



**Festival 2004**



**theatre**

(P) 15 out of 223

Theatre

Rating Guide

None = Unmissable



= Unwatchable

Page number refers to the Fringe programme



**2004**



Edinburgh Fringe 2004

**Pieces of Eight.** (page 175).

**Drams** None - but perhaps an orange juice to get you in the mood.

**Venue** George Square Theatre (Venue 37).

**Address** George Square.

**Reviewer** Sarah Jane Murray.

The glory days of Hollywood brought us showbiz in spades. But in this age of special effects, showbiz is something that can be conjured at the touch of a button. Thank goodness then for **Sossy Mechanics**, who do showbiz old-style. And there is no room for special effects here, not when you've got two charismatic performers who could dance the taps off Fred and Ginger. *Brian Sostek* and *Megan McClellan* return for their second Fringe outing, hoping to repeat the successes of last year's Critics' Pick **Trick Boxing**. And if there is any justice, they will be duly awarded again.

All this talk of showbiz and charisma is all very well, but a good show also needs a good story. Luckily **Pieces of Eight** delivers. A dual narrative sees 1940s screenwriter Norman Goldwyn pitching his new movie script to the Bitterman Brothers. We play audience to Goldwyn's pitch, and watch as he and the Bittermans' secretary enact his script - a swashbuckling tale of dancing pirates, Latin dancing and oranges. It is a charming and mischievous story, and one brought completely to life by the frothy yet suave performances.

The bare stage is transformed without props - at intervals, it becomes a Hollywood studio, a noble ship and a Spanish orange grove, all thanks to the accomplished performances. Combining delightful dance numbers, precise timing and brilliant wit, the **Sossy Mechanics** are almost flawless. No one need reminisce about the glory days - glamour is truly alive and kicking.

©Sarah Jane Murray 8 August 2004 - Published on EdinburghGuide.com

Runs to 22 August, at 14.30.

Company - Sossy Mechanics in association with Fringe Management.

Company Website [www.sossymechanics.com](http://www.sossymechanics.com)