

Delirium

Created & Performed by Martin Dockery

Running time: 60 minutes

www.MartinDockery.com / martindockery@gmail.com

In a retracing of his grandfather's book on butterflies, Dockery tells the true story of looking for meaning in the mysterious connection between love and death. Equally comical and heartbreaking, *Delirium* takes us from a Toronto airport to the Nevada desert, and from a Brooklyn apartment to the Mexican redoubt of the Monarch butterfly, telling a story of both falling in love and falling apart.

"That rare ability to vividly mix the mundane with the transcendent is why Dockery remains, quite simply, the best." –The Orlando Sentinel

"4 STARS: A master storyteller." –CBC

"Shout-it-from-the-rooftop acclaim for Dockery's *Delirium*, a beautifully written, deftly performed, bruisingly intimate outing that offers sophisticated humor and a strong emotional punch." –The Fresno Bee

"Deliriously entertaining... resonates long after the laughter recedes." –Orlando Weekly

"4 STARS: Dockery's style is so effective that he could entertain by saying just about anything; the fact he has gripping stories to tell just makes a deliriously good show darned near great." –Winnipeg Free Press

"The show closes with a beautiful story about Monarch butterflies which becomes (in true Martin Dockery fashion) a metaphor for life, rewarding the audience with a positive message and a soft landing to this madcap, heartfelt ride." –King's River Life Magazine

"4 STARS: the performance is at once honest, sincere, and hilarious." –Theatre in London

"I dare say it's entirely impossible to sit anywhere but the edge of one's seat." –AJ Sage, Ithica Fringe

AWARDS for *Delirium*:

Andrew M. Dixon Award: 2017 Ithica Fringe Festival

Best Solo Show – Drama: 2017 Orlando Fringe Festival

Patron's Pick Award: 2017 Orlando Fringe Festival

Low Tech Award: 2017 Orlando Fringe Festival



'Martin Dockery: Delirium' at Orlando Fringe Festival

Matthew J. Palm **Contact Reporter** The Artistic Type – May 17, 2017

Fringe veteran Dockery ("The Surprise," "Moonlight After Midnight") returns with another superb, fast-paced tale — three tales, in fact. One is about an immigration hiccup with his Canadian girlfriend. ("The one thing that immigration officials hate more than anything else ... is love!" he spits.) The second tells of a tragedy in the Nevada desert. The final, most emotional installment concerns monarch butterflies and a beloved pet dog.

The Fringe Factor: It won't surprise Dockery fans to know that the three stories develop to share common themes, or that you might find yourself laughing uproariously one moment, then reaching for a tissue the next. Dockery can take the ordinary details of living and elevate them until they fly as beautifully as the butterflies of "Delirium."

Curtain Call: Listening to Dockery forces your brain to operate on two planes. On one level, you are entranced by the twists of the actual story. But on another, deeper thoughts bubble up from your mind about the bigger questions of love, loss, life and death — and what does it all mean anyway? That rare ability to vividly mix the mundane with the transcendent is why Dockery remains, quite simply, the best.

<http://www.orlandosentinel.com/entertainment/orlando-fringe/os-et-fringe-review-2017-martin-dockery-delirium-story.html>



★★★★ Review

Delirium

FOUR STARS | You need to accept the agony along with the ecstasy on this powerful Fringe journey



By Michelle Palansky, [CBC News](#) Posted: Jul 13, 2016

Rating: ★★★★★

Company: Martin Dockery, Brooklyn, N.Y.

Genre: Storytelling

Winnipeg loves Martin Dockery. True story.

If the opening night crowd was any indication, then you'd better get your tickets quickly or line up early. The author of seven past Fringe hits, Dockery sold out his premiere performance just minutes after the box office opened.

'At crucial junctions of the performance, it seems as though [Dockery's] entire being vibrates with the effort to transmit his tales.' - *Michelle Palansky*

Delirium is a trio of tales from Dockery's life that examine the indifference of the universe, the possibility and practicality of cross-border love, and the absolute immutability of the fact that one day everyone you know will someday die.

