



JUST SO STORIES ★★☆☆

Written by Robert Watson. Directed by Andrew Lamb. Presented by Kidz Productions. July 12, 11am; July 13, 4pm; July 15, noon.

“RUD! YARD! KIP! LING!” chant a trio of performers from the audience. These likeable and vibrant characters are called upon to assist narrator Rudyard Kipling in the telling of three classic stories. Interactions between the kid-characters and Kipling foreshadow the moral of each story and break the show up into child-sized pieces. A wide range of humour adorns the simple pleasure of such stories as “How the Camel Got His Hump,” and delights audience members of every age. **RK**

“All 4 of my kids loved this show and they range in age from 13 to 3! Very strong performances from the entire cast and the props/costumes are brilliant! Well worth the (very reasonable) cost of a ticket to see this one. Congratulations on a great show!”

– Kerri Lee

Posted on the Eye Weekly website on July 9, 2007



Fringe wrap-up

This year's **Fringe**, which closed last Sunday (July 15), was pretty cool in several ways. We saw many impressive shows, there were more productions than ever and audience numbers were up.

Oh yeah, and apart from a couple of days, moderate temperatures meant that people didn't run away from a sweaty venue as soon as the curtain fell. Even the notoriously steamy Glen Morris Theatre was manageable.

The Fringe hit an all-time attendance high, with more than 57,000 tickets sold and a box office of over \$390,000, all of which the companies pocketed. In fact, attendance records were set each day of the festival.

Any problems? Venues were spread too far apart, especially the increased number of Bring Your Own Venues. The BYOVs often offer exciting work, in part because a production is usually tooled to a specific site. But because many ran between 7 and 9 pm, you could usually

catch only one per evening.

If you didn't manage to see some of the most popular shows, they're held over in **The Best Of The Fringe** (see this page). Productions run in rep at the **Diesel Playhouse** through August 5.

Here's NOW's annual list of Fringe highlights.

OUTSTANDING NEW PLAYS

Conservatives In Love; The Gladstone Variations; BASH'd

OUTSTANDING PRODUCTIONS

Ubu Roi (Massacred); The Lesson; ...and stockings for the ladies; Shiksas Sit Shiva; Don't Look; The Gladstone Variations; BASH'd! ; Reesor; Legoland; Funny Business – The Musical; Kafka And Son

OUTSTANDING PRODUCTIONS FOR YOUNG AUDIENCES

The Land Of I Told You So; Just So Stories

OUTSTANDING PERFORMANCES

Brendan McMurtry-Howlett (...and stockings for the ladies); Kris Joseph

(The Churchill Protocol); Catherine McNally and Tracy Michailidis (Mrs. Warren's Profession); Justin Sage-Passant (Manners For Men); TJ Dawe (Maxim And Cosmo); Alon Nashman (Kafka And Son)

OUTSTANDING ENSEMBLES

The Lesson; The Gladstone Variations; Timebomb; The Welcome To The Show Show; Shiksas Sit Shiva; Yabu No Naka Distruthted; An Inconvenient Musical; BASH'd!; Duel of Ages; I Keep Dropping Sh*t; Science Fair!; Funny Business – The Musical; Conservatives In Love

OUTSTANDING DIRECTION

Kelly Straughan (Timebomb); Sue Miner (Conservatives In Love); Zach Fraser (...and stockings for the ladies)

OUTSTANDING DESIGN

Monique Stewart (Just So Stories)

OUTSTANDING MUSIC

Andrew Penner and the company (Reesor); Waylen Miki (An Inconvenient Musical); Aaron Macri (BASH'd!)

JON KAPLAN/GLENN SUMI