

## **MISS LINDSAY'S SECRET.**

**Fringe 2021/2022 and on tour. Written comments.**

**Audiences hold a programme showing a photograph of Minnie, taken in about 1902 when Alex left the glen for the Goldrush. The Curator carries the same image with her, provoking a collaborative evocation of the woman at the heart of this story. This image is not included in our publicity and is seen only in this shared performance context.**



### **Professional Reviews include :**

#### **Broadway baby**

<https://broadwaybaby.com/shows/miss-lindsays-secret/752627>

#### **Miss Lindsay's Secret By Amy Macrae | 14th Aug 2021 | ★★★★★**

Told with tenderness, Maria MacDonnell reaches out for Minnie's story through a catalogue of artifacts and research, piecing together the public and private life of Miss Lindsay. Though her outbound letters were never discovered, Minnie is given a voice after all these years through MacDonnell's powerful storytelling, interwoven with Alexander's heartfelt replies, voiced by the talented Alan Finlayson.

The ebb and flow of folk flowing through this play, performed by Georgina MacDonnell Finlayson, mirrors the feverish search for gold and the longing for another letter as home sickness sets in. From jubilant jigs to tension building staccato, the thread of

traditional song through this play binds the stories from both sides of the sea together beautifully.

This story leaps off the pages of these long lost letters and out into the world for us to find. From gleam and promise of the gold beneath the earth to the treasure that's left behind; this play is a tender look at the pursuit of success and a love that endured, even from afar. This play is a warm and charming testament to a chapter of Minnie's life that's lain dormant, until now." Amy Macrae

Amy Macrae Tweet 14.08.21 *Loved Miss Lindsay's Secret though I will never think of the word 'pooch' in the same way again.*

### **Corrblimey blog ★★★★★**

11<sup>th</sup> August 2021

<https://corrblimey.blog/2021/08/11/miss-lindsays-secret-scottish-storytelling-centre/>

Maria MacDonell weaves her storytelling capabilities effortlessly, switching to and fro between secret keeper and revealing, unravelling the letters hidden behind a display cabinet.

Inquisitive, tender, and with just the right dash of nosey, our Curator (MacDonell) stirs the dusted letters and infuses them with a sense of not only Minnie Lindsay but invests much of themselves into the story.

Aided tremendously by the remarkable talents of musician Georgia MacDonell Finlayson, the folk composition is as equally marvellous as the writing, the two entwining one another, the use of varied string and percussion matching the cadence of Maria's spoken word, lifting the emotional integrity of each sentence.

Perhaps the keenest sign of respect and appreciation comes from the audience's chattering feet and hungry eyes for more of Miss Lindsay's story. But with all good secrets, a morsel must be left to maintain interest, a savoury and tantalising hook to peek those willing to seek them out."

Pre-Fringe report 2022

*'Humble poetic and melodic- a veritable treasure of a show- like so many others blown away'*

Tweet 18.08.22

*This absolute marvel of storytelling is returning to Scottish Storytelling Centre. It would be incredible and thoroughly deserved if Miss Lindsay's Secret could fill as many seats as possible to make up for their knock back from Covid.*

## Edinburgh Guide

<https://edinburghguide.com/festival/2021/miss-lindsays-secret-scottish-storytelling-centre-review-20547>

### Miss Lindsay's Secret, Scottish Storytelling Centre, Review

Submitted by Angela Milton on Wed, 18 Aug '21 4.32am

Rating ★★★★★

"A wee gem of a show.

What endears this particular production is not only the engaging performances, but also the truly Scottish feel of it. A lost piece of Scottish history, with a reminder of the joy that comes from hearing a new Scottish story that is both familiar and unknown at the same time. Picturing a specific time in history before the outbreak of WWI, it harks back to a simpler time, but also to those human desires for love and connection, just as important now as it was a hundred years ago. A delight to watch that leaves you with a warm glow for some time after." Angela Milton

## The wee Review

<https://theweereview.com/review/miss-lindsays-secret/>

MATTHEW KEELEY 12 AUGUST 2021

Miss Lindsay's Secret ★★★★★

Fascinating historical chronicle of love and loss

The audience is in capable hands and the play confidently sweeps us away with its intriguing tale.

**British Theatre Guide** Graham Strachan

**Miss Lindsay's Secret** ★★★★★

Alex's letters swing from the blithe and funny, dismissing the hardships of his daily life in sub-zero temperatures, to the longing and loving plaintive yearnings of a man far from home. There are even keen little snippets of bawdy colloquialisms and social cues to be drawn by inference.

An insight into a time and place that is captured with care and attention. A wee delight.

**Everything Theatre** Marianna Meloni **Miss Lindsay's Secret** ★★★★★

Sept 6<sup>th</sup> 2022 (show seen August 2022)

Live and delightful folk music from Georgina MacDonell Finlayson adds to this heart wrenching tale...we cannot but be grateful to Maria MacDonell for her decision to bring it to life.