Yup, it gets pretty heavy. Like, black cloak and scythe heavy. If you buy the ticket to take this ride you need to accept the agony along with the ecstasy on this journey into *Delirium*. But Dockery is a Fringe favourite and a master storyteller. At crucial junctions of the performance, it seems as though his entire being vibrates with the effort to transmit his tales.

Accept the mortality of it all and you will certainly enjoy the show.

<http://www.cbc.ca/news/canada/manitoba/delirium-1.3672756>

The Fresno Bee

Martin Dockery's 'Delirium' is master storytelling

Martin Dockery offers a strong performance in the Rogue Festival's 'Delirium.'

BY DONALD MUNRO, MARCH 5, 2017



I'm here with shout-it-from-the-rooftop acclaim for [Dockery's "Delirium,"](#) a beautifully written, deftly performed, bruisingly intimate outing that offers sophisticated humor and a strong emotional punch.

The Brooklyn-based Dockery is a powerhouse performer, his words often tumbling out in a flurry of eager prose, and at the Saturday evening performance of "Delirium" I saw, his often gravelly voice added even more resonance to the material. Once again using the device of interconnected stories, he presents three highly personal tales that all touch on the themes of connection and intimacy.

The first, about a marriage proposal, is amiable and warm. Then he shifts into an amusing recollection of a plan to create a pop-up restaurant selling "strawberry sandwiches" at the Burning Man Festival, and in an expertly calibrated twist guides the audience into darker emotional territory.

Finally, a third story about a beloved dog, an agonizing airplane flight and the sheer wonder of butterflies seals the deal, provoking both guffaws and tears. Through it all, Dockery's crisp writing pays off time and again with strong images for the audience (a muffin consumed in an torrent of nervousness at an airport, a desert sky exploding with stars, a frail canine still able to muster the strength to wag a tail). He's adept at weaving those concrete details into larger intellectual and emotional throughlines. I won't soon forget how he connects butterfly migration to the human experience.

It's all the product of a master storyteller.

<http://www.fresnobee.com/entertainment/ent-columns-blogs/fresno-beehive/article136596043.html>



Orlando Fringe 2017 review: 'Martin Dockery: Delirium'

Posted By [Seth Kubersky](#) on Thu, May 18, 2017

Over the past decade, Martin Dockery has taken Orlando Fringe audiences on an acid-soaked bike trip through the dark fantastic into the Holy Land, but this year the manic monologist is diving deep into his personal life with deliriously entertaining results. Dockery's latest solo work is split into a triptych of three wildly disparate tales — a traumatic encounter with immigration authorities, a tragic accident at the Burning Man festival, and the improbable life cycle of the monarch butterfly — all loosely linked by the lyrics of a Flaming Lips tune.

Dockery is as compulsively watchable as ever, with his flapping gesticulations, raspy slide-whistle of a voice, and shaggy-dog digressions that (almost) always lead to hilarious payoffs. But *Delirium* also exposes an unexpectedly emotional side of Dockery; for the first time in any of his one-man plays, I found myself tearing up during the story of his dog's death.

Naturally, Dockery quickly counterbalances the crying with yet another comic twist, of the type that could only happen to him. But the underlying theme — that we humans are all connected, like a flock of butterflies that miraculously finds its way back to their grandparent's birthplace — is one that resonates long after the laughter recedes. A Dockery performance often feels less like a monologue than a conversation where you simply can't get a word in edgewise, and I can't think of anyone I rather have talk a mile a minute at me than Martin.

<http://www.orlandoweekly.com/Blogs/archives/2017/05/18/orlando-fringe-2017-review-martin-dockery-delirium>

Winnipeg Free Press

Delirium

Presented by: Martin Dockery

Posted: 07/8/2016

Rating: ★★★★★



There might not be a more aptly titled show at this year's fringe — Brooklyn, N.Y.-based storyteller Martin Dockery's frenzied hour-long monologue, which is a three-part exploration of life, love, commitment and the healing power of strawberry sandwiches, is a master class in how best to combine complex verbal material with perpetual physical motion. Dockery's style is so effective that he could entertain by saying just about anything; the fact he has gripping stories to tell just makes a deliriously good show darned near great.

