

British Theatre Guide

News, reviews, features and podcast on theatre across the UK

Critical! (A Sociopath's Guide to Influencing Edinburgh Fringe Reviewers)

Practical Magic

Spotlites @ The Merchants' Hall

2–9 August 2014



What great fodder for a play aimed at an audience of theatre-friendly people. In the tradition of let's-trash-the-critic, Practical Magic has succeeded in creating one of the funniest and freshest.

We join director, Finton McGlynn, who has brought his 15th production to the Fringe: a one-woman production of *Twelve Angry Men* starring the glamorous Joanna Dunbar who is not as “blonde” as might first seem.

But distinguished critic Bernadette Savage is just about to do just that: savage his production. To thwart this bad review, McGlynn with the help of a cunning stage manager, Sue Carpenter, and crew Jim Class, are going to kidnap her until she coughs up a five-star review.

Practical Magic has a winning cast, a stellar script with great character names. Audiences stopped the playing with uproarious laughter.

This audience loved it but industry people will delight in recognizing... well, everything.

Reviewer: [Catherine Henry Lamm](#)