



Press History - Juliet: A Revenge Comedy

CBC - ★★★★★

Ryan Gladstone's Monster Theatre is money in the bank.

In this brand new show, written by Gladstone and Pippa Mackie, Juliet joins a bevy Shakespeare's Suicide Girls as they try to gain agency over their lives outside of the Bard's sharp and sexist quill.

Mackie, alongside Carly Pokoradi, channel the child Juliet and a fearsome Lady Macbeth along with Ophelia, Cleopatra and more. Gladstone plays a suitably foppish William of Stratford to a merry band of feminists in this time-shifting, mind-bending comedic confection.

It's cerebral without ever being inaccessible. It's comfortably cool in the handy, food-purveying King's Head Pub venue, so you'd be daft, or slow to buy, to miss out on this sure-to-sell-out gem.

Winnipeg Free Press - ★★★★★

A raucous pub environment is the perfect venue for the latest hilarious offering from Vancouver's Monster Theatre after many fringe hits in previous years.

The arc of Shakespeare's titular character from Romeo and Juliet, played by co-writer Pippa Mackie, is followed through to the end of her play, before a quick rewind prevents her from killing herself. Instead, she meanders through some of the Bard's other plays in an attempt to liberate these women.



Juliet finds herself befriending characters such as Lady Macbeth, Ophelia, Cleopatra and Miranda, all played brilliantly by Carly Pokoradi. Together they end up confronting Shakespeare, played by co-writer Ryan Gladstone, before Juliet rewrites the Bard's endings so the women live (mostly) happily ever after.

The interactions between Pokoradi and Mackie veer between classic Shakespeare and saucy modern-day dialogue, keeping audiences in stitches from beginning to end of the 60-minute production. The taut writing, sparse props and sound effects are bolstered by fantastic performances, which serve to ratchet up the laughs from start to finish.

— *Ben MacPhee-Sigurdson*

Liz Nichols - 12thNight.ca

"I don't think I'm in Verona any more," says Juliet. No kidding. Funny how possibilities for travel seem to multiply when you don't die on purpose, at 13, over a guy you met two days before.

In this clever, witty new show from Vancouver's Monster Theatre — celebrating 20 years at the Edmonton Fringe — Juliet finds herself on an action adventure in Scotland, Denmark, Egypt. She's pried herself loose from the untimely death written into the narrative of the Shakespeare tragedy she's stuck in. And getting sprung, a 'what was I thinking?' moment, gives the girl new perspective.

In the sassy new comedy by Ryan Gladstone and Pippa Mackie, both in the cast, Juliet assembles a posse of Shakespeare women who kill themselves in Shakespeare tragedies. She meets fierce, homicidal Lady Macbeth, Ophelia who goes nuts ("when there is literally no narrative reason for it") and drowns herself, and Cleopatra, fixated on leaving this world and entering the eternal one via snake bite. And together this



unlikely sisterhood hunts down the author who's prescribed their fates. ?
Rewriting Shakespeare tragedy: how insurrectionist is that?

"I'm not dying for you any more," declares the plucky Juliet. Her creator, the greatest writer of all time as he himself says, is appalled: "But you're one of my greatest inventions. Top 10 for sure."

Gladstone himself plays the Bard with a self-satisfied smirk about his collected works, "the best-selling book of all time" (well, nearly). Mackie is very amusing as Juliet, who discovers the pre-teen within. And Carly Pokoradi is a riot in the high-speed quick-changes between Lady M, Ophelia, Cleopatra, and 'brave new world' Miranda from *The Tempest*.

The fun of this smart show, much appreciated by a cheering full house, is the barrage of Shakespeare references and contemporary barbs, the feminist drive of it, and the ingenious cheap-theatre stagecraft devised by director Gladstone.

Monster Theatre has a 20-year track record in setting huge topics (Canadian history, War and Peace, Jesus, the wives of Henry VIII) in motion, and running really really fast with them while juggling. This is one of the best. Give yourself a treat.

UMFM

After committing suicide over and over again at the end of *Romeo and Juliet*, Juliet mysteriously acquires the power to resist the urge to kill herself. After accidentally finding a magical book (Shakespeare's complete works), she discovers that she can travel into other Shakespeare plays. In the course of her travels she meets Ophelia, Lady Macbeth, Miranda, and Cleopatra and eventually leads them on a quest to confront Shakespeare himself.



This play features a very funny script by Pippa Mackie and Ryan Gladstone. It is fast paced and filled with plenty of absurd scenes, bawdy humor, and funny one liners. Pippa Mackie portrays Juliet with a pleasing blend of feistiness and naivety while Carly Pokoradi seamlessly shifts between the roles of the other female characters. I particularly liked Pokoradi's portrayal of Lady Macbeth; her steely manner and brusque comments provided some of the funniest moments of the show. Both Mackie and Pokoradi have excellent comic timing, are very adept at physical comedy, and their razor sharp performances keep the show rolling along.

This fast paced comic romp is riotously funny from beginning to end. I strongly suggest you go see it.