

YES-YA-YEBO!

2024 Reviews & Media

Edfringe Review: Yes Ya Yebo



by **Kate Copstick** — August 19, 2024 in Cabaret, Edinburgh Festivals



Watching this show is an extraordinary experience. Joy rolls off the tiny stage in great waves and every dopamine receptor in your system dances to the beat.

Yes-Ya-Yebo is an hour that goes straight to your heart.

The sheer positive energy emanating from these young men and women feels as if it could save the planet. The work of the Imibala Trust, it seems, has certainly saved them.

You really should make space in your day for this show.

Spike Milligan wrote "Smiling is infectious, you catch it like the flu. When someone smiled at me today, I started smiling too." Go and get yourself a dose.

Read the full review here:

<https://entertainment-now.com/2024/08/edfringe-review-yes-ya-yebo/>

@EdFringe Tiktok

https://www.tiktok.com/@edfringe/video/7407383865473502497?is_from_webapp=1&sender_device=pc&web_id=7395588039802914336



the show is about us introducing the 12 languages of South Africa

TikTok
@edfringe

Yes-Ya-Yebo!

The Imibala Trust

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FringeReview

MUST SEE SHOW

Genre: **Dance, Musical Theatre**

Venue: **Laughing Horse @ The Counting House**

Festival: **Edinburgh Fringe**

Eight youthful and exuberant performers from South Africa have been brought from a place which inspires fear to Edinburgh to dance. They bring with them the cheek of youth and the knowledge of experience. All of them are under 25 years of age, their youngest is 17, and with such vitality they just dance. And I mean dance. They dance like their lives have depended upon it and thanks to the Imibala Trust, that might be true as they have been taken from real threat. They took themselves away from the troubles which were all around them and have come to know the joy of creativity and its opportunity.

OK, so interspersed with the dance and some of the explanations are the stories to tug on your heart strings but this the fully formed expressive moment which makes it all sing with expectation and joy. I counted, in just under an hour, about 30 different examples of dance. Some of them are snippets but all of them have a youthful enthusiasm – these are kids dancing like their lives depended upon it and hoping that everyone notices!

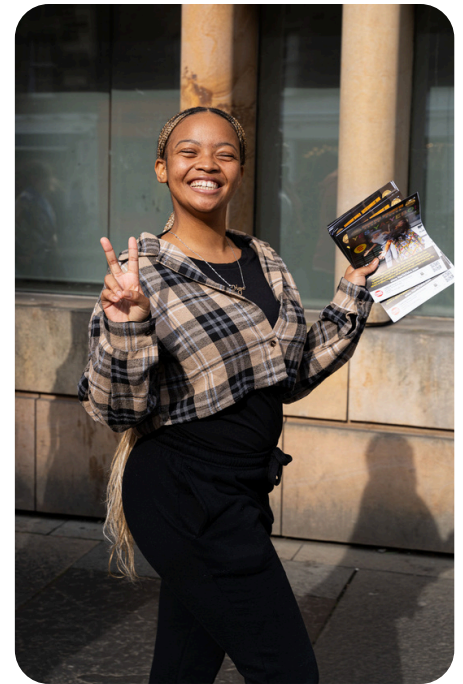
I was entranced. My daughter, a dancer, was too. She lives too far away from Edinburgh to take advantage of the lessons on offer during their run but it was a lesson in steps and poise for her, in laughter and joy for me. As a man of a certain age who has a view of South Africa which is old and should be long forgotten this focused my attention on the new country with voices that demand to be listened to whilst reminding us of the poverty in their townships and communities. This is not a pity party but a celebration of more than survival – of incredible joy in dance. They perform above their years with an attention to pace which slows when they need to make a point but also never drops when they want to show off their abilities and dance.

And so, I loved their catwalk, the wedding dance and the old coal miners and I laughed out loud when they suggested that they all spoke Scots! This was pitch perfect work that also included short sketches to accompany their dances which included the birth of a child and a Safari Camp piece showing they were older than their years. They were more mature than the old fellas who held their country down so much in the past. There was just simply onstage. Joy. It was terrific. But don't just believe an old man – just go and see for yourself. As part of the Free Fringe, you will not be disappointed, though you might want to contribute your life savings – they have already contributed the equivalent in themselves.

Published August 14, 2024 by [Donald Stewart](#)

Read the full review here:

<https://fringereview.co.uk/review/edinburgh-fringe/2024/yes-ya-yebo/>





"It's showtime!"

Mix Up Theatre (Stewart) · Aug 21 · 1 min read

Fringe REVIEW: Yes-Ya-Yebo! -



Georgie (Age 9) - ★★★★★

"I give it 5 stars, that was fantastic, I loved the music and dancing and the cheering. It's a really good show to take kids. The costumes were really nice and it was funny as well. I loved dancing with them and remember the moves they taught us when they came to mix up, can we go back to see them. I think everyone needs to go to that show it was the best 😊"



Read the full review here:

<https://fringereview.co.uk/review/edinburgh-fringe/2024/yes-ya-yebo/>

We had a workshop with Yes-Ya-Yebo at our Fringe camp...



YES-YA-YEBO!

the imibala trust



THE SCOTSMAN

Virtual Royal Mile

'Yes-Ya-Yebo!': A Celebration of South Africa's Diverse Cultures

Yes-Ya-Yebo! is more than just a show - it will leave you smiling and elated long after the final bow and deeply informed about the lives of these young people, all from the small townships of Nomzamo, Lwandle and Macassar.

The show promises to be an emotional rollercoaster, making you laugh, cry, and irresistibly drawn to join in the dancing. If you love high-energy shows with emotional depth, you'll want to come back again and again.

Read the full review here:

<https://fringereview.co.uk/review/edinburgh-fringe/2024/yes-ya-yebo/>

Audience Reviews

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Sam

33 days ago

Really captures the South African spirit! Great energy and made me feel homesick (in a good way!). Absolutely loved it ❤️

Alex Lawrence

29 days ago

Brilliant show. Super uplifting, fun, energetic and some great humour. Go and see this show- it is an absolute MUST! *****

Gemma Rees

28 days ago

I cried from start to finish at how beautiful the whole thing was. I feel honoured to be performing at the same festival as these glowing and talented people. My favourite thing i've seen at fringe so far !

Toral Shah

25 days ago

I absolutely loved this show! I give 6 stars!!! It was so creative, and authentic. The performers were extremely talented with a combination of singing, dancing, stomping and beatboxing. The narrative through the show was also really well constructed. I wanted to jump up and dance with the cast. I hope they come back next year!

Elin

22 days ago

Absolutely blown away by this show!
It's one not to be missed and should be winning awards!

Ganga Campbell

17 days ago

Outstanding upbeat performance from an amazing group of youngsters each from their own township in South Africa. Wonderful entertainment with a little insight into the lives of each one of them, leading to the first flight for each one of them, getting them here! A breath of fresh air! Don't miss it!

Bella Salvatore

13 days ago

By far my favourite show of the whole fringe! So much energy and a level of talent I can only begin to fathom. I walked out absolutely bouncing and beaming. The entire cast were phenomenal, and I loved the educational aspect and getting to have such an insight into how rich in culture all regions of South African really are. I hope this show receives all the praise and funding it deserves. I would happily pay a lot more to see this group again, they deserve it!

