

What the critics have said about **theater simple's** production of ***The Master & Margarita***

NAMED **Critic's Pick or Best Of the Fringe** by : Winnipeg Free Press, CBC Radio(Saskatoon & Edmonton), CBC TV(Winnipeg, Saskatoon, Edmonton) **Edmonton Journal**, **Edmonton Sun**, **Victoria Times-Colonist**, **Georgia Straight**, **Vancouver Sun**, **The Province**, **The Stranger**, **Seattle Times**, **Seattle Weekly**, **Seattle.sidewalk.com**, **Adelaide Advertiser**, **Best Show - Victoria & Vancouver Fringes** (also, awarded **Moby-Dick-in-a-Goldfish-Bowl** prize for Adaptation)
Named one of the **Five Best Things to Happen in Seattle theater in 1997** by the **Seattle Weekly**
1997 Footlight Award by the **Seattle Times**

The Advertiser **FRINGE AWARD: BEST PLAY ★★★★★**

"this vigorous Seattle company **delivers the quality goods once again** ...theater simple **balances the grotesque with the sublimely elegant**, juxtaposes absurdity with profundity and makes light of darkness. **Superb.**"

The Stranger Seattle

"5 talented actors, 13 lights, a simple set and a handful of props - **a wild, chaotic, nightmare-drenched hallucination - razor sharp and air tight**. Characters and scenes transform in an instant, gallop away and then return to their starting point with a symmetry that is **breathhtakingly unexpected yet inevitable.**"

The Seattle Times "A surreal, carnival-esque tone - **a fantastically and darkly funny story** in which the various characters and plots twist, wend and unpeel on their way to making the author's points. **Remarkable. It's one of those rare plays that you still contemplate days after it's over.**" **1997 FOOTLIGHT AWARD**

The Seattle Weekly "The company launches into the text with a sort of **ingenuity that makes you laugh out loud** - the journey has so much interesting scenery that you're sorry to have it come to an end. **Fringe at its best.**"

The Seattle Post-Intelligencer "**A heap of giddy inventiveness...** satire predominates, but also slapstick comedy, music-hall hijinks, historical pageant, hallucinatory surrealism, low tech special effects and rarified philosophy. **Ingenious.**"

Seattle.sidewalk.com "**theater simple conjures huge effects from the tightest economy...** broadcasting magic more evocatively rich than the high-dollar confections seen on main stages elsewhere around town. Director Rachel S. Katz choreographs the **carnival complexity into a flawless movement.**"

Georgia Straight Vancouver "Treat yourself to the ***Master & Margarita***. It's **pure theatrical poetry** - in it's ambitions, concerns and form - and poetry in the theatre is as startlingly unexpected as spiritual honesty in everyday life... **An extraordinary piece of work from a team of artists who are true masters of the Fringe.**"

The Province - Vancouver "**theater simple** magically transforms an almost bare stage - it makes you want to go back and see it again and again."

Edmonton Journal ★★★★★ "A polished gem - **If you catch - and you must - theater simple's engrossing version of *The Master & Margarita*, you'll see a company with it's wits about them - and the Fringe at it's finest...**a supple, hallucinogenic production that uses the simple resources of a Fringe stage with great panache. This is the kind of **apparent simplicity that demonstrates real theatrical sophistication** - an invitation for an audience to take a leap of the imagination. A stunning combination of stagecraft and storytelling."

SEE Magazine ★★★★★ "a theatrical yarn that is **positively exhilarating** in scope, structure and sheer energy. **Nothing short of an amazing performance spectacle.** If you're going to see one show at the Fringe, go to this one."

The Edmonton Sun ★★★★★ " - magic, vaudeville, tragedy and stark drama are all used by this superb troupe to tell this vivid tale...**seamless direction - ingenious and theatrical. A memorable fringe experience - don't let this one get away.**"

Saskatoon Star Phoenix ★★★★★ " - glittering, gripping - **90 minutes that grab the audience and shake it up.** It presents story within story, truth within lie, lie within truth, good within evil, asking questions, forcing reconsiderations - all cohere into **a magnificent whole. Don't miss it.**"

CBC Radio Saskatoon "**RIVETING! Brilliantly done! Brilliantly done! EVERYBODY should see this!**"

CBC 24 HOURS Winnipeg **#2 of Top 10 Picks of the Fringe**" **...theater simple's *Master & Margarita* does what this company is unsurpassed at: taking difficult, inspiring texts and turning them into engaging and challenging performances. ..taut and voluptuous at the same time. Everything they do onstage is interesting. A wonderful piece of theater beautifully realized.**"

Winnipeg Free Press ★★★★★ "...lightning speed, detailed finesse- vital, strong and committed. The direction is crisp, clean and tight. **A play for the fringer on the prowl for quality.**"