



BIG DUMMY **THEATRE REVIEW**



BIG DUMMY

me & my old man

written & performed by Mary Dimino

directed by Christine Renee Miller

lighting design by Kia Rogers

World Debut, 2013 New York International Fringe

Festival website: www.big-dummy.com

twitter: @BigDummyTheShow

FringeNYC award winning writer & performer, Mary Dimino has done it again with her new show, **BIG DUMMY** in this year's New York International Fringe Festival. Her latest endeavor is just as entertaining and touching as her original Fringe one woman show **SCARED SKINNY**, if not more. Dimino has developed on all fronts. Just when you thought she couldn't get any better, she does. Her

writing, her performance, her characterizations, her utter charm and likability, are all taken to an even higher, in fact, stellar level in **BIG DUMMY**.

BIG DUMMY is a must see, one of the most touching, brilliantly written and performed pieces the festival has to offer. You will leave the theatre a changed person.

The play starts out with the soft dreams of a little girl's admiration of her hero, dad. After some poignant, interesting turns, she grapples with the crude discovery that dad isn't exactly like everybody else. Her illusions are shattered, but this only strengthens her desire to be more, in spite of her circumstances. This play makes you laugh, cry and find that part inside of you that realizes we have a small amount of time on this planet with our parents. It shows us how to appreciate them, as is. We come away realizing that sometimes simplicity can teach more than any text book ever could.

Dimino's storytelling style, sincere and honest, yet vivid and riveting, is reminiscent of the wonderfully imaginative Jean Shepherd. It is a joy to listen to Dimino's full yarn unfurl and see the craft and detail, along with the great heart and soul, that goes into every carefully chosen word of her autobiographical story.

I believe the entertainment world is in great need of, yes, a modern day female Jean Shepherd. These are big shoes to fill, but I think Dimino is starting to find them a comfortable fit. Her best and brightest moments lie ahead.

I would love to see **BIG DUMMY** become more than a theatrical piece. I'd like to see her write the screenplay of this story or a book version. This is a story that needs to be heard and Dimino is the one to do it! I loved this play and am a better person for having seen it. Do yourself a favor and go see it also. You'll thank me later, after you've made a new, unforgettable friend in Mary Dimino.

Reviewed for New York Pod Cafe
by Carmen Amoros Goldberg