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## Reviews

### EDGAR'S GIRLS

#### [La Bohème](#)

Until 13 Mar 2015



Review by [Linda Edwards](#)

"Edgar's Girls", directed by Hannah Raven Smith, combines burlesque and Edgar Allan Poe – and while both elements are present, the connections between them are wafer thin. Poe fans are bound to be disappointed, as there is little of the author present and the audience learns almost nothing about the women in his life.

Here is the plot: Poe meets woman X, who enters, dances a bit and takes off her clothes. Poe meets woman Y, who enters, dances a bit and takes off her clothes. For variety, Poe meets two women, who enter, snarl at each other, and then tear off each other's clothes. The setting is supposed to be the early 19th century, but there is no attempt to make the costumes fit the period. One dress looks more like a 1920s flappers dress than the 1820s, and all the underwear is modern.

There is plenty of talent in this Sydney troupe of burlesque/Poe fans. Morgan Powell sings beautifully and narrates the story well, apparently filling in for David Halgren who was unable to make it to Adelaide. All the cast are adept at the kind of dancing, undressing, and titillation that are the essence of burlesque, and one (playing Poe's mentally unhinged guardian) even extracts herself from a straitjacket before launching into a dance/strip routine. The feather fan dances are particularly well-executed and enjoyable.

Sarah de Possesse on piano and vocals has a wonderfully rich and powerful voice, and her rendition of Jacques Brel's "Ne Me Quitte Pas" is the highlight of the show.

Rating 3 stars (out of 5)

## Edgar's Girls: Burlesque Based On Poe – Adelaide Fringe Review



La Bohème, Wed Mar 11

This show begins promisingly with an impressive version of Florence And The Machine's *Girl With One Eye*, sung by Morgan Powell. The lyrics of this song, with references to having an eye cut out with a knife, seem perfectly suited to an Edgar Alan Poe story. In fact the music is excellent throughout, my particular favourite a gorgeous version of *Ne Me Quitte Pas* sung by Sarah de Possesse at the piano, although I struggle to see the relevance of this song to the storyline.

The connection to Poe is established by reading extracts from his writings, but this is meant to be done by male actor David Halgren, who is unfortunately not well enough to appear, and so the duty of narrator falls to Morgan. All plaudits to the girls for carrying on – apparently there is a replacement Poe lined up for later shows. In any case the links to Poe's writings are fairly tenuous – this is intended to be a show mainly about the women in his life.

We are told that his mother died when he was very young, and that the role of his guardian fell to the mother of a school friend. The suggestion that she was a little unhinged leads, slightly too quickly, into a burlesque routine requiring an escape from a straight-jacket. From then on it becomes clear that the burlesque is the main point of the show, and the Poe connection merely an excuse, although this may still be an effect of the Poe character being absent.

The burlesque routines vary in quality. A fan dance with black feathers to the music of Antony Hegarty (of Antony & The Johnsons) captures the Gothic aspect of Poe nicely. A jealous fight scene between two of Poe's love interests seems a little understated. On opening night the show feels like a work in progress, but an enjoyable show nevertheless.

Adrian Miller

*Edgar's Girls* continues at La Bohème until Fri Mar 13.

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## Edgar's Girls @ La Bohème - Upstairs

**Event Date:** [Wednesday 11 March 2015](#)  
Starting at 06:00 PM and ending at 12:00 AM

**Place:** [La Bohème - Upstairs](#)  
Adelaide, SA

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**Description:** After taking the Sydney Fringe Festival by storm, The Poe Burlesque Theatre brings their theatrical burlesque extravaganza Edgar's Girls to The Adelaide Fringe. "Now comes perhaps one of the most interesting burlesque propositions so far, a tease where Gothic literature is the stimulus" Sydney Morning Herald Allow The Poe Burlesque Theatre to take you on a salacious journey into the world of Mr Edgar Allan Poe. Meet the stunning beauties who inspired his work, and the women from his tales who he created with such breathtaking mastery. Inspired by the works of the great Edgar Allan Poe, The Poe Burlesque Theatre is a unique company of actors and performers who merge song, burlesque and abstract performance art to bring to life his tales of the macabre, morbid, quirky and often comical. Featuring some of Sydney's most talented actors; Clementine Mills (star of Sydney Theatre Company's "M Rock"), Morgan Powell, Sarah de Possesse, and David Halgren who plays Poe himself. The show also features a hand full of Sydney's hottest Burlesque artists; Satin Spitfire (Miss Baby Bombshell 2013) Mystique Rose, Ginger Foxx and Hannie Raegan.

**Category:** [Theatre & Comedy](#)