

Plenty of zest

THEATRE REVIEW

Pieces Of Eight

★★★★

Last year, Brian Sostek and Megan McClellan's *Trickboxing* was one of the surprise hits of the Fringe, a Damon Runyon-esque story that mixed boxing, dancing and puppetry to great effect, winning five-star reviews and the hearts of audiences and reviewers alike.

This year, they have returned with *Trickboxing* (playing at this venue until Sunday) and also with a new work, *Pieces Of Eight*, which offers us another shot of their heady cocktail of physical comedy and romance.

Using a tray of oranges, two umbrellas, a length of rope and a lot of imagination, this Sassy Mechanics production is set in 1940s Hollywood, where Norman Goldwyn (Sostek) is about to pitch his pirate movie to studio magnates The Bitterman Brothers.

Helped by a resourceful secretary (McClellan), Goldwyn begins to weave the story of pirate queen Mad Maggie

and her sidekick Argolingo, but will the execs fall for their story? Of course. As with *Trickboxing*, this is a charming mix of dance and storytelling, performed with grace and humour. Anyone who caught them first time round needs little more incentive to see them again. The overall effect isn't quite as punchy as *Trickboxing* – the framing story doesn't really resonate and the twin narratives complicate the emotional content. But in the face of such good-humoured fun, these are quibbles. Sassy, sophisticated entertainment.

Eddie Harrison

Until Sun, George Square Theatre (V37), George Square, 14:30 to 15:30, £10, £7.50 concs. Tel: 0131 662 8740. www.uoefo.com



Sharp:
Sostek and
McClellan