

FRINGE SPOTLIGHT – KIMBERLY PATTERSON – RAKE THEATER

06 APR 2017 POSTED BY TOMMI PRITCHETT

0 COMMENT



Today's Fringe Spotlight features another Purple Venue artist – Kimberly Patterson. Kimberly is a playwright and produces under the title Rake Theater. Her musical *Douchenozzle* will premier in May at the Orlando Fringe Festival.

Can you tell us a little bit about your show? My show is called *Douchenozzle: the Musical*, written by me with music composed by David Weinstein. The show is a funny, irreverent musical (which features “mature anatomical language” but no actual swearing. Here’s our blurb: Instead of taking back the night, they’re rewriting the dictionary! Felicia and Dori are the voices of *Douchenozzle*, a musical act touring the country to spread their message of gender-free insults. A comedic look at how we talk about women and what those words ACTUALLY mean! From the creators of *Oedipus for Kids!* and *The Joys of Sex*.

Please tell me about why you chose to apply/participate for/in the Orlando Fringe festival. What about Orlando Fringe appeals to you as an artist?

I love Orlando Fringe! I’ve participated in the 2008, 2010, and 2012 festivals as a playwright, and I’ve attended every year in between. One year I got to sponsor a venue, which was especially cool because it felt like I was helping other artists find a place to do their own work. It feels like a real community because everyone—performers, volunteers, even audience members—are so invested in what we do. Because it’s growing in size, we get to reach new audience members while still maintaining a laid-back, “Fringe” atmosphere.

Has Orlando Fringe enabled/enhanced your artistic career in any way?

If so, how? The festival has given me a place to try out new plays in a safe environment, and has definitely made me a more confident writer. Plus, because I self-produce, I have learned so much about the process; I can transfer these skills to my “day job” as a high school theater teacher and share what I learn with my students.

What piece of advice would you give to a first-time Fringe artist and/or patron?

Have fun! See as many shows as you can. Talk to artists and make friends with people in line. The more you put into it, the more you can get out of it!

Have you performed/produced at any other Fringes? Which ones? Can you tell us a little bit about your experience there? How does Orlando Fringe stand out?

My composer and I have each done New York Fringe, and while it was really exciting to be part of something that huge, I would say this: Orlando is so much more chill. It helps that the venues are almost exclusively located in one area... it was always a big challenge trying to find each location [in New York]. In Orlando, you get to know the admin staff, while in NYC it's more difficult to know who to go to if you have questions. I would definitely do FringeNYC again, and I am really interested in participating in other festivals around the country and in Canada, but Orlando Fringe is always my first choice.

Besides your show for the May festival, what other projects are you involved in?

I got to go to Edinburgh Fringe this past summer as a patron (which was amazing) and I'll be taking a group of my students there this summer to perform their own show (so producing at Edinburgh Fringe is a dream come true).

What's next for your production company (or you, as an independent artist)? Anything top-secret you can hint about?

Looking forward to the next project my composer and I can collaborate on (whatever it may be)!

Check out *Douchenozzle: The Musical's* website for show schedule and more info.

10 and 25 passes are now on sale for the general public and are close to selling out. Head over to buy yours before it's too late! Show tickets officially go on sale to the general public on April 17th after the Local Teaser shows, but if you're a member of Club Fringe you can buy tickets today.

And as always, check us out on Facebook for the latest information about all things Orlando Fringe!

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WRITTEN BY TOMMI PRITCHETT

Tommi was introduced to Orlando Fringe in 2010 and instantly fell in love with the community, concept, and array of talent she witnessed. She started volunteering in 2013 and fulfilled several contract positions until she accepted the role of Development Coordinator in 2015. She received her BA in English from Rollins College and the Certificate in Proposal Writing from the Edyth Bush Institute for Philanthropy and Nonprofit Management. Besides Fringe, Tommi loves animals, hiking and kayaking, and writing. She believes the arts builds stronger, more inclusive communities and is thankful to be doing what she loves (writing!) for the purpose of contributing to this idea. She currently resides in Melbourne, FL with her partner and their three dogs (Grace, Porter, and Luna) and Rumour the cat.

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There are no upcoming events at this time.
