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Minnesota Fringe '10 sets festival record

50,256 tickets issued to 17th annual performing arts festival

MINNEAPOLIS-ST. PAUL — Minnesota Fringe announced a new attendance record today. For the first time in the festival's 17-year history, over 50,000 tickets were issued to the annual performing arts festival.

In all, the festival saw an attendance increase of 8.7 percent over last year with 50,256 tickets issued from Aug. 5 through Aug. 15. Nearly 17,000 festival admission buttons were issued in 2010 compared to last year's 15,267.

Festival revenue jumped 12.9 percent from last year. The festival's 169 productions earned over \$355,000 in ticket sales during the festival's 11 days.

"This year's Fringe was hands-down the best," said executive director Robin C. Gillette. "From every angle, the 2010 Fringe was outstanding. We broke a lot of records, we saw a surge of new audience members and the quality of the shows was stunning."

"Looking at the lists of top shows, it's a broad and deep representation of the festival's offerings," she said. "There's comedy, there's taiko, there's dance, there are first-time producers, there are veterans, there are companies from outside Minnesota."

"It's a credit to our audience," said Gillette. "People come to Fringe open to anything. Audiences embrace risk during the festival and it's wonderful to watch a company go from unknown quantity to Fringe favorite in just a few days."

"As an organization, we're profoundly grateful to the people who made this possible: the artists, the audiences, the volunteers," she said. "These numbers confirm that the people of Minnesota love this festival and we love Minnesota right back."

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Top fifteen productions by total number of tickets issued

Calculated for tickets issued for each production's scheduled performances; does not include attendance from Fringe Encore.

1. "The Damn Audition" presented by Joking Envelope
2. "Speech!" presented by Ferrari McSpeedy Theatrical Production
3. "O(h)" presented by casebolt and smith
4. "The Princeton Seventh" presented by Partizan Theater
5. "A Nice Guy's Guide to Awkward Sex" presented by Ben San Del
6. "Bite Me Twilight" presented by Tom Reed
7. "See You Next Tuesday" presented by Walking Shadow Theatre Company
8. "Taiko BAM!" presented by Mu Performing Arts
9. "Ballad of the Pale Fisherman" presented by Isabel Nelson
10. "The First Five Minutes Are Slow" presented by Tamara Ober/Present State Movement
11. "Dracula's Castle" presented by Top Hat Theatre
12. "Skiing on Broken Glass" presented by Still Standing Productions, LLC
13. "Zombie High School" presented by Late Night Menu
14. "Fruitcake—Ten Commandments from the Psych Ward" presented by Rob Gee
15. "UNTOLD LIES" presented by Robert Elhai

Top fifteen productions by percentage of available tickets issued

Calculated for tickets issued for each production's scheduled performances; does not include attendance from Fringe Encore.

1. "The Damn Audition" presented by Joking Envelope
2. "An Adult Evening of Shel Silverstein" presented by Evil Temptress Productions
3. "Pardon My French" presented by Voix de Michèle Productions
4. "Confessions of a Lazy Hmong Woman" presented by May Lee-Yang
5. "The Crock Pot" presented by Mrs & Mrs Fallon Productions
6. "O(h)" presented by casebolt and smith
7. "There Is No Isabelle" presented by Dylan Lamb
8. "A Nice Guy's Guide to Awkward Sex" presented by Ben San Del
9. "QUAKE: A Closet Love Story" presented by Rawredmeat Productions
10. "Grind: The Musical" presented by Theatre Undeclared
11. "Bite Me Twilight" presented by Tom Reed
12. "See You Next Tuesday" presented by Walking Shadow Theatre Company
13. "Skiing on Broken Glass" presented by Still Standing Productions, LLC
14. "The Anton Kissbougel Technique" presented by Dylan Fresco
15. "Speech!" presented by Ferrari McSpeedy Theatrical Production

Sold out performances

A total of 56 performances presented by 25 productions sold out. Capacity for the festival's largest venues (Thrust and Proscenium at the University of Minnesota Rarig Center) are calculated using floor seating only; balcony seating is only used for overflow seating.

"A Nice Guy's Guide to Awkward Sex" (2 sold-out performances)

"An Adult Evening of Shel Silverstein" (6)

"Ballad of the Pale Fisherman" (2)

"Bite Me Twilight"

"Can Michael Come Out and Play?"

"Confessions of a Lazy Hmong Woman" (4)

"Flops! A New Musical Revue"

"FW: RE: Mom Update"

"Grind: The Musical" (3)

"O(h)" (3)

"Pardon My French" (4)

"Rachel Teagle Believes in Ghosts"

"See You Next Tuesday" (2)

"Skiing on Broken Glass" (2)

"Speech!"

"Stay Carl Stay" (2)

"That Sara Aziz"

"The Anton Kissbougel Technique" (4)

"The Crock Pot" (3)

"The Damn Audition" (5)

"The First Five Minutes are Slow"

"The Quest"

"There is No Isabelle" (4)

"Underneath the Lintel"

"Zombie High School"