

# ThreeWeeks EDINBURGH

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**It's the last ThreeWeeks Daily Edition of the Festival! But look out for plenty more reviews at [www.ThreeWeeks.co.uk](http://www.ThreeWeeks.co.uk)**

## CABARET

**Dorothy Squires: Mrs Roger Moore**

The Biggest Diva Of Them All

For a time, Dorothy Squires was among Britain's most popular vocalists and was married to Roger Moore, before he was 007. Al Pillay, in a blonde wig and thick stage make-up, is excellent as Squires - this is no over-the-top drag queen act, but a tender, emotional performance, depicting a rise and fall which could easily become very unsympathetic in the wrong hands. With a great supporting cast, Pillay belts out Squires' hits - the songs punctuating the narrative beautifully. The leading man does suffer with a slightly wandering Welsh accent and there were a few fluffed moments, but beneath the sequins and glitter, the show is a heartfelt portrayal of the melancholy of fading glamour.

Gilded Balloon Teviot, 12-27 Aug (not 20), 12.45pm. tw rating 4/5 | [Holly Close]

**Scales Of The Unexpected**

Scales of the Unexpected are not the most original musical comedy act out there (other people have also figured out that pop songs use similar chord progressions), but they are certainly one of the most fun. Lampooning pop music may not be a challenging feat, but Scales of the Unexpected do it with such unabashed and infectious confidence that it would be impossible to watch them stony-faced. Their literal choreography numbers were carefully, well, choreographed and showcased the group's ample talents as performers as well as lyricists. Their segues were seamless and their excellent comic timing filled the space between songs, while the songs themselves were an hilariously tongue-in-cheek take on the pop genre through the medium of classic cabaret!

Gilded Balloon at Third Door, 1-26 Aug, 10.45pm. tw rating 4/5 | [Lewis Wade]

## CHILDREN'S

**The Velveteen Rabbit**

Backhand Theatre with C theatre

Slightly scary, pretty funny, and very entertaining, this is a great show for any parents who want their kids to see something they'll remember. How many children's shows have gigantic, slightly terrifying horse heads on stage? Using actors and puppets of various, but generally large, sizes, this show does a good job of not only including the audience, but incorporating the theatre



**SNAP OF THE DAY:** Last August we gave the marvellous Horne Section a ThreeWeeks Editors' Award, but they didn't manage to collect their plaque. Our Photo Editor Kat Gollock has been caring for it ever since, and yesterday made the presentation! This year's Editors' Awards will be presented on Saturday at 10.30am at theSpace @ Symposium Hall, info at [www.ThreeWeeks.co.uk/awards](http://www.ThreeWeeks.co.uk/awards).

itself - the use of coloured spotlights is surprisingly convincing in creating sets. That's not to downplay the performances - the Velveteen Rabbit himself would be far too weird-looking to care about without the character provided by his puppeteer. The story isn't handled with great originality, but it doesn't matter - this is a strikingly visual performance.

C eca, 1-27 Aug, 10.45am. tw rating 4/5 | [Katherine Cunningham]

## COMEDY

**Basic Training**

Underbelly Productions

'Basic Training' has received a cherished Fringe First award from The Scotsman in recognition of its fantastic, heart-warming script, based on a true story - imagine if 'Billy Elliot' were set in Iowa rather than County Durham - starring a working-class boy trying to find his estranged father and a career in military entertainment. This show is a master class in versatile acting, with Kahill Ashanti playing the dozens of diverse characters in his own life with astounding aplomb and unerring conviction. It contains poignancy, hilarity, and almost every other emotion in between. Pick up your phone and call

the box office straight away. You need to reserve your ticket for this extraordinary spectacle before the run deservedly sells out.

