

Theatre Seoul's Youth Music Company present their version of a classic Korean love story at C. As well as performing in their native country, they've toured to New York and Shanghai and they also had a special performance as part of the 2002 World Cup.



There are five productions of **Macbeth** listed in this year's theatre programme, including one on a bouncy castle, one with Afro Caribbean rhythms and this one which has fire and motorcycles.



Mel Giedroyc (again) leads the cast of popular Eurovision musical at the Pleasance. Check out our review on page 16. It's not "nul points".



Baba Brinkman in *The Rap Canterbury Tales*

Play On Words

Three's Company
 'Play On Words' builds an appealing surreal world around depressed actor Fred, who seeks refuge within the four consoling walls of the theatre. He must re-enact his memories of a failed relationship in order to attain both catharsis and clarity over a woman he perceives to have been "taken", in a plot reminiscent of the Michel Gondry directed 'Eternal Sunshine of the Spotless Mind'. A playfully precocious script provides an excellent angle from which to appreciate this talented young cast. Playwright Tom Crawshaw's debt to Tom Stoppard gives the play its strong intellectualist sub-text with all of the philosophical musings and witty wordplay that this implies. This tendency is softened by the play's physical comedy, audience participation and experimental presentation. Stoppard for the Gondry generation.
 C. SoCo, 3 - 27 Aug, 9:00pm (10:15pm), prices vary, fpp 216.
 tw rating 4/5
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Prints Of Denmark

Mixed Company Productions
 A clever, fast-paced comedy intending to disentangle notions of multiculturalism from the reductive clutches of our insidious media. The seven-strong cast take to the stylish stage en masse before demonstrating their flexibility through a variety of sketches. Taking the 2005 controversy of a Danish cartoon's depictions of the Prophet Muhammad as its basis, this production utilises a familiar satirical sketch show format, adding some moments of originality. When the leader of a Muslim 'angry mob' is unable to purchase a Danish flag for protest purposes, the stall owner quips: "But if you burn the flags of all the surrounding countries, Denmark might catch fire symbolically"; this provides one of the play's many multi-layered critical summations. Cool, ironical, self-referential and consistently amusing.
 Sweet ECA, 2 - 19 Aug, 7:45pm (8:35pm), £7.50 (£6.50), fpp 216.
 tw rating 4/5
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The Rap Canterbury Tales

Babazword Productions
 Baba Brinkman is a genius. With 'The Rap Canterbury Tales' he has translated three of Chaucer's tales from middle-English into contemporary hip-hop, bringing the six-hundred-year-old characters to life for 21st century audiences. Not content with this staggeringly clever feat, he performs all three fantastically - alongside his own unique tale - completely inhabiting Chaucer's Miller, Pardoner and Wife of Bath. In his talented hands they become contemporary, believable characters, while remaining true to their Chaucerian roots. As if translating Chaucer into rap and then performing it live were not enough, Brinkman also performed a freestyle rap as an encore, improvised on the spot from words suggested by the audience. A prodigious talent; if he wasn't so likeable, he'd be a little bit sickening.
 Roman Eagle Lodge, 3 - 26 Aug, 8:45pm (9:45pm), £7.50 (£6.50), fpp 218.
 tw rating 5/5
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Ravenhill For Breakfast

Paines Plough
 Today's offering from Ravenhill's series of new plays was 'Women Of Troy', a poignant piece centred on three women discussing the War On Terror. Nathalie Armin, Vicki Liddelle and Linda Marlowe acted well together as they asked the terrorists 'why?'. Although the play is obviously addressing an extremely real and serious issue, it still succeeded in being comical, notably with the characters being petty and materialistic, and continually repeating that they are good people; the audience is left to reflect on our outlook on the world, not just the terrorists'. The haunting voiceover, reading out news reports of terrorist attacks, was particularly chilling. If each of Ravenhill's Fringe plays is as enjoyable and thought provoking as this, then don't hesitate to see them.
 Traverse Theatre, 7 - 26 Aug (not 13, 14 or 20), 9:30am (10:00am), £7.00, fpp 218. tw rating 4/5
 [kan]

Spread

Hourglass
 Women and weight. Women and self-image. Women and beauty magazines telling them they're ugly and fat. All are issues covered in this production, but with an unexpectedly mischievous slant; this is a bemused look at an industry that takes itself too seriously. Bearing the appearance of having been collectively devised by the three performers, the show moves from scene to scene, preferring to communicate through movement and voiceovers rather than dialogue. The scenes differ wildly - the Garden of Eden, a health spa, a kitchen which becomes a war zone... Their ingenuity is quite impressive, and the finished product is tightly structured, well-performed and full of energy. Guaranteed guilt free indulgence.
 Zoo Southside, 1 - 27 Aug (not 13), 7:00pm (8:00pm), £7.00 (£5.00), fpp 226. tw rating 3/5
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