



THE CHARLEBOIS POST - MONTREAL

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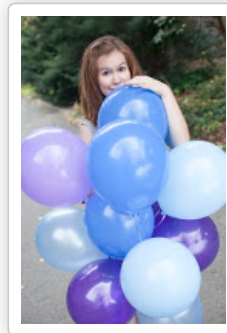
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The Charlebois Post - Canada

Tuesday, June 14, 2011

Review: Am I Blue (Fringe 2011)



Reviewed by Joel Fishbane

New York comedy fave Elizabeth Blue is giving Montrealers a masterclass in acting this week, but even if you're not an actor you should make sure not to miss Am I Blue. A sharply comedic piece that satirizes Western culture's quest for self-exploration, the strength of Am I Blue lies entirely in the deft performance of Ms. Blue. A veteran of NYC's People's Improv Theatre, Ms. Blue is a criminally funny performer who is almost certainly the love child of Kristen Schall and Tina Fey.

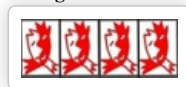
Written as a series of what is probably quasi-autobiographical monologues, Am I Blue follows the misadventures of a quirky and nameless New Yorker who bounces from sex therapy to self-help seminars as she searches for some store bought epiphany that will answer all her problems. A perpetually peppy, comically misguided girl who practices "boyfriend visualization", Ms. Blue's alter-ego can't seem to decide whether to write a book about Francis Drake or start a business that will help housewives "unleash the inner cupcake decorator within".

It's all very funny, not the least because of Ms. Blue's wide-eyed, unironic performance. But where she truly amazes is in her interactions with people who aren't really there. Each monologue is directed at a specific person and Ms. Blue has perfected the difficult skill of putting this invisible person in the room: they don't speak, but thanks to Ms. Blue's pitch-perfect reactions, they don't have to.

Am I Blue almost manages the impressive job of overcoming OPSS – One-Person Show Syndrome. A condition that affects seventy-five percent of Fringe shows, the symptoms usually involve a script that isn't at all equal to the talents of the performer. In this case, Ms. Blue's condition is pretty mild. The script could use a little medication and the transitions between scenes definitely go on too long, breaking the dramatic flow. But these are no doubt things Ms. Blue will work on as she fine-tunes what is one of the few shows that is worth putting up with that crappy pillar that sits in the middle of the audience of Venue 4.

Show details.

Rating:



Posted by THE CHARLEBOIS POST at 4:24 PM

Reactions: like (0) dislike (0) lol (0) thinking about it (0)



Labels: [Am I Blue](#), [Fringe](#), [Joel Fishbane](#)

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