

lunatic fringe

The Seattle Fringe Festival continues on Capitol Hill, with hundreds of performances by dozens of groups still to come before this unjuried smorgasbord of theater ends. Here are our reactions to a batch of fringe shows cooked up by local and out-of-town artists.

"Trick Boxing"

As in roller coasters, the thrill of "Trick Boxing" isn't where you go, but how well the ride is built. Luckily, its creators (Brian Sostek and Megan McClellan of Minneapolis' Sossy Productions) seem to be experts in the field of ride construction.

The actual plot of the show — underdog boxer meets swing-dancin' gal, everybody wins — could be cooked up in as much time as it takes to watch a "Rocky" flick.

By now, you know the underdog will win, and you know he'll get the girl. But that isn't the question here. The question is, "Just how many parts can one guy play in a single show?" "Trick Boxing" turns out to be a showcase for Sostek, whose dozen-or-so detailed characters interact seamlessly, picking up speed from cleverly written dialogue.

Only when McClellan steps in does Sostek take a break from acting with himself, and even then it's for vigorous dance numbers.

It's Fred and Ginger, One-Man Shakespeare, and Nostalgic Melodrama, in tight, clever packaging. The publicity poster promises "A Technical Knock-Out," and Sostek and McClellan deliver effortlessly.

Runs 11 p.m. Thursday, 6:30 p.m. Saturday, 5:30 p.m. Sunday at NW Actor's Studio, 1100 E. Pike.

— Leah B. Green



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Brian Sostek, right, and Megan McClellan have performed their fast-paced physical comedy "Trick Boxing" for audiences in the United States and Canada.