January 17th, Quizmaster K in 'From Musselburgh with Love' - East Lothian Pride

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The run up to Xmas is in full swing, and theatres up and down the country are in the panto mood. I’m writing this myself from the dressing room of my very own panto Cinderella. It’s a magical time of year and those who aren’t fans of panto are catered for. The Playhouse in Edinburgh are bringing a brand new production of Priscilla to sparkle some Xmas cheer. So if you’re looking for a fab night of Xmas cheer at the theatre be sure to pop to your local auditorium and enjoy yourself. Now let’s get those reviews going.

Tonight A West End Xmas Review:Beyond Broadway Productions have been staging these Tonight Concerts for a while, and whilst sporadic in their appearances they always promise a big West End names in local venues to give a touch of quality to the theatrical scene. That said, this particular production which featured the talents of Ruthie Henshall, Louise Dearman and the gorgeous Jon Lee fell way below par. It was obvious from the beginning that the production was heavily under rehearsed, combining three polished West End stars with a large choral choir drawn from across the musical board it started out promisingly enough, however the lack of time rehearsing began to show through with the MD not bringing the singers in on cue, causing a restart of a song, especially in the case of Ruthie Henshall who thanks to her unique and engaging talent was able to restart Feed the Birds to an enthusiastic response from the audience. 

The highlight of the evening was Jon Lee and an inspired rendition of 5 Club 7’s hit Never Had A Dream Come True rearranged for acoustic guitar and accompanied by the choir, it really showed off the colour of Jon’s voice beautifully. Ruthie, Louise and Jon worked hard to pull the show together, but it wasn’t quite enough to cover the cracks that more rehearsal time would have ensured the production truly shine. The show did feel a little short coming in at under two hours including the 30 minute interval and with tickets costing up to £21+ on this occasion it wasn’t up to the usual standard the company produces.

The next Tonight concerts have been announced for Spring 2016 - let’s hope they can return to form.

Tonight! Usher Hall Edinburgh, run ended.

Snow White and the Seven Dwarfs Review:
The UK’s biggest panto producer QDOS have been in charge of Edinburgh King’s Theatre pantomime for a long time now, and are constantly toppling themselves out promisingly enough, however the output is no different.

With Snow White returning to the King’s for the first time in nearly 12 years, this is simply the best panto production in the UK today.

With the triumphant panto trilogy of Allan Stewart (Harvey) Andy Gray (Hector) and Grant Stott (The Wicked Queen) returning backed by a stellar cast, beautiful sets, stunning costumes and special effects that will knock your eyes out this is the crème de la crème of panto.

Following the familiar story of Snow White with a heavy dash of comedy that induces belly laughs non stop more so than the great Andy Gray who is quite simply the best Panto comic to be working the stages today. Melding the best of our panto greats Messrs Fulton, Milroy, Butler and the late great Gerard Kelly, Andy’s ability to make a single word funny is a unique gift and his comedy timing is second to none especially as he spars with Allan Stewart.

Speaking of Allan Stewart, he has really raised his game this year, with a script that allows him the ability to both deliver comedy and some marvellous comedy acting along with his usual high caliber production numbers and his costumes just need to be seen to be believed.

The Villain of the panto, Grant Stott, truly shines as the wicked queen, his character is a central plot point, and he embodies this and what’s on stage that ensures buss about the theatre making him now one of the greats of panto.

With a funny troupe of dwarfs (played by full size actors in clever costumes) a lovely Snow White and a prince with a powerhouse voice (the prince is played by Greg Barrowman) you just wish you could see a little bit more of him during the panto.

With special effects that make the jaws drop, this truly is a pantom for the masses and worth every penny of the ticket price. So make sure to pop along to the Kings for the adventure of a lifetime. Snow White and the Seven Dwarfs, King’s Theatre Edinburgh until Sun 17th Jan 2016.

Priscilla Queen of the Desert Preview: The Playhouse in Edinburgh have been known for bringing some the biggest and best West End shows to Scotland for the Xmas period, this year sees a third visit from Priscilla Queen of the Desert. Why give it the big Xmas slot? Well this is a completely new production of the show with a brand new Priscilla Bus which is a marked improvement on the last touring production. The original West End opening has been reinstated and has a cast that features the return of West End original Jason Donovan and which is joined for these Scottish performances by Gavin Mitchell (the of Still Game fame) and Karen Dunbar (Chewing the Fat and King’s Glasgow pantos) to give a local flavour.

The Playhouse are promising a colourful party to celebrate Xmas and bring in the New Year in style, with a plethora of Xmas hits and a dash of pathos this is one Priscilla journey you won’t want to miss so check it out!

Priscilla Queen of the Desert, Edinburgh Playhouse until and Jan 2016.

That wraps up another theatre scene edition! May I wish you and yours a very Merry Xmas.

Keep your emails and tweets coming in.

Stevie Harkin
dundee@scotsgay.co.uk
Photo Credit: Joebhoy Designs Group

Seasons greetings, my hunnies.

It seems to be getting darker as the months are going on.

Dundee is set to get a lot more new things in 2016 and you’ll be hearing about them here in Scotsgay.

Meanwhile, if you’re in the mood for some karaoke you can either head to B4 Out on a Wed, Thu, Fri or Sunday or make your way along to Klubat which always seem to have entertainment on. Sam Solar is up on 19th Dec and there’s a Sunday Session Open Mic with Fifty Shades O’ Dove on Sun 26th and 27th Dec.

