

## ***BikeFace* - Press History**

*BikeFace* was first written and performed for a 2017 CAFF Tour, to the Regina, Winnipeg, Saskatoon, Edmonton Fringe Festivals. It was also performed at the 2018 Rogue Festival in Fresno, California. During this first tour, the show was performed by playwright Natalie Frijia. Past reviews include:

### **Winnipeg Fringe Festival, 2017**

- An op-ed written by fellow Fringe producer Mel Marginet, about *BikeFace* and cycling advocacy, which called the show “goddamned charming”. (Review: <https://www.winnipegfreepress.com/arts-and-life/entertainment/arts/the-call-is-coming-from-inside-the-house-436800023.html>).

### **Edmonton Fringe Festival, 2017**

- 5-Stars from the *Vue Weekly*, telling audiences “Don’t miss this show!” (Review: <http://www.edmontonfringe.ca/play/bikeface/>).

“Set out on a two-wheeled voyage across Canada with storyteller and adventurer Natalie Frijia. Frijia shares her story of the challenges she faced during her brave journey across Canada on her bicycle, Luna, and of the people she crossed paths with along the way. *BikeFace* will not only send you on an empowering adventure, it will also challenge your limbic system with a freewheeling ride all the way from excitement to terror and everything in between. The solo act performance includes dramatic lighting, sound effects, and puppetry to keep your eyes glued to the set, though, you won’t need it because Frijia commands the stage and captivates her audience with ease. My advice? Don’t miss this show.”

- 4-Stars from *Global News Edmonton* (Video Review: <https://globalnews.ca/news/3657979/watch-2017-edmonton-international-fringe-festival-reviews/>).

### **Rogue Festival, 2018**

- Rave reviews from both local reviewers (*Road to 1,000* and *Kings River Life*).
- Reviewer Marc Gonzales wrote “I urge you to be the stranger who gets to hear her bicycling secrets” (*The Road to 1,000*).

“The Rogue Festival has kicked off in full force, and my first show was Nat Vickers’ *BikeFace*, a Canadian tale of bicycles, adventures, and female empowerment. Ms. Vickers has written a one-woman show which not only brings audience into the world of a PhD student’s 1000km+ bike journey through Canada, but also into her motivations and longstanding love for adventure and all things bicycling. What makes *BikeFace* a show not to miss is how the play quickly becomes about the person telling it rather than just the entity of the title; her physicality and eloquence are all that are needed to pack the audience up into her journey across the Canadian country.

Ms. Vickers brings a polished, physically nuanced performance that is consistent from opening diary vignette, to the various areas of Canada she visited. The familiarity Ms. Vickers has with the Canadian landscape and topography makes her descriptive text all the more realized and enriching, a true experience that the audience gets damn close to imagining. The structure is very academic, but Ms. Vickers is a compelling speaker and actress, a great balance for this one-woman show. The passion and experienced tone she gives her monologues and “scenes” opposite the eclectic group of adventurers she encounters highlight the different cadences, stances, and timbres Ms. Vickers has at her command. A chair, a flannel, and a diary are all

that's needed to set the intimacy Ms. Vickers earns from her audience, knowing when to play the laugh, comment on the audience's reactions, and bringing the mood to a haunting reality that too many women know all too well. "Sometimes there are secrets only fit for strangers" is a line in Ms. Vickers' final scene, which is the perfect culminating thought to leave her show with; I urge you to be the stranger who gets to hear her bicycling secrets."

- Reviewer Lorie Lewis Ham called the show "funny, inspiring, suspenseful, and wonderful!" - (Kings River Life; <http://kingsriverlife.com/03/03/rogue-reviews-2018/>)

"I have been a fan of Nat ever since seeing her Rogue show in 2016, Black Wool Jacket. Surprisingly, that was her first ever show as the person on stage, instead of behind the scenes and it was awesome! This year she brings us something new in Bikeface, and something that also fits in the category of a story about the power of women.

In Bikeface, Nat shares her love of bikes, which started at an early age. And her love of adventure. We then follow her through life with her bikes, with the heart of the story being a bike trip she took across Canada! She also includes snippets from her research of bikes, which tell how absurdly people thought about women riding bikes in the past-it just wasn't proper. But as Nat goes across the country you find that this attitude has sadly not entirely changed-as she is told over and over that a woman shouldn't be doing this, especially not alone. And yet, she does it and has a lot of interesting, sometimes funny, sometimes scary, and sometimes inspiring, adventures along the way, meeting all sorts of people.

The best thing about this story is that it shows that women can have adventures too. Women can do anything-even bike alone across Canada! One of the most interesting and thought provoking lines in the show goes something like this, "Men are told they can do anything, women are told to be safe."

I HIGHLY recommend this show. It's funny, inspiring, suspenseful, and wonderful!"

- (Reviews: <http://brothermarc7theatre.tumblr.com/post/171498151087/rogue-review-bikeface-show-705>; ).