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Fringe announces preliminary figures

40,814 tickets issued for 11-day festival, top attended shows announced

MINNEAPOLIS — Minnesota Fringe announced preliminary attendance figures for its 2008 festival. In all, 40,814 tickets were issued during the 11-day performing arts festival, an 8 percent increase over last year. Revenue increased over \$36,000.

TICKETS ISSUED: 40,814

BUTTONS ISSUED: 15,178

Notes: Admission buttons are used to count the number of unique audience members attending the festival. Of the 15,178 issued this year, 14,262 were sold and 916 were issued gratis to volunteers and artists.

REVENUE: \$300,405

PERFORMANCES: 806

SHOWS: 156

PARTICIPATING ARTISTS: 1,080

VOLUNTEERS: 393

AUDIENCE-SUBMITTED REVIEWS ON THE WEB SITE (AS OF 10 A.M. MONDAY): 2,153

"We are absolutely delighted with the numbers," said Robin C. Gillette, Fringe's executive director. "The figures show that Fringe is solid both as an event and as an organization, and the buzz in the Fringe community was positively kinetic."

The total number of performances was down from last year (806 versus 874 in 2007) due to fewer Bring Your Own Venue performances. The attendance and revenue figures erase the dip the numbers took in 2007. Last year's festival opened the day after the I-35W bridge collapse.

Top ten shows by tickets issued

SHOW TITLE	PRODUCER	VENUE	TICKETS ISSUED (EXCLUDES ENCORE PERFORMANCES)
Shakespeare's Land of the Dead	Walking Shadow	U of M Rarig Center Thrust	1284
An Inconvenient Squirrel	Joseph Scrimshaw Productions	U of M Rarig Center Thrust	1189
The Cody Rivers Show Presents: Stick to Glue	The Cody Rivers Show	U of M Rarig Center Thrust	1033
Musical the Musical!	Urban Samurai Productions	U of M Rarig Center Proscenium	986
Mortem Capiendum	Four Humors Theater	U of M Rarig Center Thrust	837
The Underpants Show	Lili's Burlesque	Ritz Theater	803
Robin Hood The Musical!	Top Hat Theatre	U of M Rarig Center Proscenium	707
Deviants	Live Action Set	The Soap Factory	683 (nine performances)
The Pumpkin Pie Show	Horse Trade Theater Group	U of M Rarig Center Thrust	665
You're No Fun	Bedlam Theatre	U of M Rarig Center Thrust	609

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Top ten shows by capacity

SHOW TITLE	PRODUCER	VENUE	CAPACITY
FOOL FOR A CLIENT	Mark Whitney	Bryant-Lake Bowl	102.4%
Reefer Madness: The Musical	Young Artists Council	Bryant-Lake Bowl	98.8%
The Mistress Cycle	Maddak Productions	Bryant-Lake Bowl	98.8%
The Nosdrahcir Sisters	Sara and Kimberly Richardson	U of M Rarig Center Xperimental	96.9%
A Wake for Change! Tune In, Turn On, Folk Out	A-Stage	Kieran's Irish Pub - Titanic Room	95.8%
An Intimate Evening with Fotis: Part Two	Mike Fotis	Minneapolis Theatre Garage	87.7%
Advice-a-Versa	Intertwine	Interact Center for the Visual and Performing Arts	80.7%
My Hovercraft is Full of Eels!	Henry Epp	Intermedia Arts	79.8%
elephant shoes, & olive juice; (mis) communication in a modern world	20% Theatre Company Twin Cities	Bryant-Lake Bowl	78.0%
Stupid Face	Courtney Roche	U of M Rarig Center Xperimental	71.4%

The fifteenth annual Minnesota Fringe Festival took place Thurs., July 31 through Sun., Aug. 10 in Minneapolis. More information about the festival can be found at fringefestival.org.