Stevie Harkin
dundee@scotsgay.co.uk
FULL LISTINGS FROM PAGE 9

PHILIPS

LISTINGS

HARBOR
White Horse Close, Falmouth.

WOMEN’S LISTINGS

CABARET

WOMEN’S PROJECTS

THE CAMP

PLANS

STUDIO 54

FFL:

A THETES AND HUMANISTS

E VANGELICAL CHURCH

SHOREDITCH

EDINBURGH

ZEN

HABANA PRESENTS STUDIO 54!

With DJ Daz (from the Good and Great
house) or a movie ticket for the Vue
Omni provided your ticket is within three
nights which kicked off on 15th Dec with
place to party in style! Bathroom during
the festive period.

Planet and Chal’ky’s played major parts
in the Pride Edinburgh Winter Fest which
concluded with Queens of Sparkles Show
Bar putting on the show to and all shows.
At time of writing the team at Chal’ky’s and Planet were still finalising
plans for Xmas and Hogmanay and say
to keep an eye on the venues and on
their Facebook pages for all the Good!
The big event at Chal’ky’s is the arrival
or rather the return of DRAMA on Tue
nights which kicked off on 15th Dec with
a Star Wars themed night. These
promise to be one of the best loved
called and will be making the most of
their Chal’ky’s home so check out.
and grab a delicious bite to eat in Café
Nouveau. Get the Nightlife on Broughton Street
with festive specials on the menu. It
goes busy in the café so check ahead for
reservations as time is running out.

Elsewhere, don’t forget you can get
money off your shopping in the shops
and grab a delicious bite to eat in Café
Nouveau. The winter menu is also
available and the festive special
includes

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feeling the conflicts in the middle east.

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Full website at http://re-act.scol

e-cards festive cheer.

LGBT youth Scotland are preparing for the Xmas break and when some groups
will take a break. Please Check
www.lightyouth.org.uk for full details
and additional advice and support during the festive period.

Finally, a massive thanks to everyone who supported the Pride Edinburgh Winter Fest events! It was great to see so many of you in the middle of winter and for those who haven’t heard! Sat and July 2015 is the date to keep free for
Pride Edinburgh 2016.

So there we have it, another month rounded up! Sommething up to embrace the festive feeling and cele-
brate as 2015 draws to a close I’ll end as
I usually do by saying whatever you choose to do in the coming month enjoy it
and stay safe.

We are reviewing the various acts on the Edinburgh’s Christmas 2015 Festival just like we did for reading ScotsGay Edinburgh Scene throughout 2015 and I wish you and yours a very Merry and Happy Xmas.

Full listing of shows is available on:
www.edinburghchristmas.com/
whatson/genres/shows

Our reviews are here:
ufiringe.com/category/2015/xmas

Finally, I’d like to take this chance to say thanks for reading ScotsGay Edinburgh
Scene throughout 2015 and I wish you and yours a very Merry and Happy Xmas.
Hello Aberdeen, how are you? If you’ve anything like me you’ll be swamped with family visiting, taking trips to the pantos, having some last minute shopping rage and drinking far too much alcohol. This last month saw the arrival of the Xmas Market on Union Terrace. Go and take a look at the stalls whilst drinking some mulled wine before taking five minutes to be a child and ice skate. Okay, so it’s not the best market, but if you do the above, you’ll get a good fifteen minute walk out of it and maybe a present idea or two.

Cheers saw some formidable talents this month. Ru Paul’s Drag Race runner up Pandora Boxx took us on an adventure to Peking! To all the cast, but especially Brian Elrick, take a bow, you’ve done us all proud again. Of course, a big shout out goes to the cast of A Lad in Tights for their stunning performance over the 9th-13th Dec. Selling out 6 shows, the 5 strong cast brought the house down all week as they took us on an adventure to Peking! To all the cast, but especially Brian Elrick, take a bow, you’ve done us all proud again.

On Sat night, the gorgeous Tina Sparkle returned to Aberdeen with her Xmas show and I for one will be in the front row hoping that she falls flat on her face! I just can’t get over her comedy. For it... sort of.

This month’s moan is about Hogmanay. Hogmanay is supposed to be this big magical resetting of the clocks, a time for a fresh start and another chance to change your ways. But what it ends up being is a terrible night out, in a cramped bar, where you’ll most likely take in the balls, spend 45 minutes sobering up whilst trying to get through the jammed phone lines to wish your loved ones a Happy New Year before making a bunch of promises you will never keep. The last two years I’ve told myself I will learn the piano... and although I bought one, I barely touch the damn thing! That’s why this year, I’m making one resolution only: To try and be a slightly better person. I’m not going to set unrealistic goals however I am going to encourage myself to: be nicer to others, eat better, drink less, make the ‘right’ choice instead of the easy one. You know, all that garbage that makes your life better supposedly. Then we’ll see what happens.

There are no Funny or Fierce photos this issue as I’ve just compiled some of the Xmas photos that I had. Photos courtesy of Gray’s Eye View Photography and Brianbat Photography.

That’s it for this month! Merry Xmas when it comes guys. Take it easy and see you next year.
‘THE BEST FEEL-GOOD SHOW SINCE MAMMA MIA!’

HOT STUFF

ALWAYS ON MY MIND

GO WEST

I WILL SURVIVE

FINALLY

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