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Fringe announces opening numbers

14,215 tickets issued, increase of 10 percent from 2007

MINNEAPOLIS – Minnesota Fringe announced attendance numbers for its opening weekend today. For the first four days of the festival—Thurs., July 31 through Sun., Aug. 3—14,215 tickets were issued, an increase of over 10 percent from last year’s Fringe.

So far, over 22 performances have sold more than 100 tickets. The top 25 performances from opening weekend (measured by tickets issued):

Company	Show title	Performance	Tickets issued
Walking Shadow	Shakespeare’s Land of the Dead	8/3/08 5:30 PM	232
The Cody Rivers Show	The Cody Rivers Show Presents: Stick to Glue	8/2/08 5:30 PM	204
Joseph Scrimshaw Productions	An Inconvenient Squirrel	8/1/08 7:00 PM	200
Urban Samurai Productions	Musical the Musical!	8/3/08 5:30 PM	194
The Cody Rivers Show	The Cody Rivers Show Presents: Stick to Glue	8/3/08 8:30 PM	179
Four Humors Theater	Mortem Capiendum	8/2/08 7:00 PM	174
Walking Shadow	Shakespeare’s Land of the Dead	8/2/08 1:00 PM	172
True Enough Theater	Boys Don’t Make Passes at Girls Who Wear Glasses	8/2/08 8:30 PM	168
Bedlam Theatre	You’re No Fun	8/2/08 8:30 PM	167
Bedlam Theatre	You’re No Fun	8/3/08 7:00 PM	149
Top Hat Theatre	Robin Hood The Musical!	8/2/08 1:00 PM	137
LSD Productions	Great American Horror Movie Musical	8/3/08 2:30 PM	124
The Bakery Theatre Company	Audish	8/3/08 8:30 PM	121
Four Humors Theater	Mortem Capiendum	8/3/08 10:00 PM	116
Allegra J. Lingo	Tipping the Bucket	8/2/08 7:00 PM	114
Horse Trade Theater Group	The Pumpkin Pie Show	8/2/08 2:30 PM	114
Lili’s Burlesque	The Underpants Show	8/3/08 2:30 PM	112
Henry Epp	My Hovercraft is Full of Eels!	8/2/08 2:30 PM	112
Mike Fotis	An Intimate Evening with Fotis: Part Two	8/3/08 8:30 PM	110
Sara Stevenson Scrimshaw	Dance of the Whisky Faerie	8/2/08 8:30 PM	107
LSD Productions	Great American Horror Movie Musical	7/31/08 8:30 PM	107
Shen Pei Art Studio	Women in China	8/2/08 7:00 PM	101
The Bakery Theatre Company	Audish	7/31/08 7:00 PM	98
Live Action Set	Deviants	8/2/08 8:30 PM	92
IL Productions	Boom	8/1/08 8:30 PM	91

“The shows are incredibly strong this year,” said Executive Director Robin C. Gillette. “Looking at the top-sellers list so far, we have kids’ shows next to zombies, out-of-towners and locals alike, spoken word and movement pieces. Fringe has always been diverse, but this year is exceptional.

“The feeling has been awesome. The buzz at Fringe Central has been incredible, and to see lines snake out the door and down the block at Rarig—that’s unbeatable,” she said. The opening-weekend numbers erase the dip in attendance Fringe took last year when the festival opened the day before the I-35W bridge collapse, Gillette said. “We’ve come roaring back from 2007.”

The festival’s Web site has exceeded festival organizers’ expectations: Between 5:30 p.m. Thursday and 8:30 a.m. Monday, festival staff had approved nearly 700 audience-submitted reviews. In the month of July, 7.9 million pages were viewed on the Web site.

The Midwest’s largest performing arts festival, Minnesota Fringe continues through Sun., Aug. 10 at 18 venues in Minneapolis.