

RECENT REVIEWS ABOUT THE KNITTING PILGRIM

<https://nowtoronto.com/stage/theatre/best-toronto-stage-shows-may-2019/?fbclid=IwAR0yM7FoC0Md1cjkSnoa96-9Hmw0AICZH4LK0Z0pqT5GIvIK7bnFwcWZo3E>

The 10 best Toronto stage shows to see in May 2019



From a new work by a flamenco great and a play by an Oscar-winning writer to the revival of a Canadian queer classic, here are the shows you'll be talking about this month

BY GLENN SUMI, KATHLEEN SMITH

MAY 1, 2019, 5:21 PM



*Kirk Dunn will keep you in stitches in **The Knitting Pilgrim**.*

THE KNITTING PILGRIM

Actor, writer and knitting master **Kirk Dunn** takes on religion and spirituality one stitch at a time in this unique multidisciplinary show and textile installation. Directed by **Jennifer Tarver** (formerly Necessary Angel's artistic director), and co-written with screenwriter **Claire Ross Dunn** (Little Mosque On The Prairie, Degrassi, The Next Generation), the work weaves together projections and storytelling with intricate hand-made tapestries (Dunn's Stitched Glass series) as a backdrop. After a brief run at the Aga Khan, The Knitting Pilgrim tours throughout Ontario, including dates at the Toronto Fringe later this summer.

RECENT REVIEWS Continued

The Official Website of

Lynn Slotkin & The Slotkin Letter

<http://slotkinletter.com/2019/05/review-the-knitting-pilgrim>

Review: THE KNITTING PILGRIM

by LYNN on MAY 11, 2019

in THE PASSIONATE PLAYGOER



Aga Khan Museum, 77 Wynford Dr., Toronto, Ont.

Co-written and performed by Kirk Dunn

Co-written by Claire Ross Dunn

Directed by Jennifer Tarver

Saying *The Knitting Pilgrim* by Kirk Dunn is a play about knitting is as much an understatement as saying Gateau St. Honoré is a simple dessert.

Kirk Dunn was first an actor who began knitting he says to pass the time while touring in a van with other actors. A recent newspaper article said he began knitting to impress a girlfriend. Whatever. He learned how to knit and became good at it.

When Kaffe Fassett, master knitter extraordinaire came to Toronto Kirk Dunn's wife Claire suggested Dunn meet him and perhaps offer to apprentice with him. This came to pass. Dunn's work became more colourful and intricate. Again, Dunn's wife Claire suggested he take his knitted work to the Textile Museum of Canada. This brought him to the attention of Nataley Nagy the Past Executive Director of the Textile Museum of Canada. She said his knitted work was a work of art, almost like an expressionist painting. She suggested he knit something that says something about the world. That was the birth of his triptych of tapestries—three panels that illuminated aspects of Judaism, Christianity and Islam—the commonality and differences of the faiths. The panels are about 11' x 7' and it took him 15 years to knit. They are astonishing. Through Dunn's one person play he shows the audience how to knit, from making the stitches both pearl and knit, casting off and knitting. His manner is mild, thoughtful and inquisitive. He is self-deprecating, personable and full of charm. He comes from a long line of Presbyterian ministers. His great grandfather was a minister. His grandfather was one. And his father is one. Kirk Dunn became an actor. Go figure. But religion is part of his life as is faith and compassion. He researched all three religions to be able to create an accurate work of art. He read widely. He tried to answer religious intolerance when he came face to face with it. And all the time he knitted his tapestries.

Jennifer Tarver has directed this with sensitivity, never getting in the way of Dunn and his storytelling, always enhancing it with a movement across the stage here, the projection of an image there. There are baskets of balls of wool and knitting needles and the audience is invited to know. This is a 'play' you want everyone to see for his persistence and his devotion to such a worthy project.

OTHER ARTICLES ABOUT THE KNITTING PILGRIM

Toronto Star:

Knitting Pilgrim project appearing at Aga Khan explores religious commonalities

<https://www.thestar.com/life/2019/05/07/knitting-pilgrim-project-appearing-at-aga-khan-explores-religious-commonalities.html>

Kingston Whig Standard:

Play, triptych chronicles knitter's artistic, spiritual journeys

https://www.thewhig.com/entertainment/local-arts/play-triptych-chronicles-knitters-artistic-spiritual-journeys?fbclid=IwAR0QYfnMjRc0nwUXsgYx8Fc6PIALd9_R4NNWmB9WGTK4Xd5efHq4-ajlTpo

The Broadview Magazine:

Artist spent 15 years knitting gigantic interfaith tapestries

https://broadview.org/kirk-dunn-knitting-pilgrim/?fbclid=IwAR2jWK43pm1rit7Eb7yp3T7NXgqr_D9eRjCsAppGO4RMjEhND8JOWWecP7Y

PAST REVIEWS

[Kirk](#)

Billy Bishop Goes to War, by John Gray in collaboration with Eric Peterson

"Kirk Dunn does an excellent job of telling the story of Billy Bishop as he goes from raw cavalry recruit at the Royal Military College to a flying ace. The description of his first flight in a 'kite with a motor' is wonderful. Some productions resort to full-scale airplanes and elaborate sets. This one is a true original. Dunn and pianist Mike Lerner create an atmosphere with sound effects and good acting."

- The Community Press, Stirling

[Ergo Arts Theatre- Festival Reviews](#)

Buckle My Shoe (Toronto Fringe)

NOW Magazine – Fringe Favourites - Outstanding Production, Outstanding Ensemble, **NNNN**

Breaking Character (Patron's Pick – Toronto Fringe)

"One of the richest, most subtle scripts of the year ... weaves intimacy, sensuality and pain into this suggestive work" - **Jon Kaplan – NOW Magazine, NNNN**

Vicious Circle (Toronto Fringe)

"One of the top five shows at this year's Festival." - **Richard Ouzounian – CBC Radio**

Truce (Summerworks)

"A gently perceptive, quietly satisfying short drama." - **Jill Lawless – NOW Magazine, NNNN**