— Brad Oswald

<http://www.winnipegfreepress.com/special/fringe/reviews/delirium-386301301.html>

COMMENTS:

[JHeikk](#)

2:05 AM on 7/19/2016

I'd bump that rating up to five stars, and particularly recommend the show to anyone who's ever lost a pet, which is basically everyone I know.

KING'S RIVER LIFE MAGAZINE

Delirium

Review by Mallory Moad - Fresno, CA - March 7, 2017



Dockery is animated and energetic, but the frenzy ends there. *Delirium* is a collection of three stories that explore the conflicting definitions of that word. There are stories within stories but the original narrative is never lost. I had been won over and sucked in.

Dockery is a skilled writer and performer and his work is multilayered. With his loose-limbed body and expressive face, he shifts effortlessly from hilarity to heartbreak. He takes the audience close to the height of insanity, then pulls them back to a level of sincerity. The exasperation of losing sight of his non-US resident girlfriend in the airport moves to the subject of immigration officials, love and marriage, Red Hat Ladies, and arrives at a happy ending. Through the voice of a second character, a riotous tale of an experience at the Burning Man Festival comes to an unexpected conclusion. The show closes with a beautiful story about Monarch butterflies which becomes (in true Martin Dockery fashion) a metaphor for life, rewarding the audience with a positive message and a soft landing to this madcap, heartfelt ride.

<http://kingsriverlife.com/03/04/rogue-reviews-2017/>

Theatre in London

By *clara.madrenas*

[June 3, 2017 at 9:08 pm](#)

Delirium is a storytelling show about love, loss and whether or not the universe is paying any attention. This collection of stories told on a bare stage by a dynamic performer take you through the Toronto airport through to the deserts of Burning Man and the mountains of Mexico, thematically weaving seemingly disconnected stories together expertly. It's a funny show but it doesn't stop there; moments are intermittently heartbreaking and inspiring—all the more impressive given the simplicity of the show's format. Maybe all of the anecdotes don't hang together perfectly, but the performance is at once honest, sincere, and hilarious—worth paying attention to, even if the universe doesn't always.

4 Stars

<https://theatreinlondon.ca/2017/06/delirium/>

Delirium

by Martin Dockery, Brooklyn, NY

Review by A.J. Sage at the Ithaca Fringe, 4/22/17

Like all the best Fringe shows, Martin Dockery's *Delirium* is difficult to place into a tidy box of genre. The hour-long extravaganza of storytelling reminds one variously of dramatic monologues, slam poetry and standup comedy - Dockery's urgent cadence of voice flying his audience from one emotional station to another with brilliant verve and tenacity.

The Brooklyn based artist carries the type of veteran stage presence that simultaneously feels comforting and dangerous. In other words, you can tell you're in good hands...but don't think for a second that those hands will be coddling you.

Delirium consists of three independent stories that dovetail subtly together with common themes of intimacy, hope and surrender in the face of an often cruel world. Love, Dockery reminds us, is our greatest weapon against the vast indifference of the universe and this theme is satisfyingly explored through his stories' most buoyant moments and their most tragic ones too.

Dockery serves dessert first, offering the sweet tale of his engagement to his unseen yet always present partner Vanessa. Next comes the immersive account of his time at Burning Man, during which his cheeky idea for a "restaurant" that serves only strawberry sandwiches puts him into random contact with a man haunted by a particularly heartbreaking story of his own.

Last is the real beauty - an epic of dogs, death, monarch butterflies, and a truly hilarious run in with a rude man on an airplane. Not to be missed.

The genius of this show is keyed by Dockery's obvious passion for language. The vocabulary flows trippingly off his tongue and puts a spell on his audience. I dare say it's entirely impossible to sit anywhere but the edge of one's seat.

<http://georgesapio.wixsite.com/ithacafringe/copy-of-review-2017-delirium-klein-2>

Delirium

by Martin Dockery, Brooklyn, NY

Review by Kate Klein, Ithaca Fringe – 4/23/ 2017

The show begins before the show at Martin Dockery's solo piece *Delirium*. Or maybe it's not a show at all but one unified outpouring of highly engaged storytelling and personal connection: Five minutes before curtain time, Dockery, who's making his Ithaca Fringe debut this week, has introduced himself to every member of the audience.