<https://everything-theatre.co.uk/2022/09/review-miss-lindsays-secret-edfringe-2022.html>

**Scots Gay Arts** Mary Woodward \*\*\*\* (4 stars) Aug 11<sup>th</sup> 2022

Moving and engrossing <https://scotsgayarts.com/blog/page/6/>

**Sinners Review 2021 and 2022** Ian Cole Youtube

'Just brilliant'. 'Just wonderful' ☆☆☆☆☆

## Audience reviews at Edin Fringe

**Outstanding and heartbreakingly beautiful. Go and See it. Jenny Gilruth ,  
Minister for Culture, Europe and International Development . tweet 17.08.21**

That was a tour de force. Deeply moving and so sad. The Scottish diaspora and its effects. A story the world over. In these times all over again Love and separation.  
**John Clifford, Honorary Consul for Austria 2003 to 2016**

Wonderfully written, choreographed and put together

**What an amazing story and what an amazing talent in bringing it to life .  
Compelling to watch - Jenny Gilruth MSP email 17.08.21**

*We loved loved loved it. Superb performance and writing. Beautiful music. Gary West.*

*We loved this fascinating and true story. Excellent performers*

*Engaging witty and atmospheric    Amazing music*

*A beautiful gentle and poignant tale of enduring love and sexting in the early 1900s.  
Captivating and beautifully melancholic with outstanding musical accompaniment-  
David Colvin (Thunderstruck the play)*

*Absolutely fantastic. Just stupendous. Witty, poignant, funny and sad. Loved it.*

*"It's very heavy - it's full of people." Now one of my favourite lines. It's said of a  
photograph album in Maria MacDonell's beautiful show, Miss Lindsays Secret. This is  
an engrossing show about what it means and feels like to discover and come to  
inhabit the life of another person, previously unknown to you, and the responsibilities  
that come with that discovery and the sharing of it. It's about a lost way of life, secrets,  
hidden things, unfulfilled dreams. There is an air of melancholy hanging over the  
tale, but it is filled with music and joy and it leaves you feeling privileged to have  
eavesdropped on this woman and her absent and distant penpal/boyfriend, who has  
gone off to the Klondyke in search of gold. Michael Daviot  
GO AND SEE IT.*

*@missLindsayshow is a love story across 10 years & 2 continents. It charms us;  
saddens us; and makes us think about migration & those waiting at home. Well paced  
with a great central performance & a wonderful sense of place. The music is spirited &  
evocative. A Fringe highlight. Graeme King*

*Miss Lindsay's Secret - loved the concept of a complete story being told from one side  
only. Thought the production was fabulous.*

*I don't think I could even make a guesstimate of how many shows I've seen at the  
Storytelling Centre in the fourteen and a half years I've been involved with the  
Centre. Miss Lindsay's Secret was one of the very best. I was so moved I could  
hardly speak afterwards. Such a captivating story, so beautifully written and  
presented. I absolutely loved it.*

*Huge congratulations on the journey which has brought Miss Lindsay's Secret to life and allowed it to be shared with caring, with much thought, with real sensitivity. I loved the way The Curator talked to 'us'*

*The most beautiful show I have seen in the Fringe 2022. Neil Sutcliffe (musician)*

*Really glad I came. Amazed what you did with the material. And you grabbed my attention from the first second. The music very impressive too. Martin Molloy*

*So glad I changed my travel plans to come.*

*Broadway quality.*

*Not to be missed. This is a superb play, excellently performed by a trio who engage and captivate the audience from the start. It is startlingly intimate at times and even a jaded old cynic like me was moved. Alexander Cave*

*We loved the show. It's an absolute treasure- beautifully composed with just the right balance of light and dark. Joyful yet poignant and I had a lump in my throat at the end. Alice Fernbank*

*Excellent show. Definitely worth ticket price, have recommended to others. Storytelling at its best. Johanne Burns.*

*Excellent performances. Well worth seeing- fine production.*

*Brilliant show. Such tenderness.*

### **Fringe.com reviews**

Alastair Adams

Beautifully crafted piece of theatre, all the more poignant because it's true although because the record is incomplete, it allows room for the viewer to contemplate various aspects of the story, rather than absorbing stark facts. The production and presentation is compelling and along the way we also learn about the daily existence of the Glen populations of the time. Go see it.

Graeme King

A love story across 10 years and 2 continents. A tight well paced script that tells a heartfelt story; makes us think; and creates a great sense of place. The music enhances the experience as do the direction and set. Maria McDonnell's performance holds everything together beautifully. A highlight of this year's Fringe.

David Boyd

Lovely show. Uses original historical material to tell the story of two real people whose lives opened a window to their times. A brilliant example of what can be done with local historical materials.

Simon Price

This was a lovely show. It created a beautiful atmosphere in which to tell its tale. I highly recommend this show.

Steve Miller

We loved this fascinating and true story. It was emotional and shone a light on a slice of history which we certainly didn't know about. Excellent performers - the music added an extra dimension. Beautiful and comfortable venue. We'd certainly recommend this show.

