

## FRINGERS CAME, SAW AND GOT CURIOUS Fringe Festival finishes up another year of indie theatre fun

**WINNIPEG, July 31, 2023** – Fringe ended its 36<sup>th</sup> annual festival on a high note, literally, with a Broadway sing-along at Old Market Square. This year, Fringe hosted performing companies from near and far, bringing the community together to enjoy indie theatre in a city-wide celebration.

The total ticketed attendance was 81,500 with 108 sold-out performances and \$718,505.05 in box office revenue was returned to the performing companies. The festival featured 141 performing companies with 1202 ticketed performances.

Festival Producer Chuck McEwen said, “The excitement of the festival continues at Fringe HQ, as we look back on the success of the 2023 Winnipeg Fringe Festival. We had thousands of Fringe veterans and first-time Fringers out in force enjoying the 141 amazing productions as well as the bands and entertainers in Old Market Square. Despite a slightly smaller festival than in 2019, we’re thrilled that the performing companies, on average, had fuller houses and higher revenue than before the pandemic.”

### FRINGE HIGHLIGHTS

- **A MYSTERY IS NO LONGER AFOOT:** Thanks to the concerted efforts of 494 fledgling detectives, Sherlock Holmes, played by Shelby Bond, was able to save Prince Alexandu of Romania. This Pay-What-You-Can interactive theatre experience was a new offering this year, aimed to help make affordable theatre accessible to everyone.
- **HARRY S. RINTOUL MEMORIAL AWARD:** The Manitoba Association of Playwrights (MAP) presented the 2023 award for best new Manitoban play to Cuinn Joseph, Connor Joseph and Monique Gauthier from JHG Creative for their musical *World's Fair 1876: The Centennial Exposition*. The honourable mention went to *A Work in Progress* by Ethan Stark.

The 2024 Winnipeg Fringe Theatre Festival will run from July 17 – 28.

**HIGH-RESOLUTION PHOTOS:** For general festival shots and performer production photos visit the MEDIA section at [winnipegfringe.com](http://winnipegfringe.com)

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