Meet Martin Dockery, a versatile Brooklyn-based theater artist whose show of storytelling, *Delirium*, officially begins with the spin of a finger. Tracing a circle around the crown of his head, he transports us to a new place: "Right now, right here in this moment, I'm standing in the Toronto airport, feeling insignificant and vulnerable . . ."

And we're off. Through a fast-paced patter of vivid language, energetic physicality, and emotional honesty, Dockery relates a three-chapter true story about his journey through life, love, and loss, amplifying his own experiences into hilarious, profound points of connection.

The words do not stop—and neither do the laughs. He is a master of turning his every day experiences into beautiful, colorful episodes.

He tells us about the day he lost track of his beloved in the Toronto airport. He tells us about serving a strawberry sandwich to a stranger at Burning Man. He tells us about tangling with the law on a pilgrimage to Mexico, to the winter home of Monarch butterflies.

Dockery's physical presence says as much as his words. He reaches, he crouches, he minces, he runs. He rakes his hands through his hair. He embodies each character in his tales. His hands become co-stars as they orbit his body. He uses every bit of the stage at the Community School of Music and Arts—and often some of the audience's space, too.

The physicality and the words add up to deep emotional resonance. At points he dialogues with audience members, riffing on conversations started before the show. He's aware of our attention at every point. He shares widely varied emotions: joy, fear, anger, embarrassment, tenderness. And most significantly, his own openness about his experiences and his deeply-felt questions about human life in a seemingly indifferent universe reach into our experiences, open us up, and make us think and feel along, even as we're laughing.

Delirium is not stand-up comedy, Dockery claimed vehemently at the Ithaca Fringe opening party—and it's not. Dockery is so much more than a stand-up comic, although *Delirium* delivers as many laughs per minute as the best comics; he's a master storyteller who teases out a thread from the chaos of his own experiences—some mundane, some exotic—and his own bravely raw emotions to connect on a hilarious and profound level with his audience. And he's aware of and reacting to the other humans in the room in every sentence of the way.

<http://georgesapio.wixsite.com/ithacafringe/copy-of-review-2017-spy-bvc>

Delirium

by Martin Dockery, Brooklyn, NY

Review by Charles Finley, Ithaca Fringe, 4/23/17

Exhausting. I can think of no other word to describe Martin Dockery's relentless story-telling presentation at the 4th annual Ithaca Fringe Festival. And by "exhausting" I mean both physically and emotionally.

Dockery is a natural storyteller, using words as if they were the last ones he'll ever get to say, gushing them out in a stream of consciousness helter-skelter rush to illustrate both large moments and minute details.

Delirium consists of three parts. The first is when he loses his wife in Toronto airport. Fearing she may have been stopped at customs and maybe turned away, Dockery imagines elaborate plots to cross the border under cover of darkness and like a spy movie hero, bring her safely back across. His plots are ridiculous but his fear is tangible and as you watch him twist and writhe as his tale spins, you can't help but imagine what you would think should you be in that position.

Dockery almost never stands still; his arms flail, his legs twist, his hands punch the air, his face contorts as he drives home image after image, thought after thought. I lost my breath a few times in sympathy with the force of his when-will-he-take-a-breath delivery. When you listen to him discover the tree absolutely covered—every branch—by monarch butterflies you can't help but be overwhelmed by the enormous vision of something you're only hearing about.

His gift for detailed description is unparalleled. It's one thing to listen to someone tell a story, but it's another to somehow believe you can experience it the way the storyteller has, and Martin Dockery spares no ounce of energy in his 60-minute monologue to bring you the whole range of associations—emotional, physical, sensual—that are present in his stories.

His bio lists a credit from the *Orlando Sentinel*: "The best storyteller in the U.S." Quite a statement, but if Martin Dockery isn't, he's damn close.

<http://georgesapio.wixsite.com/ithacafringe/copy-of-review-2017-delirium-klein-1>