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16th annual Minnesota Fringe starts Thursday

162 shows at Midwest's largest performing arts festival



Above: "June of Arc" presented by Sandbox Theatre at the University of Minnesota Rarig Center Xperimental stage as part of the 2009 Minnesota Fringe.

THE BASICS

**16th annual
Minnesota Fringe Festival**

**Thursday, July 30
through Sunday, August 9**

162 different shows

**22 locations in
Minneapolis and St. Paul**

**Tickets: \$5-12 plus
a \$4 festival admission button**

fringefestival.org

MINNEAPOLIS — Minnesota Fringe Festival, the Midwest's largest performing arts festival, opens Thursday at 22 venues in Minneapolis and St. Paul. In 2009, Fringe celebrates its 16th year with 162 different productions ranging from improv comedy to kids' shows to classical dance to science fiction.

"We're incredibly excited about this year's offerings," said Fringe executive director Robin C. Gillette. "The Fringe lineup ranges from theater pros who're pushing the envelope to first-time producers who have always wanted to try out making a show."

"All we require of our artists is that they obey the laws of Minnesota and the laws of physics," she said. "Everything else is up for grabs."

Minnesota Fringe doesn't censor or jury the participating shows. Shows are instead selected by random in a lottery held in February.

Because shows are never longer than 60 minutes and ticket prices are never more than \$12, Minnesota Fringe is perfect for those watching time and money to go on a summertime arts binge, said Gillette. A variety of discounts are available, including multiple show passes and ticket discounts for seniors and students.

A festival admission button (\$4) is required for entry and can be used for discounts year-round at Twin Cities theaters. Gillette said last year's button was good for over \$600 in ticket discounts.

For more information about the festival—including a full schedule and a wizard to help visitors find shows—visit fringefestival.org.