Underbelly, Bristo Square, 1-27 Aug (not 19), 6.10pm. tw rating 5/5 | [Joseph Fleming]

**The History Girls Present: A Summary Of Things So Far**

Taking up the Python schtick of funny voices, eccentric characters and kooky animated inserts, The History Girls are a crack team of female sketch comedians who could and should be a great success. Giving their summary of things so far - mainly focused on the latter half of the last millennium - the theatrically-trained trio are completely engaging; even the slightly weaker sketches in the final third are fun to watch, thanks to the ladies' brilliant acting and killer moves. All the team are given ample opportunity to shine individually, but as a group their take on the Brontë sisters is truly sublime - I'll never be able to read 'Wuthering Heights' in the same way. Silly, brilliant, historically inaccurate fun.

Assembly Hall, 2-27 Aug (not 13), 7.45pm. tw rating 4/5 | [Holly Close]

**Ladies Live Longer: Ladylike**

Ladies Live Longer

Seeming to embrace the fact that ladylike

tendencies are in fact not always desirable, Louise Fitzgerald and Victoria Temple-Morris are the kind of women who are simply inherently funny. With sharp delivery, hilarious writing, masses of wit and first-rate acting ability, there was little this pair did which did not have the audience in stitches. Satirising every kind of woman from stalker to harassed mother to Essex housewife, and adding in the odd comical song, rap or mime, they constantly surprised us with their infectious energy, originality and animation, perfectly balancing that with audience involvement. An hour in the company of Ladies Live Longer will go quicker than many others at this year's Fringe.

C nova, 2-27 Aug, 3.30pm. tw rating 5/5 | [Grace Hardy]

**Armageddapocalypse: Threat Level Dead**

Exploding Fist Productions

A rampant piss-take of the disaster/action movie genre, Armageddapocalypse follows maverick Jack Lang who must save the world from armageddon, apocalypse and the evil Volkov. Despite not being a disaster film aficionado, their dry wit and brilliantly silly characters won me over immediately. Although stunningly slick and painfully funny, there was a lovely feel of it having been written in a pub **cont>**

**seeing double: FIGURES VISION**

Edinburgh's first simultaneous farce: two venues, two shows, two audiences linked by a live video stream.

Pleasance Courtyard, 11:30am

★★★★★ The New Current  
★★★★★ Three Weeks

33 PLEASANCE COURTYARD

**Richard Tyrone Jones's Big Heart**

A spoken word show about heart failure. But with jokes.

'Ringmaster of spoken word'

★★★★★ Three Weeks

'fascinating, sobering, hilarious' New Scientist

FREE FRINGE 2012

6pm to 25 August (not 19) Banshee Labyrinth Cinema (Accessible Saturday matinees: www.richardtyronejones.com)

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THE STAGE MUST SEE!

\*\*\*\*\* Cream of the Fringe Review  
\*\*\*\*

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GREENSIDE VENUE 231, EH7 5AB  
0131 557 2124  
ENDS 25 AUG 2012



'Infectious enthusiasm...'  
★★★★★ ThreeWeeks

C theatre

**Giddy Goat**

1-27 Aug at 12.15pm

**Cvenue 34**  
ADAM HOUSE  
CHAMBERS STREET  
0845 260 1234  
[www.CtheFestival.com](http://www.CtheFestival.com)

DITTO PRODUCTIONS PRESENTS

**JAY FOREMAN'S MIXTAPE**

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★★★★★  
THREE WEEKS  
★★★★★  
BRITISH COMEDY GUIDE  
★★★★★  
FEST  
★★★★★  
CHORTLE

Underbelly  
underbelly.com

1.25PM (2.25PM)  
19-26 AUGUST 2012

**JONNY-&-THE BAPTISTS**

★★★★★ 'Awesome' Fringe Biscuit  
★★★★★ 'Hilarious' Remote Goat  
★★★★★ 'Genius' Exeunt  
★★★★★ 'Foot-tapping' Broadway Baby  
★★★★★ 'Wild, raw... fieriness & heart' The List

The hit debut act! Underbelly, 9.10pm

