Jack tarnished other brighter moments such the highly entertaining skit featuring erudite, plotting primary pupils, and indeed, with further development, a whole show could be made from the various wedding speeches. Although they seemed to enjoy their own material, these talented performers



SNAP OF THE DAY: Taking a rest from all the Fringe chaos? Not at all, it's the cast of 'Mies Julie', Yael Farber's new adaptation of Strindberg's classic 'Miss Julie' performing at Assembly Hall. Photo: Ting Guo

deserve more than the faint chuckles their characters raise.

Laughing Horse @ Jekyll & Hyde, 3-26 Aug, 3.05pm.

tw rating 2/5 | [Sarah Macartney]

Mitch Benn - Reduced Circumstances

Mitch Benn/The Stand Comedy Club

Many fringe-goers will be familiar with Mitch Benn's formula for stand up comedy, and plenty of performers will be combining music and comedy at this year's festival; few will be as likeable, talented and entertaining as Benn, however. The show title 'Reduced Circumstances' reflects his recent drop in weight (he's lost eleven stone in twelve months) as well as the country's recent financial losses. His songs are the highlight, a combination of funny, clever and catchy ('Bouncy Druids' in particular is sure to become a YouTube hit) though while his musical stylings stand out, his autobiographical routines are also not to be missed. He could be excused for coming over as preachy regarding his recent lifestyle change, but his 'reduced circumstances' are not reflected in his comic skills, and he keeps things fun. Well worth watching.

The Stand Comedy Club III & IV, August 4-26 (not 8, 13) 3.00pm.

tw rating 4/5 | [David O'Connor]

Nick Page: My Glorious Hypothetical Life As a Eunuch

Nick Page

Nick Page, of daytime TV fame, claims that testosterone scuppered his chances of success at the tender age of 13. His first ever Fringe show combines tales of 'Escape to the Country' with the humour of an uncomfortable best man's speech, as he mixes memories of his career as a BBC estate agent with stories of heavy drinking and divorce. Much of his observational comedy relies heavily on gender stereotypes and an arrogant persona, but despite the slightly hackneyed nature of the material, Page's set is technically well-crafted and the act is saved by an engaging passage on his clash with prison law, in which he exposes the intricacies and hypocrisies of the penal system with a series of witty, if smug, anecdotes.

The Shack Comedy Club and Nightclub, 3-25 Aug (not 13), 3.30pm.

tw rating 3/5 | [Eve Lacey]

No Pants Thursday: T'il Death Do Us Party

No Pants Thursday, so called because they have substituted their trousers for comedy [sic] underpants, provide an hour of funny and imaginative material. The sketches manage to keep the overall story in motion whilst also working very well as individual pieces, making for an engaging experience. Although the writing is strong, the performance does have the

vibe of a few sixth-formers messing about in the common room (cf. trouserlessness), so perhaps best avoided if you're easily irritated. If you have thicker skin or are simply a big fan of skinny legs and silly voices, then this is certainly worth taking the time to see, with a particular highlight being the parody of 1990s US sitcoms 'Take My Wife'.

Just The Tonic, 3-26 Aug (not 14), 9.00pm.
tw rating 4/5 | [Nicholas Jones]

Parris And Dowler Know What They're Doing

The show starts with a song repeating the lines "Paris and Dowler know what they're doing" to the same four notes, and this kind of demonstrates how the show will go: Paris and Dowler are an impressionist and a musical comedian respectively, with the show divided between them, and while the impressions are good, they do get rather tiresome because of a build up of repetition, plus the songs are hit and miss. The saving grace is when the two get together, because there's a good chemistry between them; they work well, bouncing off one another to produce a decent act. Overall it's a good performance, but one which would benefit from less repetition, and more interaction between the two acts.

Laughing Horse @ The Free Sisters, 4-26 Aug, 3.10pm.

tw rating 3/5 | [Miranda Cannibal]

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