

Toronto Fringe Festival 2013: Plays We Love So Far

Reviews of some of the best shows we've seen at the 2013 Toronto Fringe Festival.

BY [TORONTOIST](#)

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The annual poster run that kicked off the Toronto Fringe Festival on Wednesday, July 3.

- **Multiple venues**
- **July 3–14**
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- \$10

We should have known that the 25th-annual **Toronto Fringe Festival** would be one for the books. Now, after almost one week of theatre-going, beer-tenting, and underground dancing, the *Torontoist* team has put the fest to the test, to see which plays shone like diamonds in the rough. We were pleasantly surprised with the results. Below, we've got some reviews of our favourite shows so far.

Another test, however, was not part of the plan: a waterproofing test. Monday night's storm cancelled shows at Factory Theatre, Randolph Theatre, and the Annex Pawn. Theatre Passe Muraille was out for half the night, but regained power before its final two shows. Some site-specific plays had to call it off too, and others lost their actors to water-logged locations. But do you think that's going to stop the notoriously scrappy Fringe Festival? Nope, [everything is back on!](#)

So go ahead, rain on our parade (but not like that again, please). The shows listed here are still worth a little dampness—unless it's really unsafe, in which case please proceed with caution and stay safe.

O(h)

casebolt and smith



Photo by Jeff D. Larson.

PERFORMANCES:

Tuesday, July 9; 10:30 p.m.

Thursday, July 11; 4:15 p.m.

Friday, July 12; 9:15 p.m.

Saturday, July 13, 3:30 p.m.

VENUE:

Helen Gardiner Phelan Playhouse ([79 St. George Street](#))

Not entirely dance, not entirely comedy, but a fascinating combination of the two artforms, Liz Casebolt and Joel Smith's *O(h)* is certainly the funniest dance show we've ever seen, and the most educational for dance duffers, too. The pair "pull back the curtain" as they perform and explain everything, even speaking through some challenging dance sequences. Stylistically, their direct address to the audience is reminiscent of local theatre company Small Wooden Shoe's projects, but there's also singing, improv, and more. This is the one show we wish other dancers would see. It may just send neophytes out in search of more dance, fresh with new insight.

(Steve Fisher)
