

Theatre Review: The Secret Life of Walter Manny

Walter Manny is a kid with an overactive imagination. None of the other kids at his school like him, they all just think he's weird. Even his gram and his teacher don't get him. He spends his days daydreaming because that's the only thing he really feels comfortable doing—but he gets in a lot of trouble for doing it, because he's not just sitting there. No matter where he is or what he's doing, he just ends up daydreaming that he's an airplane pilot, a race car driver, a fireman, a cowboy, being trapped by aliens, a baseball player, a sword fighter, a secret agent and a dancer. But when a fire breaks out while he's daydreaming, we all learn how a good imagination can end up saving the day.

The actor, Trent Arterberry, has a great imagination and does lots of great sound effects while he acts out all these roles in this 45-minute show. He is so good at changing voices, too. I really liked it when he was a secret agent. It was really cool when he was using pretend suction cups to climb a wall, because it really looked like there was a wall there. All of the props in this show are imaginary, but you'd have to be a little older than five to be able to understand everything that happens in this story. My seven-year-old brother loved this show, but his four-year-old friend had a bit of trouble following it.

The Secret Life of Walter Manny is part of the Fringe's FamilyFest at Langham Court Theatre. I really liked going to Langham Court, as it has a pretty big stage. Most kids' shows come to our schools, so it seemed pretty special to see a kids show in an actual theatre.

In the end, Walter Manny does a great job saving the day! This is a hilarious show. If you like using your imagination, don't miss The Secret Life of Walter Manny!

—Gracie Threlfall (age 9)
Culture Vulture Victoria, BC
August 25, 2012