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Dispatches from The Fringe - all you could want and more

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The last day finally arrives. Sets are struck, the votes are in and the winners announced. The [Edinburgh Fringe Festival 2012](#) draws to a close. Yet despite three relentless weeks of wall to wall shows, the feeling lingers that you still needed more time. Not surprising when you look at the statistics:

- ▶ 2,695 shows
- ▶ 279 venues
- ▶ 42,096 performances
- ▶ 22,457 performers
- ▶ 36% comedy shows
- ▶ 814 free shows

In the end The Edinburgh Fringe Festival 2012 proved to be one of the most successful when you break the numbers down:

- ▶ In 2012 an estimated 1,857,202 tickets were issued compared to 1,877,119 tickets issued in 2011. This does not include free non-ticketed events.
- ▶ Fringe 2012 featured 42,096 performances of 2,695 shows in 279 venues
- ▶ Fringe 2011 featured 41,689 performances of 2,542 shows in 258 venues
- ▶ Fringe 2010 featured 40,254 performances of 2,453 shows in 259 venues
- ▶ An estimated 22,457 performers took to the stage in Fringe 2012, compared to 21,192 in 2011 and 21,148 in 2010.

With such a wealth of acts, the judges had a difficult task determining those to be deemed outstanding. In the comedy and theatre categories, the big winners were:

Carol Tambor Best of Edinburgh Award

Mies Julie - Baxter Theatre Centre, South African State Theatre and Assembly - Assembly Hall

The Foster's Edinburgh Comedy Awards

Best Comedy Show Award Winner: Best Comedy Show Award Winner: *Doctor Brown - Befrdfgth Underbelly*, Cowgate

Best Newcomer Award Winner: Best Newcomer Award Winner: *Daniel Simonsen - Champions* - Pleasance Courtyard

Panel Prize Award Winner: *The Boy with Tape on his Face - More Tape* - Pleasance Courtyard

Fringe Review Outstanding Theatre Awards

Mayday Mayday - Theatre Damfino - Pleasance Dome

Holden Street Theatre Awards

Glory Dazed - Second Shot Productions - Underbelly, Cowgate

Stage Awards for Acting Excellence

Best Actress - *Nichola McAuliffe*: Maurice's Jubilee (previously won in 2001 for *Bed Among the Lentils*).

Best Actor - *Bill Paterson*: *And No More Shall We Part*

Best Ensemble - *Mess*

Best Solo Performer - *Silvia Gallerano* *The Sh*t/La Merda*,

Not everyone will agree with all the judges' choices. The absence of *Loretta Maines:BiPolar* in the comedy category could be seen as a serious oversight. Similarly the mesmerizing (*remor*). But no one could argue with the inclusion of *Glory Dazed* and Silvia Gallerano for *The Sh*t* among the honors.

Alas, such discussions will have to be deferred for another year. For now, the Fringe leaves Edinburgh, fading quietly into the mists. Gone are the zombies accosting you with flyers as you traverse the Royal Mile. Gone are the ghosts standing in line at the ATM, carefully concealing their pin number. Gone are the men and women in 18th century costume checking their phones for texts while ordering a Panini. Gone are some amazing shows (and one or two forgettable ones) and some amazing artists. The streets will be quieter, but a little impoverished by their absence.

Though it's all over now, this was a truly memorable Fringe, with all you could want and more. And

despite many fantastic memories, or perhaps inspired by them, already thoughts, hopes and dreams are moving on.

To next year.



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