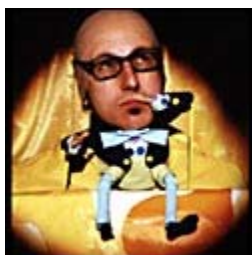


Arts

theater

The New York International Fringe Festival



This week, downtown's tiny black boxes will be festooned with outrageous names and improbable claims as they fill with the very best (and worst) of alternative theater. **The New York International Fringe Festival** is back, with more than 1,000 performances, hundreds of puppets, a gaggle of performance artists, and a motley range of high-concept yet lowbrow musicals, each emboldened by the Broadway success of Fringe alumnus *Urinetown*. Veterans of Fringes past should expect more bold company names (Faggot Force, Crafty Beavers Productions), more shameless erotic pandering (*The Boob Movie*), and some dubious post-9/11 pondering. Expect a little of everything. -- LOGAN HILL

The Bizarro Bologna Show

Bizarro Productions

Dan Piraro, creator of the comic strip "Bizarro," emerges from the funny pages to speak honestly about his life. Since this is Fringe, he will do so with puppets.

Death of Frank

Sum of Us

Farmers in love: The salt of the earth is shaken in the latest drama by the busy Stephen Belber (*Tape*, *The Laramie Project*).

Man of Infinite Desire

4Panel Productions

In Christina Nicosia's solo drama, translated and mangled by Web-based language software, an absent-minded Beelzebub lectures about alchemy and Faust.

Five Frozen Embryos & The Sleepers

Singularity

Two new one-acts by Christopher Shinn (*Four*) and David Greenspan. Come on, you'll pay \$50 to see Shinn's Playwrights Horizons production of *What Didn't Happen* this winter -- twelve bucks now is a bargain.

Con\$umer Behavior

Co-dependent Productions

An aspiring *Urinetown* and modern *Ballad of Reading Gaol*: Two jingle-writing admen get trapped in an evil "consumer test mall" and sing! Sing! Sing!

Sajjil (Record)

Nibras

The year-old troupe, comprising Arab-American stage veterans, riffs on Arab life in the U.S. since the September 11 attacks.

Liz Estrada

Dramatic Women

You guessed it: a modern adaptation of the Aristophanes comedy. This time it's 2045, the world is about to end (again), and only an abstinent glam-rocker can save us all.

Naked Girls Drinking!

Bon Bock Productions

An earnest playwright battles producers who want to turn his coming-of-age musical about three college friends into a saucy surefire hit.

Men Do Not Go to War Over Women

act to

Letting Helen of Troy off the hook, Gina Landor's adaptation of an Andrew Rissik radioplay made London's The Guardian critic rave that the script "makes you catch your breath."

August 9th through August 25th

Check www.fringenyc.com or call 212-420-8877 for schedules, tickets, and information on how to volunteer in exchange for free tickets. Tickets are \$12; all outdoor performances are free.

[More Theater](#) and [Back to Weekend Hot List](#)

Photograph by Jenny Warburg.

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