

STORIES WELL TOLD

BY ELLIE COOPER

February 2015

***3 Steps Ahead* is a raw physical theatre production and although not every trick is perfected that's part of its appeal. The performance highlights the wonderful open-access nature of the Fringe.**

Armed with a box of props, performers Taylor Dawson and Marina Gellman from Point & Flex Circus intertwine hula hoops and contortion with marshmallow eating and nose drawing.

What's more impressive than the physical feats is the shows' concept. The duo break away from the traditional circus paradigm, pitting themselves against each other as they progress through challenges to collect points – in the end, there's only one winner.

Almost like a 'choose your own adventure' story, the audience are invited to decide the running order of the show and alter the course of events. But for those who dread being pulled into the fray, the level of interaction is entirely up to you.

A great show to see for those looking to support emerging South Australian artists.

Audience recommendation:

There's something for everyone here, but children will really connect with the silly humour and playful atmosphere Taylor and Marina create in *3 Steps Ahead*.

<http://storieswelltold.com.au/blog/stories/putting-adelaide-back-adelaide-fringe/>

THE CLOTHESLINE

BY CHARISSA MCCLUSKEY-GARCIA

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Well what can I say about five balls, four hats, three chairs, two girls and one show? Don't be the loser!

Taylor Dawson and Marina Gellmann from Point & Flex Circus really are *3 Steps Ahead* in this game. Together they have produced, directed and performed this show. Although they 'lead' the audience in our adventure, even they never really know what order things will turn out. That is where we the audience come in, anyone and everyone 6 to 60 who attended this evening's performance, from the moment we entered the warehouse, are actively encouraged to participate in the next hours events.

Between piercings, marshmallows, back flips and backwards ABCs these young ladies have us all engaged – and calling out, 'changing' the course of the evening.

The shows props are low tech, nearby, organised and perfect for this performance, allowing me to see this show moving quite comfortably to any venue in the future.

The skills previously learnt by Marina and Taylor, are performed and showcased well. Not only will you see acts of contortion, juggling, spinning and daring escape, you'll also see skills bravely executed proving that this show is not for the faint hearted.

I've seen things during this show that I have never seen before and I dare you to say the same once you've attended and enjoyed *3 Steps Ahead*.



<http://theclothesline.com.au/3-steps-ahead-fringe-review/>

THEATRE PRESS
BY MYRON MY
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Out in front of the rest

Circus has been around for a long time – in fact, since the late 1700s in its ‘modern’ form – and with the same acts being performed worldwide, it runs the risk of becoming repetitive. However, the show **3 Steps Ahead**, created by **Point & Flex Circus’ Taylor Dawson and Marina Gellmann**, has enough point of difference to ensure we remain entertained.

Using **circus, sideshow, physical theatre and humour**, Dawson and Gellmann compete against each other in a series of challenges, some of which require the audience to choose whether or not to help one of them win it. In between these, we are also entertained with more traditional forms of circus acts such as **hoops, contortionism, juggling and even some nose drawing!**

There is **always a risk of things not going to plan** when it comes to circus shows. A hula hoop might not go where it’s supposed to, a foot might not land where it should or a ball is thrown a little too high to get the right timing. There were a number of these mishaps in **3 Steps Ahead** but Dawson and Gellmann retained their composure and the recoveries were always swift.

What sets **3 Steps Ahead** apart from other circus performances is that the audience has a say the action and in what the order of those acts will be. So even though we will see all the same ones each show, **the performers are never sure which act they will be doing next** and the comfort of routine is thrown out the window.

Music was used successfully throughout, **building on the suspense of “will they/won’t they”** (make it) and the lighting work was **incredibly sharp and precise**. Just like the performers’ routine, these two aspects depended on what order the acts were decided upon and there was no noticeable moments where it felt like an error had been made. Despite both being 18 years old, between them Dawson and Gellmann have **almost 30 years experience in circus** so it’s no surprise that Point & Flex’s show won **Best Emerging Circus Performer at the Melbourne Fringe Festival Awards** over the weekend.

<http://theatrepress.com.au/2014/10/05/review-point-flex-circus-presents-3-steps-ahead/>