

## Toronto Fringe festival gives women a chance to shine

Kat Sandler, Rosamund Small, Suzanne Roberts Smith, Sara Farb, Colleen Dauncey and Julie Brar glad to get with the program



AARON HARRIS FOR THE TORONTO STAR

From left, Kat Sandler, Rosamund Small, Julie Brar, Suzanne Roberts Smith and Colleen Dauncey are all taking part in this year's Toronto Fringe Festival.

By: [Richard Ouzounian](#) Theatre Critic, Published on Fri Jun 28 2013

The joyful noise you hear emerging from the Toronto Fringe this year is the sound of a glass ceiling being shattered.

Let's face it, despite recent improvements, most of Toronto's theatres are still one-man bands, with the emphasis on "man."

But at the Toronto Fringe festival, thanks to the gender-blind equality built into its lottery system of choosing plays, this year you can discover a whole array of women making their own kind of music, with political farce, religious satire, rock fairy tales, social fables and autobiographical drama.

...

Sara Farb has written the book and Colleen Dauncey the music for a road-trip musical with a cast of rockin' animals called *Bremen Rock City*, which opens at the Palmerston Library Theatre (560 Palmerston Ave.) on July 4. (Akiva Romer-Segal is their lyrical collaborator.)

Farb is currently playing Jessica in *The Merchant of Venice* at the Stratford Festival. She's enthusiastic about the Fringe's ability "to take young artists like me and Colleen and Akiva and help us get better known as authors."

"I've been performing since I appeared in *Jane Eyre* at the Royal Alex when I was 9, but writing is a much harder field to crack. I think what's great about the Fringe is that it offers the opportunity to do anything you want to anyone who is lucky enough to get in."

Dauncey couldn't agree more.

"As an indie theatre creator, I wait for the Fringe all year. I get so inspired by what other people have done and by the sheer fact that they're here for no other reason than they got picked.

"Akiva and I don't write conventional musical theatre and some people's ears are closed to our stuff. But at the Fringe, you don't have to worry about any of that. Your work stands on its own. That's what so exciting."

...

*The Fringe festival runs July 3 to 14 at multiple venues. See <http://fringetoronto.com/> [www.fringetoronto.com](http://www.fringetoronto.com)END for details at [www.fringetoronto.com](http://www.fringetoronto.com) . Tickets at <https://www.fringetix.ca/scripts/max/2000/maxweb.exe> [www.fringetix.ca](http://www.fringetix.ca)END or 416-966-1062.*