

MISS LINDSAY'S SECRET.

Netherbow Theatre, Scottish Storytelling Centre Fringe 2021

Audiences react with strong emotions, bringing their own experiences to a collective engagement in this piece. The programme shows 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.



Professional Reviews (all four stars) 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 MacDonell 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 ★★★★★

11th 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."

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.

Audience reviews

**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 .

Flippin Fantastic

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-*

Absolutely fantastic

Witty, poignant, funny and sad. Loved it.

Just stupendous.

"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 Lindsay's 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. Music/ambient sound (brilliantly) provided by daughter; voice of distant lover euphoniously provided by husband. 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'

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.



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