

ThreeWeeks EDINBURGH



COMEDY

Do Not Adjust Your Stage

Do Not Adjust Your Stage / PBH's Free Fringe

TV-themed improvisation from a young, energetic troupe; this was pretty conventional stuff, but not without its impressive moments. After extracting themes for a soap, game show and documentary from the audience's suggestions, parts of these were then acted out in channel-hopping alternation, some with more success than others. It became clear that a couple of the performers had real talent as they embraced the inevitable mind-blanks and awkward exchanges of the genre and turned them into the most endearing and funny moments. Like all but the very best improvised sketch shows it did drag at times, but if you want to see some improv while at the Fringe (which I recommend you do), you could do a lot worse than this. Why not?, 4-25 Aug (not 14, 21), 4.15pm. tw rating 3/5 | [Rachel Aroesti]

Fat Kitten Goes Speed Dating

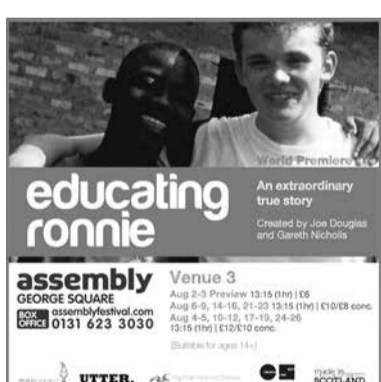
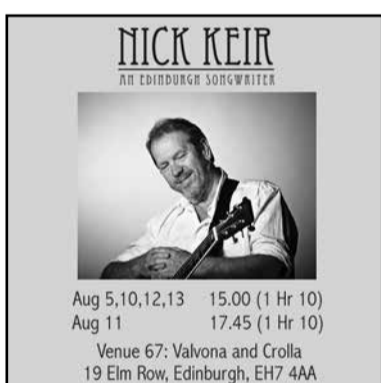
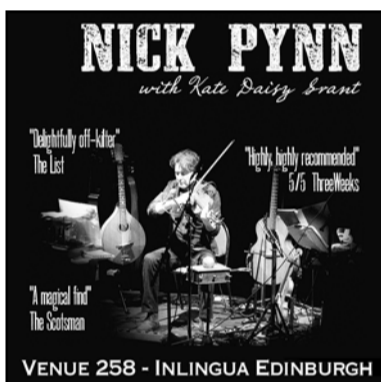
Fat Kitten Improv / PBH's Free Fringe

Who knew speed dating could be this hilarious? The element of surprise with Fat Kitten's speed dating game brings about delicious possibilities as they leave fate in the audience's hands and a deck of cards. Be captivated by the intelligent and witty group's sheer talent as they confidently jump to portray any character. Based mainly on impressions and sharp wit, the humour in this show is mostly vocally-centred humour which leaves the show on a rather static level; however, character highlights were many, the arrogant King of Romania, for example, and a web developer with an exotic accent. But you won't encounter these characters if you have the chance to experience this exciting group - that's the beauty and fleeting nature of improv!

The Voodoo Rooms, 6-14 Aug, 4.50pm. tw rating 4/5 | [Khristine Gallagher]

Nick Page: My Glorious, Hypothetical Life As a Eunuch

Nick's demeanour and choice of venue suited his comedy style. His articulate, natural storytelling ability saw him sewing together a series of anecdotes in an amusing account of squandered opportunities and a life of potential thrown out the window. He engaged well with certain members of the audience to great comical effect, but, as he testified himself, he's not the type to hold anyone up and ridicule them, so fear not. The show should have been a little shorter; the grip he had on me was loosened towards the end; but I was left with the impression this is an intelligent man who perhaps has more serious things to joke about. Great for a light hearted and relaxing afternoon of fun, humorous stories.