Cathy Mulcahy

The story of Minnie and Alex is engaging and witty. We would highly recommend this atmospheric, professional performance. We loved it.

Trevor Williams

Emotional and moving true tale of love across continents. Really enjoyed this. I give this 5 stars.

Martin Burroughs

A rather tragic true (Scottish) story. The story is funny and heartbreaking in turn. Came away very happy with this one, and contemplative about those that leave Scotland.

### **On Tour 2022 selection of comments written in our 'Visitors' Books'.**

'Just as memorable as the first time I saw it'

'The writing and performance is outstanding, you remain gripped and curious and deeply moved. I give it five stars' (Kendal. Third time travelling to Scotland to see it)

'Excellent - well worth seeing' 'Amazing performance' 'Haunting and poetic'

'Just brilliant. I want to see it again' (from Illinois)

'Special and touching' 'Beautiful music. It seemed to seep into the words and letters themselves and created the most haunting atmosphere'.

'I loved how you brought this touching ache of a story to life for us tonight. And so vividly. Your quality of performance was delightful, deep, respectful, connecting with your audience and always present'

'It was a wonderful show, held my attention. Excellent.' West Sussex to Scotland

'Fantastic production - worth the trip from Queensland Australia'

'Worth coming out in the rain all the way to Findhorn to see this production. Held spellbound'

'Wonderfully woven. Such a perfect human piece . Thank you'

'Spellbinding. Thank you so much. Loved it all. Musician so talented'

'What a journey - fascinating human story so beautifully told, to perfect musical accompaniment. Thank you so much.' 'Loved it' 'Truly touching performance'

'Thanks so much for this story and performance. I found it very moving because I worked in the Yukon for a year. I remember the cold and solitude and bravado and sometimes wonderment and stars and the aurora borealis. And I missed my family and a home and day-dreamed crazily about a mythic girlfriend. I remember many men hiding in their cabins. I've been back there this evening. Great touching story'

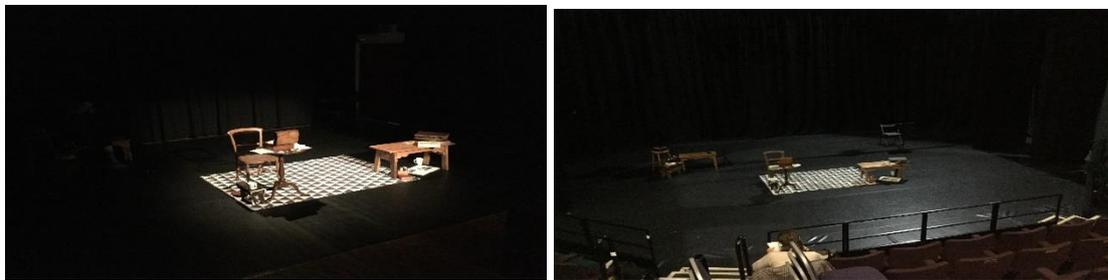
'So beautifully unfolding' 'Haunting' 'Poignant and beautiful' 'Special' 'Excellent. Riveting'

'I loved this and became entirely engrossed' 'So touching and intimate'

'Bring it to Suffolk' 'What a super performance- Music, language, emotion. Thank you '

'The last time we were at the theatre it was The National. Guess which performance we enjoyed more' tweet. (Cambridge to Portgordon especially to see show)

Facebook Sept 30<sup>th</sup> 'I saw it at Fringe and I think about it all the time still' 'Faultless! A brilliant combination of acting, music, soundtrack.' 'What an inspirational, mesmerising delight. Thankyou for weaving your magic and bringing this story to life'. 'Brought me to tears and I am still crying'. 'An exquisite story of longing'. 'Absolutely engrossing. Goes beyond expectation'. 'A fine story beautifully told. I agree utterly engrossing'. 'Enthralling and emotional. Very well done. I really got into the story. Very moving' 'Very well done working on different levels and coming together so effectively'. 'A remarkable insight into this intriguing and very personal story'. 'Really enjoyed the performance and the combination of music, dance and spoken word' 'Fantastic. What a lovely story and so cleverly told'. 'Just wonderful. Thank you' (south Australia) 'Very comforting to know that long distance communication has always had the potential to mean so much- a play worth seeing for the Covid generation of young people' 'A very captivating play. You felt as though you were there in the Klondike or with Miss Lindsay on her bicycle. Fiddle playing fantastic.' 'Thank you. I was away with the story- magical'. 'Wonderful I was totally absorbed in the story' 'Magical show. Really enjoyed. Took me back to my days in Dawson and the Klondike'. 'Lovely moving performance. A dream like experience. Thank you. I didn't want to wake up'



Get in at The Byre Theatre (left) The Brunton Theatre (right)



'The mighty Yukon was frozen solid' Miss Lindsay's Secret. Photo Roddy Simpson