SNAP OF THE DAY: Eleanor Conway can often be found performing a 'Midnight Rumble' at Underbelly Bristo Square. Photo: Kat Gollock

The Shack Comedy Club & Nightclub, 6-25 August, 3.30 pm. tw rating 3/5 | [Joe Mountford-Smith]

Funny Women At The Fringe

Time is probably the audience's most precious commodity at the Fringe and competitions like these are good value, providing tasters of comedians' hour-long acts. Last year's winner Lara A King hosted, as four other female comics, Sarah Callaghan, Kerry Gilbert, Lucy Frederick and finally, my favourite, Katherine Ryan, each did a sterling job at tempting the crowd into seeing their solo shows. Some might bemoan the gender-exclusivity of the showcase (and the implication that male and female comics shouldn't compete in the same arena) and the free Benefit make-up did feel a little patronising. It also wasn't very clear how the competition worked, or who would be appearing in future shows; despite that, a safe bet for the Festival-goer.

Assembly George Square, 3-17 Aug (not 6, 7), 2.00pm. tw rating 3/5 | [Rachel Aroesti]

Pappy's: Last Show Ever!

Phil McIntyre Entertainments By Arrangement With Lisa Thomas Management

If this is Pappy's farewell, they certainly bow out with a bang. This show has

everything from jovial sing-alongs and dramatic musical sequences to hilarious character comedy and silly sketches. Using abstract ideas from 'Wizard of Oz', to gloves, to the full moon, the sketches are inventively written and consistently polished like a GB gold medal. However this is not just some wish-wash compilation of Pappy's most random ideas, this is ingeniously bound together in theatrical structure as the trio guide the audience forwards and backwards in time, narrating the story of their break-up years later. This is real feel good comedy: fast-paced, original, mind-blowingly creative, and side-splittingly funny.

Pleasance Dome, 1-27 Aug (not 3, 14), 8.20pm tw rating 5/5 | [Nathaniel Meyers]

Peter Antoniou's Psychic Circus

Peter Antoniou is very warm, intelligent and energetic and his one-man-show is suitable for audiences of all ages, shapes and sizes. He performs playful and charming tricks that - though not necessarily original - are presented in a refreshing new light. Whether Antoniou is mind reading his awestruck audience by exposing their first flings or controlling them as a ventriloquist, this is very stylistically executed and optimised for comedic effect. A lot of laughter also stems from Antoniou's very personable treatment of the audience, whose

attention he commands masterfully throughout. The tricks can be slow in parts, and a little repetitive, but Peter Antoniou is very convincing, and also a very likeable showman.

Sweet Grassmarket, 2-26 Aug (not 18, 25), 3.35pm tw rating: 4/5 | [Nathaniel Meyers]

Sammy J And Randy - The Inheritance

Sammy J (tall, blonde, adorable) and Randy (short, purple, made of felt) return with fourth-wall breaking, adventure-musical 'The Inheritance'. Heart-warming, funny and joyfully silly, the play sees the comedian and his puppet companion travelling from Australia to Scunthorpe after Randy's centenarian uncle dies, with a secret lurking at the heart of his inheritance. The songs are catchy and well-written, and the show is inventively staged, avoiding (and occasionally embracing) the potential problems of having a puppet co-star (voiced and operated wonderfully by Sammy's longtime collaborator Heath McIvor). Combining many of the most fun bits of musicals and comedy, it's a show that'll leave you in a great mood for the rest of the day.

Underbelly, Bristo Square, 1-27 Aug (not 13), 6.05pm. tw rating 4/5 | [Holly Close]

JOIN US FOR BREAKFAST
Free at all 10:30 performances
Going Green the Wong Way
4 - 18 Aug
(not 6 or 13)

caLARTS Festival Theater
VENUE 13 Lochend Close
100m past Cannongate Kirk

JOIN US FOR TEA
On the Venue13 lawn at 15:30
Free with a same day ticket
4 - 18 Aug
(not 6 or 13)

EXCESS
Half of the Negative Capability Season

By Freddy Syborn, co-writer of the BBC3 sitcom *Bad Education*

venue145
INDIA BUILDINGS
VICTORIA STREET
0845 260 1234
www.cthefestival.com

c venues vibrant vivacious variety
2-26 Aug (not 13)
5.25pm (1hr05)
Tickets £8.50-£10.50
Concessions £6.50-£8.50

fringe

STAND OUT FROM THE CROWDS

Promote your shows with great ad packages from ThreeWeeks

www.ThreeWeeks.co.uk/advertising | 0131 516 8842

